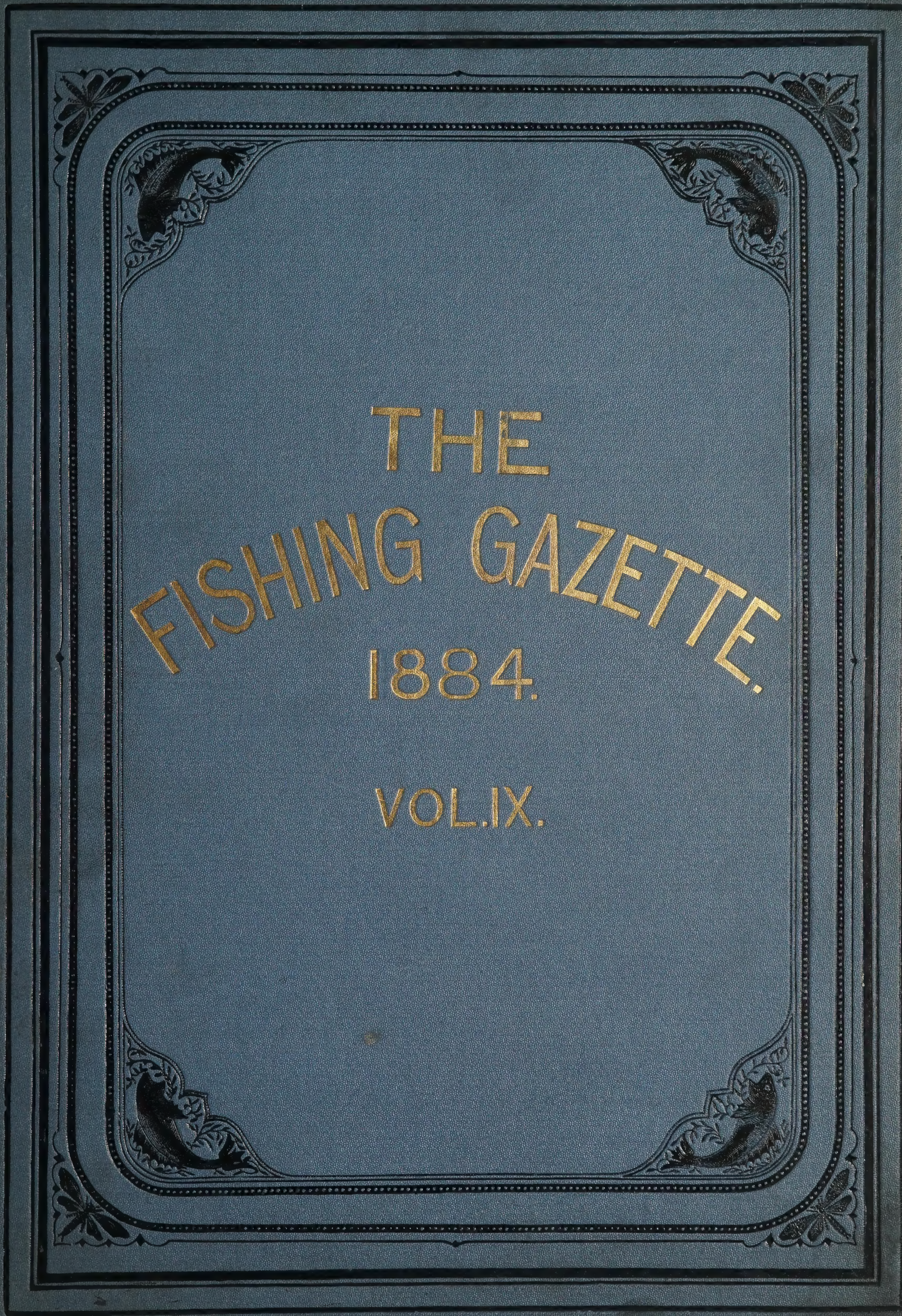

# THE FISHING GAZETTE.

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# The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, JULY 5, 1884.

## ANGLING FOR SALMON.

By GEO. M. KELSON.

### ARTICLE NO. 9 (EXTRA), ILLUSTRATING "CLARKE'S SPEY CAST."

SINCE the wintry season of mince-piety and indigestion, when for the first time I ventured to address you upon the various methods of casting salmon flies, we have passed through one more spring, which, in its awakening, was inspiring and animating to witness ; despite the February frosts in May, we felt its warm, welcome breath gliding over our senses, and we have also noticed the moist mellow earth shooting forth the green blade and tender bud, together with the leafless trees and shrubs in their revived colouring, foretelling the promise of returning flower and foliage.

The majority of fishermen have experienced the hardest of hard times ; they have battled with the coldest of cold winds, ruffling the catches and forcing them as well as the fish to seek securer shelter. Still here and there, some of the "old hands"—ever energetic and enthusiastic—have been rewarded with unusual, if not extraordinary, success. Indeed, truth accomplishes no victories without enthusiasm, which must be the genius of both sincerity and determination ; and do not the energetic, may I ask, whether in public or private life, in trade, profession, business, or sport, often meet with Nature's most bountiful gifts ?

The piscatorial wheel of events has been spinning round, and it may be verily recorded we have had our favours as well as our drawbacks, inasmuch as a few important improvements have been submitted to our notice.

Old times seem changed, old manners gone ; and the casting of "auld lang syne" has disappeared with them. But as brevity makes counsel more portable for memory and readier for use, I will only just say, *en passant*, that any angler who knows how to cast can "reach 'em" with the greatly-improved, five-yard, double-tapered salmon lines, now offered to the public by Messrs. Hemming and Son, Windsor Mills, Redditch. That Farlow cannot make the patent lever salmon winch fast enough to supply the demand. That the four new patterns by Bernard, Piccadilly, seem to be the favoured flies of the season. That Malloch, of Perth, has done wonders for the followers of the proselyte prawn, by inventing a reel which is a luxury and cheap. That the champion, Mr. Ridley, has discovered a dressing which report says is perfect. And that the Editor of this popular little GAZETTE has devoted his attention to trout fishermen, and introduced, through Messrs. Allcock and Co., a new actioned rod, which, I hear, is a universal favourite.

In science and art, amateurs cannot cope with others ; but "the line" is not drawn so hard and fast with fishermen, for where we find one who *will* conquer, that kind of gentleman seldom fails. The readers of this journal may judge for themselves of the usefulness of the flies I am now illustrating ; and in one of these columns to-day I have endeavoured to describe an invaluable invention by another gentleman.

It is, indeed, most agreeable to see them breaking down the barriers of fashion, and ranging successfully over a new and vast field, which at least, forebodes the culture of an advanced age.

Before hastening pell-mell into the more pertinent observations in reference to the present illustrations, I most candidly admit that the Spey Cast was considered dead and without the hope of resurrection ; I mean the one which I have always known by that appellation—because my friends, without a single exception, prefer the "Peter." They make it with a rod, which, in their skilful hands, can demonstrate every other cast, a rod, too, equally suited to manage and master a salmon, even in the strongest run of the Spey. The catches there, as a rule, are in swift currents, and, therefore, it is one of the best rivers for "showing off" Peter ; the same reason equally applies to this cast of Clarke's, for it is much more difficult in a steady stream, and really impossible in still water. I took much pains with Peter in my letter of 19th January last, to explain why that is, in my opinion, the best "switch." The work, be it remembered, is commenced and completed in front of the angler ; but, perhaps, now I should not uphold the opinion that "Peter still reigns with unchallenged supremacy."

There is a deal to be acknowledged in favour of "this Spey," which is certainly destined to become permanently popular, and but little can be said against it. However, one point we should not overlook is, that the cast cannot be made unless there is lots of room on the water just above us, which space must be free from all bushes and overhanging trees.

It is simply delicious to watch the expression of mingled perplexity, vexation, and good humour upon the countenance of a novice in his first attempt at this cunning cast. But when the celebrated practitioner, Mr. Clarke, visited the Tay, at Perth, anglers young and old, flushed with excitement and anticipation, congregated upon the banks of the river to witness his wonderful performance ; they became positively awe-stricken with his apparently matchless strength. One catch, over a peeping rock, the line had to be propelled just upon fifty yards. I have never seen it done, and regret I have failed in my endeavour to get this place (wherever it is) accurately measured ; but a friend of mine writing from the neighbourhood says, "Mr. Clarke has been fishing my water, and when he was teaching me the cast here, *I saw him switch forty-seven yards* . . . . . . for twenty years he has been working scarcely any other cast but this, in one of the best districts on the Spey."

I am in a position to state his rod is a thoroughbred Castleconnell. I particularly noticed this when practising with it the other day upon the Dee (N.B.) It is admirably suited for this purpose, though rather heavier at the point than usual, which favours butt action, so necessary for all switching ; but to my mind I cannot say it is one I should care to use for any other cast save the Flip.

Looking now to the illustrations, the point of the rod in Fig. 1 describes the outline of, say, a reversed letter S (head being down and tail up the river), which movement precedes the down-cast. The letters A to A show the track of the upper ring. By effecting this most important letter S, the line is kept in swing—exactly what the overhead work in petering is for—the motion terminating and the down-cast commencing at about the point of the arrow. It will be observed that previously, the line is held high up out of the stream, the fly being well down the river at the mark X, with only the traces and a very small proportion of the line on the water.

The secret is just to lift and drag the fly out *as steadily as possible*, so that it strikes the water at the mark X in Fig. 2. This part of the cast requires much practice ; but salmon fishermen are more persevering, perhaps, than any other class of sportsmen. There are many who never get tired of trying ; who will attempt anything almost, except to do an injury, which they would much prefer to endure than to inflict. A persuasion that we shall overcome every difficulty in works requiring patience and skill, seldom fails to carry us through them.

It is manifest that the rod must be held well up at starting, because if there is much line on the water it is obvious there would be more power required, and consequently more uncertainty, in locating the fly by the side of the angler as illustrated.

Fig. 2 correctly and distinctly shows the effect produced upon the line by the letter S motion, which, if done at random or hurriedly, will cause the fly to be sent too far up stream ; then the constant tugging of the line, *so absolutely necessary*, will be lost. It will prove that the proper strength has been allowed when the fly is made to alight momentarily or strike the water as directed ; then, as there is no pause, the line or fly has not time enough to shift or sink before it is propelled ; but it must not be "picked up" too quickly from there by unnecessary and fatal haste in the down-cast.

The numbers 1, 2, 3 in Fig. 2 point to the progressive effect from the beginning to the end of the letter S dodge ; the thrash or down-cast follows without hesitation on the part of the angler, and the rod continues its course to the position in Fig. 3.

In describing the down-cast, perhaps I cannot improve upon my former injunction, and therefore may be pardoned for repeating that the power required must be entirely suggested by the length of the cast. Gradually increase the pressure at the butt of the rod, most with the upper hand. The centrifugal force emanating from the generated centre at the butt where the strength is applied drives its course along, expelling the line, and is exhausted, while the fly is alighting from A to B, Fig. 3.

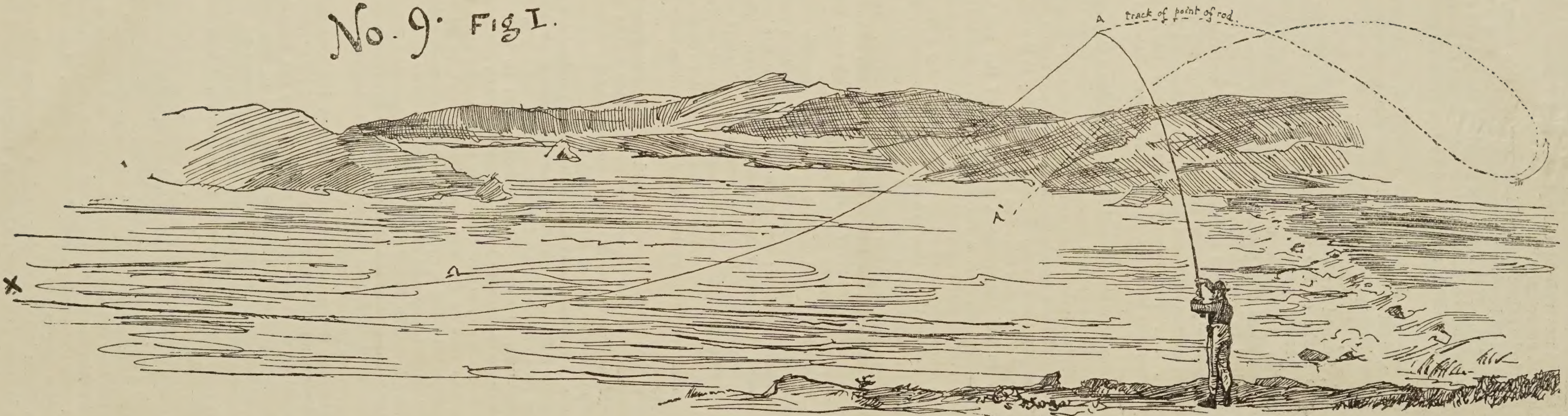
The younger members in our ranks who have endeavoured to complete the "Peter" *over* the water instead of with a sort of loop in the line running as it were along the surface, will probably agree with me that it is only effected by a "miracle of dexterity." In that cast most of the line is away down the river just previous to the thrash ; but in this, the fly is close to the angler, and therefore it can be propelled with comparative ease out of the water. Our artist has made this pretty clear in Fig. 3.

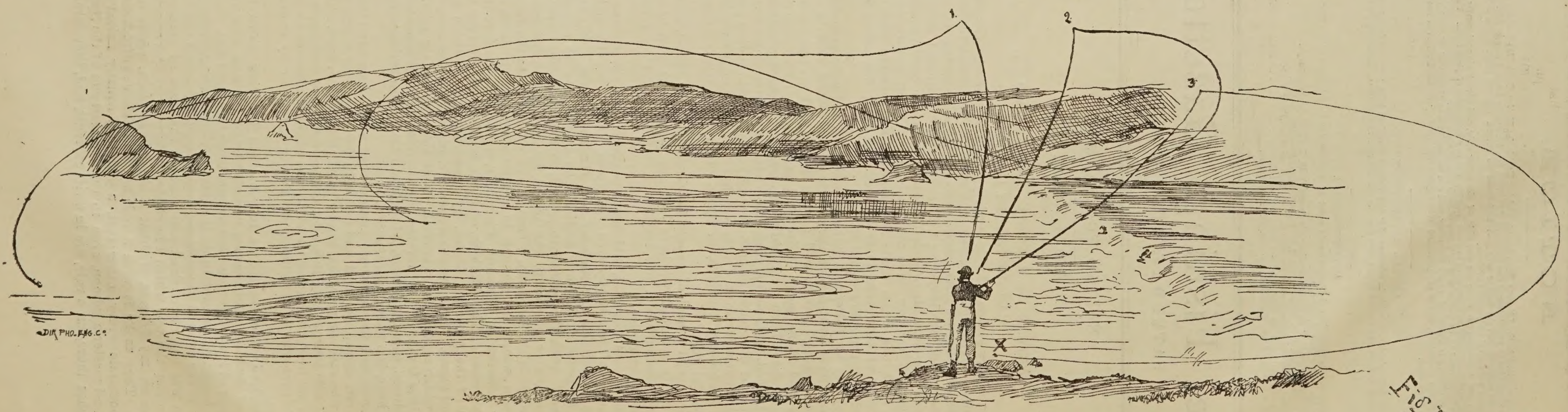
There is a charm in this exciting cast—a charm so enjoyable, that any analysis is better left alone ; exciting, simply because it is so fearfully difficult ; but things laboriously learnt at first come to be done at last without an effort.

Some of us may probably talk of the "dull domesticity" in hooking fish every minute from our own lawns ; but we are not living in

ILLUSTRATIONS TO MR. GEO. M. KELSON'S SERIES OF ARTICLES ON SALMON FISHING.

No. 9. Fig I.


A
track of point of rod.
X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DIR PHO. ENG. Co

Fig II.

No. 9.—CLARK'S SPEY CAST.

primitive or fabulous times when fishermen were uncorrupted by luxury and ambition. Then why not regard this cast as fresh food for our appetites ? Every earnest angler should seize spare moments to examine it. Yes, they will be turning such moments to fragments of golden account if they but find time, place, and opportunity to practise this "splendid Spey" ; for, however genuine and generous fishermen may be, they are apt to forget that which is rarely recalled to them.

And let me finally hint that knowledge is power and a natural consequence of learning ; it is unlimited in space, and infinite in duration ; but it cannot be acquired without some pains and application. If, however, fishermen have a practical knowledge of every cast, and more especially master the art of fly dressing, they may often snatch advantage, they may often increase the weight of the frail ; and it is then that their enjoyment becomes elevated because the proud desire of distinction, the desire for success, is satisfied, the acquisition of honours secured.

## THE NATIONAL FISH CULTURE ASSOCIATION, SOUTH KENSINGTON.

THE Aquarium at the Health Exhibition now presents at night a very pretty sight, the Electric light having been laid on, and the tanks thoroughly stocked. The latest additions to the Aquarium in the shape of fish include a dozen fine trout and a dozen pike, as well as several perch—all presented by the Most Hon. the Marquis of Exeter, the President of the Association ; half-a-dozen barbel, several wrass, and two octopus. "British Fishes," the official handbook of the Association, compiled by Mr. W. Oldham Chambers, F.L.S., is obtaining a large circulation, not only in the Exhibition, but all over the country. We are in receipt of a copy, which will obtain notice in due course.

## THE HEALTH EXHIBITION.

WE have the pleasure to inform our readers that we have made arrangements with our special correspondent for a series of notices of such exhibits as may be of general interest.

## A BRITISH ISLAND FOR SALE.

OUR readers will doubtless have noticed in our columns Messrs. Debenham, Tewson, and Co's announcement of the sale by auction on July 29th of one of the English Channel Islands. The Island of Herm is one of great natural beauty. It is about one and a half miles in length and three-quarters of a mile wide, and comprises some 460 acres of land, a considerable portion of which is highly productive. There is partridge and pheasant shooting, and the splendid and varied sea fishing to be had off these islands is too well-known to need more than passing reference. For particulars of the inhabitants, trade, buildings, harbour, granite quarries, &c., all of which are to be sold on July 29th, we must refer our readers to Messrs. Debenham, Tewson, and Co's. announcement. After perusing with much interest a very carefully drawn up prospectus of the property, among the other great attractions we found there was one thing about it which made us very much inclined to buy it,—viz. there are *no rates or taxes!* But on second thoughts we were obliged to give up the idea on account of the difficulty of editing a London newspaper from the centre of the English Channel. We consider Messrs. Debenham, Tewson, and Co. are fully justified in stating that "the property offers a perfectly unique purchase for a nobleman, statesman, yachtsman, or professional or business man seeking thorough rest and recreation in a charming climate at the seaside."

## THE FISHERIES CONFERENCE AT THE SOCIETY OF ARTS.

MR. J. W. BENSTRIN, of the Leicester Angling Society, writes to ask us to point out that he, and not Mr. A. J. Little, as previously stated, seconded Mr. Geen's resolution to prohibit netting. He says the Leicester anglers are most strongly against the use of the net.

## GERMANY AND THE ISLAND OF ANGUA-PENQUINA.

WHILE on the subject of islands it will interest our readers to know that it is to the developement of its valuable sea fisheries that the Germans look to be repaid for colonising the above-mentioned island, which has caused so much correspondence between England, Germany, and the Cape.

## THE TRENT FISHERY DISTRICT AND ANGLERS' CHEAP FARES.

THE London and North-Western Railway Co. have again been strongly urged to re-grant the fishing facility tickets to anglers in the Trent district as heretofore by Alan Bagot, Esq., acting for the Trent Fishery Commissioners, but, we regret to say, without avail, although the matter was thoroughly reconsidered by the Directors ; as will be seen from the following copy of a letter to Mr. Bagot, the original of which is now before us :

London and North-Western Railway.
General Manager's Office,
Euston.
June 26th, 1884.

DEAR SIR,—In reply to your letter of the 24th inst., I have to state that the question of the issue of tickets at reduced rates to anglers received, quite recently, the very careful consideration of the Directors, and I regret I can hold out no hope to you that they will be able to see their way to alter the decision at which they have arrived in the matter.—Yours faithfully, G. FINDLAY.

Alan Bagot, Esq., J.P., 42, Lowndes-street, S.W.

The above account shows that, in spite of his serious illness, Mr. Bagot has not lost the great interest in anglers and angling which he has always evinced. Eighteen months must elapse before he can be said to have recovered entirely. Mr. Bagot is suffering from a severe injury to the lung, the result of an accident. He continues to receive letters from all parts of the Trent district inquiring after his health ; but the surgeons will not allow him to reply, as he has to be completely quiet, and we are sure anglers will be glad to direct any inquiries they may have to make to the offices of the Board, 40, St. Mary's Gate, Derby, instead of to him, and so secure him a rest from the work his position as conservator entails.

## CERTIFICATE OF AWARD TO MR. GEO. M. KELSON.

IT affords us much pleasure to notify that Mr. Kelson has received a communication from the authorities stating that Her Majesty's Commissioners have awarded to him a Diploma of Honour for special services rendered at the International Fisheries Exhibition, 1883. This well-merited compliment will be highly appreciated by Mr. Kelson and his friends, and it will give general satisfaction to the angling community throughout the country.

## MR. GEEN.

MR. GEEN'S very numerous body of friends and correspondents will be glad to know his new address.

It is—

Davenham Lodge,
Mount Ararat,
Richmond.

## AN OTTER'S ATTEMPT TO ASCEND THE TEME AT LUDLOW.

A SINGULAR occurrence took place at Ludlow on Tuesday morning about five o'clock, when William Nash, of 40 Lower Broad-street (sexton and lamplighter) in this town was engaged in fishing in the river Teme from one of the recesses of Ludford Bridge, Lower Broad-street. His attention was attracted by several repeated splashes in the water, and for some time he could not make out the cause ; but on looking down the river in the direction of the weir, above Nicholas and Marston's Miles, he observed a dark-looking object, which on closer observation proved to be an exceedingly large otter, which was vainly making attempts to leap the weir for the purpose of proceeding up the stream. Again and again did the otter make the attempt ; but all its efforts however were futile and were completely baulked by the great volume of water which was at that time rushing over with great velocity. Finding its inability to surmount this obstacle, his "ottership" retired down the river much exhausted. The animal was also watched by two men named Pope and Ovens.

## ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

J. H. W. asks : "What is a suitable feather for making the small, plain, black spider fly from ?" He says he has used cock's hackles, but wants a softer feather with rather more substance. Various feathers are used—coote, moorhen, small hen's hackle, &c. ; but perhaps the best for the purpose is the black hackle from the unsunned (young) blackbird.

CLERICUS.—(1) Yes ; we have worn out two of Messrs. Williams and Co.'s guinea trout rods, and can strongly recommend them ; they make them whippy, or stiff, or medium. (2) No ; we do not know any London fishing-tackle maker who has more than a bit of back yard in which to try the play of a rod. It is a great drawback, as you say.

R. C. WELLS.—It is difficult to advise you to go where you will be "sure of sport," especially as most of our streams have never been so low before during this century. You can walk across the Thames below Teddington easily at low-water. See the "River Reports,"—more rain seems to have fallen in Herefordshire than elsewhere.

A. B. C.—Write to Mr. Mudford, fishing-tackle maker, Tiverton ; also to Mr. Wm. Hearder, fishing-tackle maker, Plymouth. They will give you the information for their respective districts. We shall have some articles on Fishing in the Exmoor Streams in the GAZETTE shortly.—ED.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

[*We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.*]

### PATTERNS OF SALMON FLIES, &c.

SIR,—As Mr. Kelson is describing my patterns of salmon flies in the FISHING GAZETTE, I venture to make a few remarks for the information of any of your readers who may take an interest in the task he has undertaken ; and I wish to take this opportunity of expressing my entire satisfaction at the accuracy of his descriptions, as well as of the engravings as far as they have been published.

One of the leading fishing tackle manufacturers, in a letter, which I received a few days since, said : "Mr. Kelson is making a splended job of your flies in the FISHING GAZETTE," and I quite agree with him.

Mr. Kelson has done me the honour to mention my work in rather flattering terms ; but I claim no merit for my flies, beyond a novelty of pattern, and that they are entirely made with natural feathers.

Many years of careful study and observation have led me to the conclusion that variety is not only pleasing to the fish, but also to the fisherman. In my opinion, I believe any of these patterns will suit our large rivers anywhere in the spring of the year, when large, bright, and brilliant flies are favoured. They are also suited to the snow-fed rivers, either in Norway or Canada.

A little careful casting is desirable ; otherwise, the wing feathers are liable to break, and as they are scarce and difficult to match, this would be a serious loss. The art of dyeing has been brought to such great perfection that very fair imitations of natural feathers may be found. From time to time, I have been supplied with splended specimens of red, orange, yellow, and blue, by Farlow, Harold of Mallow, W. Haynes of Cork, and others ; but I have never succeeded in getting a good green, with the exception of a few feathers which were given to me by Mr. Kelson, and which were, I believe, dyed by him. I inclose one for your inspection : it is, I think, as near perfection as possible. But dyed feathers, however bright-looking when new, will quickly fade, and the prismatic hues of the natural sort are never imitated well by dyers. It is, however, a fact, that the colours of some natural feathers possesing these qualities in the greatest degree will fade or change colour in the water. The kingfisher, green parrot, and that most beautiful of all naturals, the blue macaw, will each assume a dirty brown shade after having been used on a fly for half an hour. Some of these would be comparatively worthless were it not that they quickly reassume their colour when dried.

It would therefore be well for fishermen to have one or two spare flies to use alternately.

The crest feather of the golden pheasant loses its lustre rapidly if exposed to the sun.

I agree entirely with what Mr. Kelson says of the kingfisher, cock-of-the-rock, and scarlet ibis. The two latter are remarkably likely-looking feathers, but make a poor show in the water when used as hackles ; in fact, as that gentleman asserts, the ibis "is abominable" ; but two or three strands of it, and no more, go very well in a mixed wing.

The chatterer is by far the best for cheeks, and although the feathers from a young bird may change colour a trifle, there is no apparent difference in those from two year old birds ; and therefore the chatterer has a great advantage over the kingfisher. Indeed this is one of the first lessons we learn ; but all fishermen detect this at once.

I shall be happy to give any further information required. JOHN P. TRAHERNE.

P.S.—Since sending you my letter, I have read "Eastern's" remarks in the GAZETTE of last week. If he will kindly refer, he will see that I have alluded to the defects he mentions in the feathers. Indeed, a trifling experience tells us all this ; and I may confidently assert that Mr. Kelson must have been intimately acquainted with the details for very many years.

It has just occurred to me in reading over the description of "Juno," the cheeks are said by Mr. Kelson to be kingfisher : they should be chatterer.

The only fly I gave him of this sort was so damaged that I am surprised it was even so correctly described. Mr. Kelson made a new one for the artist to work from, and except this accident—no fault of his—he was correct.

With regard to "Eastern's" questions as to coloured water, &c. If I may be allowed to give an opinion, I should say that owing to the fact that a dark object is plainer to be seen than a light one when seen through the light, that the darker the fly the better for success in muddy water.

But in the state of water "Eastern" describes, I should certainly say, if he will try a spoon or large phantom minnow, he would find either far more killing. —J. P. T.

### DRY FLY FISHING.

SIR,—Your editorial note to my letter in last GAZETTE seems to throw cold water on the statements I have made on the authority of Mr. Lascelles.

There is no doubt that, as I have said, he does not give particular instructions as to drying the fly before each cast ; but his remark, I take it, virtually assumes this, for how is one to throw a fly, or three flies, up stream and allow them to swim down with the natural ones, unless the said artificials are to follow the example of the naturals, and float on the surface ?

The expression "swim" in his letter appears to me to have given you the idea that Mr. Lascelles' flies were intended to come down partially dry, or perhaps wet.

The whole matter depends on the word "swim," and I shall take "Webster's" definition as supporting my argument, that Mr. Lascelles was, if not the first, at least an early advocate of the "dry fly." "Webster" gives (page 1001) : "Swim—to float—to be supported on water or other fluid—not to sink." Now, if Mr. Lascelles says, allow your flies to "swim" down as the naturals, so certainly this means that the artificials are to follow the example of the natural ones, and any angler who has common sense in him with such instructions as Mr. Lascelles gives could not do otherwise than dry his flies, so that they might float or swim down on the surface. The question of one, two, or three flies is of no importance in this case ; that is a matter for the angler's pleasure or convenience. When one fishes a stream abundant in weeds it is imperative to use one fly only. The veriest tyro in such circumstances in fly-fishing knows well that if he uses more than one fly the hooks that are free become very often entangled in the weeds, and the dead strain so produced enables the fish caught to break away and be lost ; but if the stream be clear of weeds the angler may please himself, and use as many flies as seems good to him. But the conditions are in all cases the same—*the fly must swim or float down as the natural fly does.*

If, Mr. Editor, you can point out any instructions of earlier date than those of Mr. Lascelles, I shall esteem it a great favour, because I know that you thoroughly sympathise with me in all disputed angling matters in giving credit to him who deserves it.—I am, &c., JOHN BRUNTON, M.D.

June 29.

[The Doctor ought not to mind a little cold water this weather ! We must wait until we have the pleasure of meeting him before repeating the douche.—ED.]

### FISHING AT WHITBY.

SIR,—Can any of your readers give me any information about the fishing, both salt and fresh ?—I am, &c., G. M.

[The "Angler's Diary" says there is good brook and capital sea fishing at Whitby. Pollack, whiting, cod, flat-fish in the bay and offing. There are a great many becks in the neighbourhood. Day tickets on the Esk (trout) cost 2s. 6d. each, and can be had of Mr. S. Wilkinson, Hon. Sec. Esk Association, Whitby. The salmon angling in the Esk is very good at times ; great numbers of salmon were taken last year. When we fished there, a year or two ago, the Esk was in flood, and the Mirk Esk seemed almost utterly devoid of trout, though it looks a lovely little stream.—ED.]

### EYED DOUBLE SALMON HOOKS.

SIR,—Failing to obtain good double salmon hooks, either from Kendal or Redditch, I wrote to Messrs. Woodfield and Son, who advertise in your columns. They at once undertook to make any form of hook desired.

After several trials, owing partly to want of the requisite tools, the inclosed form of hook was so far perfect as carrying out the design I had given, though one or two improvements might be made.

My object was to get a double hook finer at the tail of the shank than the ordinary double Limerick, so that the body of the fly might taper. The iron eye is more convenient for many reasons than the gut loop, while the form of the hook pushes the point deeper and deeper instead of tearing.

Professional fly-tyers will not like them, as they are rather awkward to "tag," "tail," and "butt" ; but the gillies here call them "hungry-looking hooks." They are rather light in the wire, but are beautifully tempered, and I have killed some large fish with them. W. Woodfield and Son, of the Easmore Works, Redditch, were very obliging, and took great pains to carry out my ideas.—I am, &c., F. W. ADYE.

Dalmally.

### SEWIN FLIES, &c.

SIR,—Will Mr. Kelson or Major Traherne, through your valuable columns, be good enough to favour me with some good dressings for sewin flies ?

Can you or any of your readers give me a good mode of preserving the natural flies ? I have tried everything I can think of without success. The coarser land flies there is little trouble with, but the delicate duns I find impossible to secure their natural shape and colour.—I am, &c., BITTERN.

Cardiff.

[Our experience is the same as "Bittern's," and although several correspondents have kindly sent us natural flies as specimens, they have always been almost useless.—ED.]

## THE FISHERIES PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION.

AN important meeting of the Council of the above Association was held on Wednesday, the 25th of June last, Lieut.-Colonel Lord Abinger, C.B., in the chair.

After the first business on the Agenda paper had been disposed of—namely, the passing of a hearty and unanimous vote of thanks to his Grace the Duke of Northumberland for his valuable servicesto the Association during the sixteen years his Grace had been its President, and the election respectively and unanimously of Lord Abinger as the new President, Mr. Edward Birkbeck, M.P., as vice-president in the room of Lord Abinger ; and Mr. C. E. Fryer, of the Home Office (who attended to represent Prof. Huxley at the meeting) as a member of the Council, the meeting considered the draft of the short Bill to amend in several essential particulars the present ineffective Rivers Pollution Preventive Act, so as to make that Act more summary in its action, and much more effective against pollutions.

Having approved of the Bill, the Council decided on taking immediate steps to get it introduced at once in the House of Commons.

They next considered a Bill which is standing for second reading on 9th July in the House of Commons, entitled "Salmon Weekly Close Time (Ireland) Bill," and which proposes to shorten considerably the present weekly close time for salmon in Irish rivers.

The Council attached such great importance to the maintenance of the existing weekly close time, that they determined to petition against the Bill in both Houses of Parliament, and to oppose it by every means in their power.

A report which had been drawn up in accordance with the resolution passed at the late Conference of Fishery Board Angling Societies, and of the proceedings of that Conference (an account of which we have already given in the FISHING GAZETTE), was then read, approved, and signed by Lord Abinger as chairman of the Conference, and copies pursuant to the same resolution were directed to be forwarded by the secretary to the different fishery boards, angling societies, and others interested, together with the following circular letter to be addressed to the chairmen, clerks, and secretaries of the various boards, societies, &c.

Fisheries Preservation Association,
(President Lieut.-General Lord Abinger, C.B.)
11, Seymour-street, Portman-square, W.
July 1st, 1844.

SIR,—In accordance with a resolution passed at the Conference of Fishery Boards, Angling Societies, &c., called by this Association and held at the house of the Society of Arts on the 18th of June, 1884, Lieut.-General Lord Abinger in the chair, I beg, by direction of the chairman, to forward to you on the other side a report of the proceedings of the Conference.

I am to add that the Association will be glad to give any information or render any assistance to any board of Conservatives, angling societies, or other body desirous of adopting or carrying out the provisions of the Freshwater Fisheries Act, 1884.

The Association have in preparation model forms of by-laws and instructions as to the mode of forming fishery districts, copies of which they will be ready to supply to any applicant.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

H. A. KINLOCH, Secretary.

The business of the meeting then terminated.

# CLUB REPORTS.

### ALEXANDRA SOCIETY OF ANGLERS.

The members of the Alexandra Angling Society fished for some valuable prizes on the 29th ult., being their first day of the season, Mr. John Smith taking first prize with a capital take of fine dace, Mr. Edward Wicks, roach, perch, and bream, second prize. Mr. Gripton, Mr. Hansie, Mr. Wilson Lucione, and Mr. Dabbs all had a very good show of fish.—F. Wagner.

### AMICABLE BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

Mr. Taylor had a nice show of bream, six fish weighing 8lb. 1oz. : Mr. Farebrother and Mr. Holliday, perch from the Lea ; Mr. Chevalier, roach, dace, and gudgeon from the Stort. Members will dine on July 6th, at Mr. T. Coomes', Five Horse Shoes, Hoddesdon, Herts, at 1 o'clock sharp.—J. Worledge, sec.

### ANGLERS' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

The committee will meet on Friday, July 11th, 1884, to make final arrangements for the tournament, and to select the various officers for the day. For the peg-down match Mr. R. Marston and Mr. P. Geen, in addition to the prizes already given by them, will give £1 1s. each, and Mr. G. H. Field (South London Angling Society) 10s 6d. In answer to numerouss inquiries, the committee will meet at the Foresters' Hall on the second and fourth Friday in each month.—R. Ghurney, sec.

### BOSTONIAN ANGLING SOCIETY.

We had a fair show of fish on the 29th inst, Mr. Jamieson having chub and dace from the Thames, Mr. Jennings over 8lb. of carp and rudd. The following members weighed fish from the Welsh Harp :—Mr. Eltan, bream, the largest weighing 1lb. 8oz. ; Mr. Constable, bream ; Mr. Maynard, roach and perch.—J. J.

### BROMPTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

Some very good shows on the 29th ult. Mr. Ducker having some good bream and roach ; Mr. Sewel, trout and chub ; Mr. E. Saunders, some good roach ; Mr. Dutton, roach ; Mr. Burbidge, roach. Several other members were out, but did not show up.—W. Dutton, sec.

### CAMBRIDGE AND ELY ANGLING SOCIETY.

The annual meeting and supper of this society was held at the Red Lion Hotel, Cambridge, on Monday evening, and both were well attended by members, who took a most hearty share in the proceedings. The balance-sheet showed 6s. 5d. to the credit of the society, but also contained items amounting to £15, representing rents of fisheries paid in advance. The report stated that the number of members last year was 373, that excellent sport had been had, and that, owing to the liberality of Mr. John Hodson, several thousand yearling trout had been placed in various parts of the society's waters. In the conversation that ensued upon the report, suggestions were made as to the providing of bait for members, and also that the leasing of the eel fishing should be discontinued; but the latter was tabooed by the majority, several of whom described eels as nothing better than vermin. It was also proposed that there should be a season of trout fishing, but it was considered that there were not sufficient fish in the society's water as yet to warrant it. A promise was made, however, that when the fish got sufficiently large and plentiful the suggestion should be entertained. The election of officers resulted in Dr. Cooper being re-elected president, Mr. Purchas re-elected hon. secretary and treasurer, and Messrs. Allpress, Archer, Luddington, Lee, Miller, Jones, Dewberry, R. Ellis, A. T. Ellis, Hills, Parr, and Hodson were appointed the committee. Local hon. secs. were appointed as follows :—Ely, Mr. A. C. Allen ; Littleport, Mr. Leach ; Newmarket, Mr. Howlett. One of the members, Mr. Sadd, strongly condemned the establishment of a close season, arguing that it was detrimental to the interests of anglers, not only because they had to lose some of the best months of the year, but also for the reason that the fish "got out of practice," and would not take the bait. He moved that the society should permit of angling on Easter Monday and Whit-Monday, but this found no seconder. At the supper that followed, Dr. Cooper presided, and the Mayor was present, and proposed the toast of the evening, "The Cambridge and Ely Angling Society." As one of the principal members of the town, he was delighted to find that their society was flourishing. Dr. Cooper responded. He was glad to say that the society was prosperous. Last year they had the finest fishing season that had ever occurred within living memory, and he could fairly say, and without exaggeration, that the fish honestly caught with rod and line in streams amounted to tons. When they went to Littleport they were hardly satisfied unless they got 10 to 20lb. weight—not of wretched little fish, but magnificent fish, including pound and half-pound roach. Their prospects for the coming season were equally good. He had been recently over the whole of their water, from Jesus-green sluice to Denver sluice, and he was highly delighted with the quantity of fish he saw, the best spots being between Bottisham and Ely, to reach which spots better accommodation than that now existing was required. He expressed the obligations the society were under to Messrs. J. M. Jones, Purchas, and Dewberry, whose lining of the waters at the South Level Cut (Littleport) originated the society. The water there literally teemed with fish, and at the recent termination of the lease an offer was made by a speculative gentleman of treble the rent the society paid for possession of the water. But the Commissioners refused to entertain the proposal, and the thanks of the society were due to those public-spirited gentlemen who had enhanced the pleasures of their neighbours by resisting an attempt to deprive the society of one of the most valuable pieces of water it possessed. Other toasts followed, and in the course of the proceedings the prizes gained in the angling match last year at Littleport were presented.

### CITY OF LONDON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The following members weighed in on the 29th :—Mr. Castell, a good show of bream and roach from Dagenham ; Messrs. Chambers and Nitz, roach and bream from Amberley ; and Mr. Gentry, dace and gudgeons from Hampton. Our combined general and eastern district visit will take place on Tuesday next, July 8th, in our club room, Cogers' Hall, Bride-lane, Fleet-street, where our brother anglers will find everything cool but the welcome.—Cas.

### THE CLAPTON.

The ordinary weekly meeting was held at the Swan Hotel, Upper Clapton, E., on Wednesday, the 2nd inst., when a large muster of members were present ; Mr. Field in the chair. The Secretary reported that he, accompanied by the treasurer and Mr. Graham Bennett, had proceeded to Lewanstone on Friday, and after viewing Bailey's fishery came to an agreement with Mr. Bailey by which the Clapton Society had now the right of fishing these waters for the present season. The Secretary also reported that they had had an interuiew with Mr. Coventry, and suggested to him that it might suit the Clapton to rent his waters also. Mr. Coventry asked that he should have a little time to consider the proposition, stating that in a few days he would let the Clapton know his views, but that on the first blush of the matter he thought he should be pleased to enter into arrangements with them. Twelve new members were elected (including six proposed by Mr. Graham Bennett). A few roach were shown, but on all sides it was agreed that until a push of water came fishing would be almost at a standstill. Mr. Howse stated that one or two bits of water in private grounds had been promised for the exclusive use of the members of the Clapton. That identical morning, at 5 o'clock, saw him "paddling his own canoe" with the trusty Binks. Success, however, was denied them—a 1lb. eel only coming to bank. "But," said B., "wait till they are on!" What does this threat imply—should there be anything in it? On the quiet, "You shall know!" A very hearty vote of thanks to their genial chairman brought the business to a close ; after which Mr. Worth ably officiated at the piano, when some capital songs, &c., were rendered.—Henry Howse, hon. sec.

### CROWN PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

Several members were out on the 22nd and 29th ult., but the takes were small. Mr. Willcockson had on the 22nd inst. a nice show of carp, rudd, and tench, one of the latter weighing nearly 3lb., which has been sent to Mr. Cooper for preservation ; unfortunately the fish were not weighed in on account of not arriving home in time. On July 6th, the members fish at Weybridge for four prizes, go where they like. A very important meeting will take place next Thursday, July 10th. All members are particularly requested to attend early. Secretaries who have sold tickets for the benefit of Mr. Long will kindly oblige by sending cash or stamps for the same as soon as possible, as the committee are waiting to settle the affair up. The winning number was 419.—W. Burwash, jun., sec.

### GLOBE ANGLING SOCIETY.

Our show of fish was not so good on the 29th June as the previous week, the average takes not exceeding 3lb. or 4lb. each. Messrs. S. Howell, S. Orrow, J. Philpot, F. Lawrence, and J. J. Holmes had roach and bream from Amberley. Messrs. G. Jeffries, C. Elis, and H. Jeffries, roach and bream from Pulborough. Messrs. H. Lake, D. Thomas, W. Whatcott, J. Ballard, J. Titmus, and H. Orrow, roach and Bream from various waters.—Joseph James Holmes, sec.

### GREAT NORTHERN BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

Our show of fish on the 29th was an improvement on the previous week, Mr. Stammer having 8lb. of bream from the Welsh Harp, Mr. Scott a nice lot from the same place, one fish weighing 3lb. 4oz. ; Mr. G. Watling 6lb. 9oz. from Amberley. The following members also had roach and bream from Amberley :—Messrs. J. A. Fitch, C. Warren, Graves, F. Hewitt, Baker, Martinella, J. Watling, Baillie, and C. Watling, senr., J. K. Fitch, rudd ; S. Smith, tench.—J. Fitch, sec.

### GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

The ordinary weekly meeting of the above Society was held on Tuesday evening at the Masons' Hall Tavern, Masons'-avenue, Basinghall-street, Mr. Chambers in the chair. The minutes were read, confirmed, and signed. There was very little business to transact, and the greater portion of the evening was therefore spent in chatting over the past week's experiences of the gentlemen present. The Rev. J. Walker and Mr. Lake weighed in some very nice perch. A number of tickets for the Fishing Gazette Competition for the benefit of the Anglers' Benevolent Fund were disposed of. Negotiations are in active progress for the acquisition of a piece of private water for the members, and the committee hope to be able to make a definite proposal in the course of a very short time. A vote of thanks to the Chairman brought the proceedings to a close.

### HENLEY-ON-THAMES AND DISTRICT FISHERY ASSOCIATION.

At the annual meeting of the above association, at the Town Hall, on the 25th ult., the treasurer, Mr. Archibald Brakspear, presiding, the hon. sec., Mr. J. M. Knight, J.P., read a comprehensive statement of the work done by the committee, which will shortly be published, and in the hands of the members. The possession of remarkable facilities of rearing trout have been taken advantage of, and resulted in nearly 30,000 Loch Leven trout fry being turned into the river and tributary waters ; not 2 per cent. of the ova having failed. 5,000 have been placed in the River Loddon, the control of which, as well as the Patrick stream, is now jointly in the hands of this association and that of Reading ; while the handsome contribution of the late Mr. Arthur Deans, of Coltiop, taken from the Hambleden brook, has been placed in the river. Poaching and illegal practices have been almost entirely suppressed, and information of the Conservancy Bye Laws successfully prosecuted. During the past and present season more heavy trout have been taken than previously known. These fish are, of course, not the result of operations of the Henley Association, but attributable of stock by societies in the lower portions of the river ; yet the protection afforded by this association may have been the means of preserving them here when arrived. An endeavour to collect the spawn of perch, and protect it from the swans that devour it, by hurdles, with brushwood and broom fenced round, was repeated this season ; but being only fenced towards the water, were invaded from the bank and plundered. Another season they will be entirely covered in by wire netting over and around. The report deals with the question of the Patrick stream being an open backwater of the Thames, and it is now shown conclusively that the water is naturally one of the channels of the River Loddon, the flow of which has been reversed by the effect of Shiplake Lock, and is, as claimed, a private water. The report congratulates the members upon the fact that, after discharging all outstanding liabilities, a balance in favour of the association stands to its credit. Mr. Clare Sturgis having resigned his seat upon the committee, Mr. Watson, of Wargrave, was elected in his place. A vote of thanks to the chair concluded a very unanimous meeting.

### HOXTON BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

We again had a fair show of fish in our Club Room on the 29th inst., consisting of roach, dace, perch, tench, carp, and a fine show of rudd, by Mr. Harris—one among the number, a very handsome fish, weighing 1½lb.—R. Ghurney.

### THE PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

On Monday last the members of this society held their usual meeting at Ashley's Hotel, Covent-garden. Present : Messrs. Lander (hon. sec.), Booker, Meyer, Pattison, Bennett, H. B. Brown, Fennings, Gray, Jesse, Foreman, Hill, Lemann, Huggett, Blundell, Sachs, Gillatt, Hatfield, Murray, Adlington, Goodger, Brown, Rev. G. Sumner, Dr. Brunton, Mr. Gillatt, E. Walker, &c., and amongst the visitors were Messrs. Harley and H. P. Jones. Mr. Gillatt was unanimously voted to the chair. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. The hon. sec. announced that the Central Association had forwarded him a supply of their tickets, and members were entitled to one of the same, with its privileges, on payment of 1s. 6d., and several members accordingly had one. Mr. Meyer has been trying the Blunham waters ; but without success. He took a quantity of worms and properly baited a couple of places, tried early in the morning, and was there at sunrise, having fished for several hours without a touch, returned to London. Mr. Jesse, fishing at Maidenhead, one small trout, duly returned, and hooked another of about 4lb. ; but was unfortunate enough to lose same. Mr. Leman has been trying Moulsey. He met our member, Mr. Ross Faulkener, there ; but neither had any sport. Rain is wanted before much can be done. Dr. Brunton, after a hot day's attendance at the Old Bailey, went to Uxbridge and fished from 8.30 to 9.30., fishing with a large sedge. Took one trout 1½lb., and other smaller ones ; but he considered sport was not up to the mark at the present time. Mr. Blundall, fishing at Maidenhead, took some chub and perch. Mr. Huggett showed three nice bream from the Stour. They were much of a size, and at the time of capture weighed 14lb. the three. The chairman, in the usual manner, proposed his health as the successful angler. Mr. Huggett, in reply, thanked the members for their kind expressions. He was always glad to have a show of fish on the table, although the take might be a small one—20lb. weight of fish shown upon the table was worth 40lb. of those fish which are often talked about but not so often shown. Mr. Hatfield reported that Mr. Wheatstone was now in fair way of recovery, and it was hoped that he would soon be amongst us once more. Mr. Harden has been fishing at Market Deeping—took a large number of roach and dace with fly. He expressed his fears that this water was netted, no vigilant supervision, so far as he was able to see, being exercised over the water. A long discussion took place upon the practicability of mullet-fishing with fly in tidal rivers, and the following members took part in same :—Rev. G. Simm, Mr. Manning, Mr. Sachs, Dr. Brunton, &c. ; and the continued prosperity of the Piscatorial Society was proposed and carried in the usual manner ; and the health of the chairman, who returned thanks, brought the business of the meeting to a close.—T. H.

[*For continuation of Club Reports, see page* 10.]

SALMON & TROUT-FISHING.

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MANUFACTURERS OF FIRST-CLASS RODS AND TACKLE, SALMON AND TROUT FLIES, SUITABLE FOR ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD.

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## CONVICTION FOR FISHING WITHOUT PERMISSION IN PRIVATE WATER.

At the Town Hall, Nottingham, William Wilcock was charged with having illegally fished in a pond belonging to Mr. Walker, at Bulwell-common, and also with having assaulted Police-constable Darker.—Mr. Martin appeared to prosecute.—It was stated that on the 25th inst. Darker saw prisoner fishing with a line in the pond. He was spoken to, but declined to leave off fishing or to give up the fish which he had caught, and assaulted Darker when the latter tried to take them from him.—Prisoner, who said he thought he had a right to fish in the pond, was fined 10s. for each offence.

Schweppe's
These Waters are supplied
To the Queen.
Table Waters

"Art, empire, earth itself, *to change* are doomed."—The Hermit.

# EXCHANGE.

## Things Wanted—to BUY, to SELL, or to EXCHANGE.

N.B.—We take no responsibility whatever in connection with advertisements inserted in this or other parts of this paper; but beg our readers to expose any case of imposition. The prices for inserting advertisements in this "EXCHANGE" Column are 6d. per line for one, or 4d. per line for more than one insertion.—Address, Manager, Fishing Gazette, 12 and 13, Fetter Lane, London, and send stamps with the order, or the advertisement cannot be inserted.

WANTED.—Particulars and Prices of Second-hand Books on Angling and Fish Culture. Must be in good condition.—Address Editor, Fishing Gazette, 12 and 13, Fetter-lane, London, E.C.

J. Palmer's superior Artificial Trout and Salmon Flies are giving immense satisfaction. Fishing Tackle Houses would do well to apply for special terms.—Address, Littleworth, Redditch.

One of Foster's celebrated Russia Leather Fly Books, complete, with 6 each of 48 kinds of Trout and Grayling Flies, equal to new; cost 3 guineas. What offers in cash?—J. B. Russell, 8, Russell-street, Leek, Staffordshire.

A 14ft. Greenheart Rod, by Farlow, never used; cost £3 3s. Price £1 11s. 6d.—B. Webb, Kirby-street, Manchester.

Heron skin, Indian blue Jay's, and odd feathers for fly making, cheap.—Alfred C. Elliott, Waterton Arms Inn, Deeping, St. James, Lincolnshire.

Ten dozen "Elliott's Angler's Guide," published to sell at 2d. each, 10s.; specimen copy, 2 stamps.—Alfred C. Elliott, Naturalist, Deeping, St. James.

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(N.B.—*All rights reserved in articles published in this paper.*)

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# RIVER REPORTS.

## TIME OF HIGH WATER IN THE THAMES.

To find the time of high water in the Thames at any of the following places, to the time of high water at London Bridge (given below).

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Add | 30 minutes for | Chelsea. |
| | 40 „ | Putney. |
| | 45 „ | Hammersmith. |
| | 50 „ | Barnes. |
| | 55 „ | Kew. |
| | 75 „ | Richmond. |
| | 80 „ | Twickenham. |
| | 85 „ | Teddington. |

Example:—If it is high water at 2 o'clock at London Bridge, it will be high water at Teddington about 3.25, or eighty-five minutes later; but it must be remembered that a strong wind accelerates or retards the tide very much.

For Times of High Water at London Bridge.

| | Morning. | Afternoon. |
|---|---|---|
| Saturday, July 5 | 11.59 | 12.0 |
| Sunday, „ 6 | 12.25 | 12.47 |
| Monday, „ 7 | 1.9 | 1.30 |
| Tuesday, „ 8 | 1.51 | 2.10 |
| Wednesday, „ 9 | 2.27 | 2.45 |
| Thursday, „ 10 | 3.2 | 3.20 |
| Friday, „ 11 | 3.37 | 3.55 |

Note.—New moon, July 22; high tide, July 24.

## THE LOWER THAMES.

### General Remarks.

The river is at present insufferably low, and in the tideway especially it greatly interferes with the anglers. It is the general opinion this state of things will lead to the erection of an additional lock below Isleworth, and from all that can be learnt it has not escaped the attention of the "powers that be." As a proof of the large increase of Thames anglers on the banks, one day this week there were no fewer than two hundred between Isleworth and Teddington, and all got fish of some sort, returning home perfectly satisfied. The barbel have been found plentiful by this class of anglers, one alone getting three in one day of 3lb. each, and a juvenile piscator got one of 1½lb. The fishermen in the punts say their clients at the finish each day expressed themselves well pleased with the fish. It has been a remarkable sight each morning this week at Kingston Bridge to see the immense shoals of roach and dace, and it has attracted a large number of visitors. The fish have been described by a local fisherman as "being seen in cartloads, but as soon as the boats get about they sink until the next morning." The trout are seldom seen feeding after six o'clock in the morning. Mr. Bond, of the Sun Hotel, at the end of last week got a very handsome fish of 8lb. The recent convictions for taking unseasonable and unsizeable fish amongst the netsmen and anglers, and with the former for using illegal nets, has not only taught them a salutary lesson ; but the promise of the magistrates of enforcing full penalties will prove a formidable check. There have been no less than ten convictions.

### Chertsey.

J. Poulter, four bream, two dozen of roach and dace, and four jack—two of the latter being put back again. Thomas Tayler, in gudgeon fishing, caught a trout of ¾lb., which he carefully returned to the river.

### Egham.

Mr. A, Simmonds fishing for four hours caught a good pike of 8lb, and one of the bank anglers one barbel of 6lb. and two of 2lb. each.

### Hampton Court.

Thomas Davis, in one day, 8lb. of roach and dace ; John Smith, during the week, fifteen dozen of roach and dace, two barbel, and eight chub ; J. Wheeler, during the same time, a jack of 3lb, eight barbel, six chub, and twenty-four dozen of roach and dace ; William Milbourne, in two days, seven dozen of dace, and a barbel of 8lb. ; Thomas Milbourne, in the same time, five dozen of roach and dace, and one perch ; Charles Stone, in three days, sixteen dozen of roach and dace, and three perch ; the bank anglers have had good sport, and on Tagg's Island they have been getting good quantities of roach, dace, and bream.

### Hampton.

The fishing here has been principally on the banks, and it has been computed during the week, sixteen dozen of roach and dace, and ten bream, the largest 5lb., have been taken.

### Halliford.

T. Strudwick, in one day, nine and a half dozen of roach and dace ; and George Rosewell fourteen dozen, two bream, and one jack.

### Kingston.

John Johnson, sen., in two days, thirteen dozen of roach and dace ; John Johnson, jun., in three days, has taken sixteen chub, a fine perch of 1½lb., nine dozen of roach and dace, one jack, and the trout of 8lb. previously referred to. The length of the fish was 27½in., and round the girth 14½in. The bank anglers have been well in amongst the roach, dace, perch, barbel, bream, and chub, and at the Surbiton sewer the bream that have been caught were fine ones.

### Penton Hook.

Master Wright, fishing from the bank, caught two chub weighing 3½lb. ; and Master Percy Pearce, of Hounslow, a very handsome roach of 1½lb.—the latter being shown to the Secretary of the T.A.P.S.

### Richmond.

Christopher Brown, in one day, 6lb. of roach and dace : Henry Mansell, in four days, 12lb. ; Henry Howard, in one day, 9lb. of dace.

### Shepperton.

F. Purdue, in one day, two dozen of gudgeon, eighteen roach and dace, and a brace of jack—the latter, being small, were put back again.

### Sunbury.

Messrs. E. Clarke and Sons, in three days, three chub, twelve dozen of roach and dace, and seven dozen of gudgeons ; the bank anglers have been getting some very fine roach, dace, and gudgeon.

### Staines.

Charles Hone, in one day, five dozen of roach and dace. J. Keene, jun., eight chub, four dozen of roach and dace, and three dozen of gudgeon. John Keene, sen., two dozen of roach and dace and a brace of perch. An Angling Competition has taken place from Staines Railway Bridge to Egham Gas Works, for which there were about 50 entries. The first prize of one pound was won by Mr. Wright, the Secretary of the Second Surrey Angling Club.

### Thames Ditton.

H. Rogerson, in one day, four barbel, the largest 4lb. ; Edward Tagg, one dozen of gudgeon ; the bank anglers have done well amongst the roach, dace, and perch.

### Twickenham.

Mr. W. Walker, with John Spong, in three days, five dozen of roach and dace, and four barbel ; Joseph Dobbin, in two days, four dozen of roach and dace ; Samuel Cole, in four days, nine dozen of dace and three barbel ; Edward Finch, in half a day, three dozen of dace.

### Teddington.

Joseph Baldwin, in three days, eleven chub, 2½ dozen of roach and dace, and a couple of barbel ; John Stevens, in one day, four chub.

### Walton.

The rain here has improved the fishing considerably ; the roach, beam, and perch have been feeding well. John Hone, jun., one day, sixteen large bream, and one brace of jack ; another day, eleven good bream and two dozen of roach ; another day, three bream and three dozen of roach ; another day, four bream and two dozen of roach. George Hone, in one day, fifteen large bream, two dozen of dace, and one brace of perch. R. Watford, one day, nine bream, all over 2lb. each, and two dozen of roach and dace ; and another day, in three hours, four dozen of roach and dace, and one bream. Mr. Robinson, staying at the Swan Hotel, caught three dozen of perch with minnows, several of the perch over 1lb. each ; and on the same day another visitor from the hotel, in fly fishing, got two dozen of good roach.

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## UPPER THAMES.

The twelve hours' rain of the past week has materially improved the angling conditions of the upper portions of the Thames, and those piscators who have ventured out have been fairly rewarded with roach, perch, and chub. Jack fishing should not be indulged in until the latter part of August, or even September, for sport and clean fish. Henley Regatta, with all its surroundings of boats, large and small, fearfully and wonderfully made, going to and fro on the waters from London upwards and Oxford downwards, has been a sight to see, and has altogether upset any chance of quiet fishing. I have only three reports of notable catches, and even those, Mr. Editor, I will postpone mentioning, as even I have got the human-race mania, and am anxious to take advantage of a lift to Royal Henley, offered by a brother piscator, who says to-day he is sick and silly of river fishing just at present.—Marlow Buzz.

### Goring.

Water in good order for all sorts of fishing, perch biting very well, roach coming on better. We have been taking some good perch, some going over 1lb. My best day, one dozen of perch and two dozen of roach and dace, one roach going 1½lb.—John Rush.

### Thames (Oxford).

The fish are entirely off the feed, and they will be so until we get another twenty-four hours' fall of rain. In the early mornings and late in the evening chub go well at the crayfish tail, and several heavy bags have been made at Pinkhill, Duxford, and the higher reaches. A curious parasite has been brought to my notice during the past week. So far as I can learn, all species of fish in this part of the Thames are affected with it, more or less. As my informant was unable to give me anything more reliable to work upon, than the rather vague description of its general appearance, which he said very much resembled a bug, I felt rather at a loss ; but, fortunately, I managed last night to secure a brace of chub, each with one on its body. The insect, whatever it may be, was totally unknown to me, and, as yet, I have been unable to make a microscopic examination of it ; but I hope to be in a position to speak with greater certainty when I write again.—Cherwell Otter.

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### Acle (Host Rose, Acle-bridge).

This is an excellent station for anglers to stay, as they are sure of good accommodation, and the advice and assistance of Rose, who is a first-rate angler as well as a jolly host. He can make up beds for five or six, and has plenty of very fair boats, or should the piscator be a solitary bank fisher, he can be accommodated here better than any other place I know of. My own experience was that there were any number of fish to be caught here ; but they run small take the day through, and we returned nine-tenths to water as they were taken from the hook. Only a few worthy to be called bream turned up, though usually here the bream run large, and are very numerous.

### Ancholme District.

A goodly number of anglers have been out bottom fishing, but the results have been very poor. Early and late are now the best times ; but a good rain is greatly needed to put the fish on the feed. Trout fishing is quite at a standstill.—Thomas Ford, Caistor.

### Ballynahinch.

Since last report nothing has been done on above ; only Mr. G. Sutherland, on the 30th ult., three peal, 6½lb., 7lb., and 8½lb. ; same date, Mr. Houlgrave got a white trout—the first this season. To-day we have every indication of a change for rain, which is greatly needed, as water are still very low.—Walter Blackadder.

### Bure.

Having just had nine days' sailing and angling on this river, I will just jot down my experience at each spot in the order in which they occur running up from Yarmouth.

### Chichester.

During the past week anglers have been busy, bream being well on feed. Mr. Cardy, from Brighton, paid the water a visit a few days since, taking a couple of dozen nice bream from the Ash Tree swim, the larger 2¾lb. The veteran roach angler, Mr. S. Young, landed at one setting over 50lbs. of bream, all over half a pound, the ten largest scaling 23lb. On Tuesday the same angler landed a well-proportioned carp of 4¾lb. This evening fish are not feeding, but may be seen by the thousand near the surface. I believe this water contains more fish than any other of its area in the country.—George F. Salter.

### Dee (Aberdeenshire).

No rain, no fish, is the current remark. Seldom, we may say never, at this season of the year have we seen such a truly disheartening state of matters. Within the memory of most the river was never known to have run low so long, or been so very small in the early summer. Anglers are leaving their beats in disgust, and the few yet remaining are scarcely ever looking near the river. One or two devotees of the gentle art are still whipping away, but the occasions on which their labours are rewarded prove exceptional indeed. Every day, almost, we have indications of rain, but anything more than a mere drizzle, and that very seldom, too, is never experienced. It is just possible that the grilse fishing this year may prove a complete blank—as yet it can be regarded as nothing more ; in fact, we have had no grilse fishing at all. There are plenty of fine fish on the coast, and the river netters are having good hauls ; but what is the matter, the nets intercept nearly every fish that seeks up. At one or two of the stations nearly outside the tidal waters a single fish cannot pass. The river being so extremely clear and low, they are watched crossing the garths or from a bridge, and the nets are forthwith shot, and a clean sweep made. Between 6 o'clock on Saturday evening and the same hour on Monday morning, when the nets are off, some fish ascend doubtless ; but these at once get out of the usual casts, and seek places where the fly cannot be properly played. If any are hooked they are invariably lost. The flies they come to are so small that they have little hold : add to this the fact that they fix in rough places, and at once the initiated will see that the angler's chances of victory are small. Of eight hooked in the Banchory district this week by excellent fishermen, not one was landed. This year the sea trout are plump and heavy, the average weight being about 3lb. Grilse, on the other hand, are unusually small, averaging little over 3½lb. if anything. Fungoid, so prevalent amongst the salmon, is also showing on the grilse. Altogether, a very unhealthy state of things exists. The silver doctor, blue doctor, blue charm, Oliver, and black Palmer are the flies the fish come at most readily at present. The sizes are extremely small ; Nos. 8 and 9 double irons are the sizes they are taking and getting clear from invariably. All the best sections have been yielding nothing, and some accounted the very worst at this season have, strange to say, been doing best, if best it may be called. At the Bridge of Feugh only some half-dozen grilse have yet been got, whereas by this time in a fair year generally 500 to 600 would have been landed. Others are reported about, and these disturb the pools ; but no matter—in the present state of the river the fish would not take whatever. The river inspector and his assistants are just now making a raid on the upland waters, and removing the fish affected with the disease and burying the dead ones. About Braemar, so far as the fungus is concerned, matters have been very, and still are a little, alarming. Fish a month or six weeks ago were dying in great numbers. About Ballater it was scarcely so bad, and the farther down the river its ravages were proportionately less. In the river nets fish a little touched were got coming up. This is a nut for the Editor : Where, then, and how was it contracted? If rain does not come soon, and even if it does, the fish will not take freely, as the season is too far advanced to hope for free rising fish in the Dee, though in its tributaries they may yet be got in good numbers. By the long-continued steady flow many of the finest casts are silted up, and nothing but a heavy spate will put them to rights, and remove the slime and filth with which the bottom of the river is covered. Trouting is at a standstill—not a thing taking ; even the Don is yielding but little. The natural minnow, which works so well in the evening at this season in an ordinary year, is rarely accepted. Dee river reports :—Crathes and Kineskie : C. Wollaston, Esq., Bath, Tuesday, 1 grilse, 3lb., and 1 sea trout ; Wednesday, 1 salmon, 10½lb. ; Thursday, 1 grilse, 3½lb. ; Friday, 1 grilse, 3lb. Park : Major Scott has had little sport on the Durris and Drum sections. Banchory : J. B. Keith, Esq., 1 trout. Nether Banchory : Robert Clark, 1 fish, 12lb. To-day (Wednesday) it looks as if making for rain. The clouds appear low, and seem denser than they have done for some time. The reverberation caused by firing of the big guns at the Aberdeen Wopinschaw, just now going on, may have the effect of breaking the low-sailing clouds, and causing the long-looked-for rain to come at last.—W. M.

Mr. George Smith, saddler and tackle merchant, Ballater, reports that though the beats in that locality were not occupied by gentlemen last week, the fish were taking pretty freely. Though, as a rule, a good deal brownish, the fish landed are in good condition, on the whole. The head keeper on the Invercauld Arms Hotel water, Mr. John Sturton, went out on three consecutive days with the following result :—Tuesday, one fish, 11lb. ; Wednesday, two fish, 7lb. and 8lb. ; Thursday, one fish, 9lb. Weather bright and dry, the fogs prevalent further down Deeside being entirely absent. Plenty of fish in the river. Fresh-run fish arriving every week and settling in the pools. The flies Sturton was successful with were supplied by Mr. Smith.—W. M.

### Dove.

Rain fell pretty heavily on the 29th ult., but it did not suffice to colour the water. The weather since has been very hot and bright, and sport has been very indifferent, except after about eight o'clock in the evening, when the sun had gone down and the heat had moderated. The best killing lures have been the caterpillar and coachman, but these have only succeeded (as they usually do) at night. Sport will not improve until we have a thoroughly heavy downfall of rain. The river wants freshening up sadly, for neither trout, grayling, barbel, chub, roach, dace, or perch will feed freely while matters remain as they are. We have had many rods out daily, but all their complaints are alike—the low and fine water prevents sport.—The Splodger.

### Eden (Weldon Bridge).

Some good baskets have been caught here with worm up stream for the last fortnight. Water very fine.—Frederick Brown, the Angler's Inn.

### Eden (Carlisle).

There is very little of interest to anglers to report for the past fortnight. The river is wonderfully low, in fact, lower than the "oldest inhabitant" can remember to have seen it; and, I daresay, it never was lower in one of the old-fashioned dry summers, as 30 or 40 years ago drainage was much less complete than it is now, and consequently rivers did not rise and fall so rapidly. Scarcely anyone hereabout is trout-fishing except at nights, and even then I am told sport is not good. Grilse and sea-trout have become much more plentiful in the market here, and are now selling at 10d. per lb.; but they are chiefly coming from the Solway and the lowest of the river drafts near Rockliffe. Sea-trout could get up the river, low as it is; but they have not a chance except during the weekly close time, as the bottom net can cover the whole of the stream easily. This is another proof of what has been so often said, that the upper proprietors, who find the spawning grounds, do not get their fair share of the fish.—Silver Grey.

### Horning Ferry (Host Thompson).

This spot is unquestionably the most charming and agreeable station to stay at of any in the county, and those who are more particular about attention, civility, and the picturesque than sport (that is to say, of catching large fish), cannot do better than select Horning Ferry Hotel. It can easily be reached from Wroxham Station (on the Norwich and Cromer line), as Host Thompson will, on receipt of notice, send to meet visitors. Any number of small flat, small roach, and perch can always be caught here at almost any time, and jack, in consequence, abound. Higher up stream is what is called Didle reach. I had some capital sport, including eight or nine gudgeon, which are not frequently caught in this river angling. What with the attractions of this secluded spot, combined with the first-rate attention from both host and hostess, this house is a very haven of rest for anglers and the lovers of the gun. Oh! by-the-by, Thompson informs me that for years past he has not known the young snipe and ducks so numerous and strong as they are this season. Some friends of mine had a good catch of bream here on Saturday last.

### Ilfracombe.

Sea Fishing. Glorious summer weather has prevailed during the past two weeks, and, as a consequence, the shore has been lined daily with numerous fishing parties, and good catches have been the order of the day. Bream are plentiful and in prime condition, while there have been some catches of bass. W. Barbeary and S. Ley, fishing off Baggy Point, caught 60lb. of bass. Several other fishermen have had good catches; they report prospects, for both bream and bass, good, fish well on the bite and in fine condition. Some good catches of bream and ling by boating parties fishing off the Torrs. Monday, T. Davie caught 180lb. of bream. Some large fish caught from the jetty by both rod and hand lines: one gentleman caught two ling weighing 44lb.: others had nice catches of eel and pout. A fine sole was caught off Beacon Point by a hand-line fisher; some good fishing off Lea just now. Weather fine, and prospects never better for amateurs and lovers of the hook and line.—E. Comer.

### Lugg and Arrow (Leominster).

Both these streams are now in splendid order for the anglers, who have been quite busy with the rod, since the heavy rain, which visited this part the latter end of last week and Sunday; the water rose considerably on Sunday, but soon began to lower and clear itself on Monday, and by evening was in good order for the fly. The fish are now rising freely at the black gnat, marlow buz, and blue dun, which are the best flies on at present, and some very good fish have been taken with them. On Friday, a gentleman fishing in the Arrow with the blue dun and Marlow buzz, landed a good basket of fine trout, some scaling ¾ lb. each. The Lugg was tried the same day, below the town, and a good dish of trout was landed with the fly. There was some good sport had in the Lugg on Saturday with the blue dun, and a very good dish of fine fish was taken. Good sport was had in the Arrow with the black gnat and blue dun, when one gentleman landed 4lb. of very fine trout. The rain coming on stopped all fly fishing till after Monday, as the water went very thick. On Monday a gentleman tried the Arrow with the worm, and landed a very nice dish of trout. A nice lot were taken in the water below the town with the maggot. The fish were biting well at the worm in the Lugg, and a very good basket of trout was landed. The water having run nearly clear on Tuesday, a gentleman with the blue dun took a very nice dish of trout in the Arrow. Some good fish were killed with the Marlow buzz in the Lugg the same day. Some good fish have been killed in the Lugg, near Aymestry, with the fly. Some good trout have been taken in the Eardisland waters. The Pinsley is in good fishing order, and has risen slightly; the fish are now rising freely at the fly, and some good fish have been landed. Good fishing at Ivington with the fly.—Gwynne.

### Leicester.

With the exception of a shower on Sunday, we have had a spell of hot, very warm weather, not a breath of wind at times prevailing to modify the heat. It is somewhat surprising, however, to find that the sport has been of an encouraging character. There have been but few who have been fishing in the local society's waters that have not been successful in taking a fair number of fish. Mr. J. Neal one day caught about 16lb., 12lb. being roaches, the largest weighing 1lb. 6oz., and a chub weighing 1½lb. Mr. G. Hardy was also well among the roach, on several successive days taking between 6lb. and 7lb. per day. Mr. O. Bird fished the waters most days, and showed some nice lots of roach and dace. Messrs. J. Blackwell and Adams took some fair-sized perch up to 1lb. The waters are very fine and low, both in the Soar, at Leicester, and the brook at Aylestone. The best catches of roach have been landed with white paste. Those anglers who have been fly-fishing have had the best sport among the dace. A good many have been pike fishing, but up to the present no large ones have been caught. At Narborough the waters are very low and fine, and the sport, with the exception of roach and chub fishing, quiet. Several of the subscribers to these waters obtained some fine baskets of roach. A good many rodsters have also availed themselves of the opportunity to pay a visit to the Wreake, and in several instances a fair amount of success has attended their efforts. Some large quantities of roach and perch have lately been brought into Leicester, having been taken from the waters in the vicinity of Silsby and Barrow-on-Soar, evidently with the net. Cannot something be done to stop this wholesale destruction of fish? To-day (Thursday), the riverside was well patronised, it being a general half-holiday. The weather remains sultry, without a prospect of an early change.—Alert.

### Medway (Tunbridge).

Rain! Rain!! Rain!!! When will it come? is the anxious cry of the angler. Till it does, I fear nothing very grand will be done, though small bags of bream, roach, and chub continue to be had. The bream are seen on top of the water in myriads; but how to get them down to the bottom, and on the feed, has puzzled wiser heads than that possessed by Ye Medway Water Rat.

### Moy and Loch Conn (Ballina).

Since my last report angling has been very poor on river and lough, owing to low water, bright sun, and no wind. Plenty of fish in river and lough.—Frank Hearns.

### Ouse (Huntingdon).

No improvement in the condition of the water, but the bream are on the feed very nicely, more particularly in the evening and very early in the morning—36½lb. were taken on the 29th June by two fishermen, and some very nice takes since. A most splendid rudd was taken on the 26th June, weighing 2lb. 12oz.—such a fine fish is seldom seen. On the 3rd, ten bream were taken by one fisherman, weighing 28lb. the largest going 4¼lb. The red worms are the principal bait and fine tackle. On the same morning 18 were taken—but I do not know the weight—but one was 4½lb.—H. Rout.

### Ranworth.

This is another difficult place to get at, but will equally repay a visit, as the water is deep and abounds with bream, roach, perch, and many jack. A paternoster is very effective here with good lively minnows.

### Severn (Kidderminster).

Not much angling news this week. Though we have had six or seven hours' rain, it did not stir the water to any great extent; the land being very dry, the rain was soon absorbed. I have sent you one of our local papers, in which you will see a report of our meeting respecting the freshwater fisheries, our members being unanimous in support of the same. I am very sorry to say that we are, like other societies, come to grief in respect to the privilege tickets of the railway. When I heard of the affair, I could not believe it. I went this morning to see the railway officials, and found the rumour only too true. I asked the station master if any of the members had been using their tickets for other purposes; he said they had not, to the best of his knowledge. He said it was a general order from one end of the line to the other, and gave me an order to that effect, and in my humble opinion there ought to be some reduction, considering the double journey. I am almost inclined to endorse Mr. Woolfall's ideas, and stop at home. I mentioned the circumstance to some of our members; they said they could go by 'bus for less money. I know this, that the G. W. Railway is as dear a line as it is possible to travel by. I can go to Bewdley, a distance of 3½ miles, for 3½d.; but to come back on the same line, in the same carriage, the same class, I have to pay 8d. for the same distance. Surely there is some imposition somewhere. I am very sorry the privilege tickets are withdrawn; they were a great boon to the poor anglers, especially those who have a family to support, and with whom angling is a favourite pastime, as it is mine.—E. Earp, hon. sec.

### South Level Cut (Littleport).

No roach fishing to signify up to present, and the bream fishing, what there is of it, almost exclusively in the hands of Mr. Ward, Littleport, who has had what I should call some good takes for this water since last report. On 30th ult. he took 7, on 1st inst. 13, and to-day, again, 8—all good bream. The average, from all I can hear, being 3lb. Mr. Harris, Ely, on 30th, also 7 very fine bream; to-day, again, 1. Mr. Mitchell, Manchester, on 1st inst., 1 very good bream over 4lb.; on 2nd inst., 1 bream 3lb. 10oz., and 1 roach 1¾lb.—Charlie South.

### South Walsham.

The fishing hereabout is always regarded locally as the best on the stream; but it is difficult to get at, as one must drive; but the visit will repay a little trouble and expense, especially to those fond of visiting ruins: the famous St. Benet's Abbey is opposite South Walsham Dyke. Early morning fishing for choice here; bottom very level, with fair depth of water, being, in fact, a cut made some years since.—Robert Moll.

### Torridge (Torrington).

The river is very low, and the few showers we have had are not enough to rise the water. Some few good trout are taken with the fly in the evenings, when the fish are very lively, flopping all over the pools. Now is the season for dapping, and some splendid lots have been taken in the deep holes under the oak trees with live gentles. Many mullet over 2lb. and lots of bass have been taken this week with the lug worm in the tidal waters.—Practical Angler.

### Teme (Ludlow).

A welcome rain commenced falling here on Saturday evening at 4.30, and drenched us to the skin before we could make our way home from the Teme. The downpour continued with slight intermission until Sunday, the earth receiving such a soaking that it has not had for months. Monday found the Teme and all the tributaries again brought into capital order, and on Tuesday they were all that could be desired, a slight stain remaining upon the latter. Fishermen of all classes have been very busy this week. On Tuesday evening towards nightfall Mr. Blakemore, of Knighton, visited the Teme at Ashford, but the fish did not rise very eagerly. Fishing two hours with the blue dun and Marlow buzz, he managed to catch seven nice trout and club. Hearing that pike had been seen in the Ashford quarter of the Teme, a gentleman on Monday tried his hand there. After about three hours' fishing, he succeeded in landing a very fine specimen of the tribe, which weighed nearly seven pounds. Elated with his success, he visited the waters again on Tuesday (a little nearer Saltmoor this time) when he was again successful, and landed another pike between 3½lb. to 4lb. He continued fishing, and in about an hour's time hooked another; but the fish, giving a sudden jerk when getting near the shore, away down the river went the fish with two yards of line, in the direction of Ashford. Later in the afternoon, some men fishing about a quarter of a mile from the spot, saw the bough of a tree, which was in the water, repeatedly moving. They got into the river and found the broken line entangled in the bough, and a fine pike hooked safe at the end of it. It was supposed to weigh 4 or 5lb., and the men sold it for 3s. Several pike have been seen in that quarter lately, also beneath Whitcliff and by the Folly. Some good trout have been caught with the orle and red spinner up the Oakly Park waters. The Clun is nicely coloured, but little doing. Some nice perch were caught in the Corve on Tuesday. Good catches in the Ledwych waters and in the Oney. A gentleman from Ludlow informs me that the other day he was going on a fishing excursion into the adjoining county of Radnor, when near to Penybont he saw a man lying on his side by the river Oran, engaged in some mysterious proceedings; curiosity prompted the gentleman to approach the spot, with a view to discover the doings of the man, who was found to be engaged in what is called "tickling" the trout. In an almost incredibly short space of time he landed with his bare hand, from the river, and threw upon the grass, 13 fine healthy trout.—S. Ludlow.

### Teme (Tenbury).

There has been some very good sport had in this part this week. After the heavy downpour of rain which was had in the district on Saturday evening and Sunday, the water was a little muddy, and had slightly risen; but by Monday evening the water had run into splendid condition for the fly, and the fish were rising well. The best flies on at present are the blue dun, orle, and Marlow buzz. The water below the town was fished on Friday, and a gentleman hooked a good dish of trout with the blue dun. The sun shining brightly on Saturday morning, a gentleman fishing in the water above the bridge took with the orle and Marlow buzz a splendid dish of fine trout, averaging from 10 oz. each. After the rain on Saturday the water was slightly muddy; a gentleman tried the water with the maggot and took six very good fish. A very nice lot of trout were taken with the worm in the water above the town the same day. On Monday the fish were biting well at the worm; one gentleman took eight very nice fish a short distance from the town, and four more were taken by another gentleman. In the evening a few good fish were landed with the fly near Little Hereford bridge. On Tuesday the water was in splendid order for the fly; a good dish was landed on the down water with the blue dun, and a very good day's sport was had in the upper stream, and some splendid trout were killed with the orle and blue dun. The Kyre and Rea are both in good fishing condition, being higher and slightly coloured; the fish are biting well, and since the rain there has been several nice lots of trout taken. A gentleman fished the Kyre on Saturday morning, and took a good dish of trout with the fly, and a few nice ones were taken on Tuesday. A good dish of trout was landed in the Rea on Tuesday with the blue dun. A few nice trout have been taken in the Ledwyche.—WORCESTER.

## Trent (Torksey).

The Trent is very low and fine, and not much is being done by anglers. A good many have of late come down here, and they are able to do justice when opportunity offers. Just now many flounders are to be had, and a lively bit of sport they afford. Mr. T. Collins, from Sheffield, caught thirty of these fish easily this week, along with a roach of 1¾lb. Rain is badly wanted in this district; but the Trent is not in bad condition from the fact that it has completely lost the effects of the sewage of the towns higher up.—TRACE.

## The Trent (Nottingham).

The river here still remains very low and clear, and although some hundreds of anglers have been out, the takes generally have been of an inferior character. Barbel, notwithstanding the hot and long-continued dry weather, are backward in condition. and, so far, not many fish appear to have been killed. The best takes are recorded from Shardlow, where thousands have been seen scouring on the shallows. The deep swims should be eschewed for those of about 4ft. in depth. A goodly number of chub have been caught in this length with the cad-bait, and fly-fishing has been excellent, especially in the evening. Some barbel "snatching" has been going on at Wilford, and the bailiffs of the Trent Fishery Board might easily get a case. Mr. W. Jerram, of this town, has been daily killing enormous quantities of dace with the artificial fly above the Trent bridge. He always uses horse-hair in preference to gut, and there is no doubt he takes more fish than any others of the craft. Pike have been running in the lower waters, in one of the tributaries of which I regret to say some scores of trout have been netted and poisoned. The Trent specimen recently killed by my friend, Mr. S. Sills, has been preserved by Mr. J. Stanley, of Trent-street, who has also enclosed in the case that angler's handsome Trent dace of 12¾oz.—THE MAN AT THE CLUBS.

## Trent (Newark).

The river still continues very low and clear, and angling matters are not very brisk just now. A few lucky anglers manage to secure a decent bag of fish at times; but the generality of our fishermen fare very badly. Odd barbel are taken with both worms and scratchings for bait; and I have heard of a couple of decent bags of those fish being had this week, one above and one below, but particulars are not to hand. The cad bait has killed a few decent roach, dace, and bream, while the worm has secured a few eels, flounders, bream, and an odd barbel or two; but the flannel weed is very troublesome; we sadly want a fresh down the river to sweep it away; and also the swarms of insect life, for while there are such quantities of natural food in the river it is not likely anglers will succeed in making sensational bags; but it is a long lane that has no turning, so perhaps better days are in store for us.—THE TRENT OTTER.

## Tweed (Berwick).

Up to the present time the net fishing for salmon has been very poor indeed; in fact, quite ruinous. The last fortnight there has been some slight improvement in the catches, though far from satisfactory. There is little angling going one just now: except at night none are caught. I hear of 11lb. of trout having been caught in three hours in the Whitadder. The river Tweed is full of weed; a fresh is much needed to clear it, and, doubtless, this would do much towards the inflow of the fish from the sea. Some of the net fishers here are of opinion that the deepening of the Tyne has caused the salmon to give it a preference over the Tweed. However this may be, the salmon fishing at the Tyne has much improved recently, while the salmon fishing here has gone back. The movements of this king of fish are still unsolved to a considerable extent. "Light, light, more light," is what is wanted about all sea fish.—J. J. HILLS.

## Walton-on-Thames.

There has been abundance of water here owing to the preparation for the Henley regatta, and fishing has been fairly good. Rain is, however, needed to freshen the water. On Saturday, John Hone, with a gentleman, took three dozen roach and three fine bream. On the same day George Hone, jun., with two gentlemen, had four dozen roach and dace. On the 29th ult.,, John Hone, with a gentleman, had two dozen roach and four large bream. On the same day George Hone, jun., had four dozen roach and eight large bream. On Monday, George Hone, sen., had thirteen very fine bream, two dozen roach, and two perch. On the same day John Hone had two dozen roach. On the same day, Mr. Robertson, a visitor at the Swan Hotel, caught a nice trout of 3lb. weight with a fly, and lost two others. On Wednesday, John Hone, with a gentleman, had four dozen roach after six o'clock p.m. The bream and perch are very numerous in the river here. On Thursday, John Hone, with a party of gentlemen, caught three jack and a few roach. One of the party hooked a large trout in Tumbling Bay with a killing fly, supplied by the proprietor of the Swan Hotel; but the trout retained the fly, the tackle being too light.—GOLDFINCH.

## Waveney (Beccles).

Owing to the clearness of the water, caused by the continual drought, nothing of any account has been done on this river, and not likely to be so long as the drought continues. On Saturday last W. P. Garrod, Esq., had a fair catch of perch, and the same gentleman succeeded in capturing a tench, angling with a worm, weighing 1½lb. This is quite a rare occurrence on this river. Some of the oldest anglers can only remember this being done two or three times before. Water very clear, weather bright, and no appearance of rain.—A WAVENEY ANGLER.

## The Wharfe (Yorkshire).

Beyond a slight shower or two things have remained *in statu quo* since last week's report. I had an evening's tench fishing on Tuesday, in a private pond, along with another gentleman, the fish did not bite freely until nearly dusk, when I secured eight, weighing 7½lbs; my companion killed the best fish, scaling 1lb. 10oz. I regret to have to report that some miscreants have been engaged recently in liming several streams in this district; one of them was caught in the act on Killinghall Beck, preserved by the Rockingham Angling Club; he was fined £5, or two months' imprisonment in default. At Ilkley over 1,000 trout were poisoned in one night, and since that a stream near Addingham has been treated in a similar manner. I send you one of the bills offering £20 reward; but unless a sentence of imprisonment is passed it will only act as an incentive to offer such a large amount.—FRANCIS M. WALBRAN.

## Witham.

Angling in the Witham is now very good, considering all things. The water, though low, is in fairly good condition, and in the drains it is very good. Roach are coming on very nicely, and some really good hauls have been made this week. A Yorkshire angler from below Boston took home with him a splendid bag containing about 4st. of roach, running from ½lb. to 1lb. each, a nice level lot. At Tattershall, an angler took up above 3st., mostly roach, but his bag included six nice bream, running up to 2½lb. Mr. Lee, of Sheffield, got 6lb. 10oz., including a pike, 2½lb. Bream are to be found at several points. Mr. H. Bell, of Sheffield, showed up one caught at Dogdyke weighing 2lb. 13oz., along with perch and roach, and Mr. Riley, of the same place, caught a bream 3lb. 11oz., along with a tench, 2lb. 9½oz., and a few roach. Below Bardney there was a match between two noted anglers for £10 a-side, for the best gross weight, Sheffield rules. This would show well what was possible within the short space of three hours. C. Powell, the winner, caught 88 roach and three bream. His bream scaled about 9lb, and his remainder were roach of the smallest description. His opponent, R. Brown, caught 4lb. 6oz., mostly roach.—THE YELLOW BELLY.

## Wroxham.

Wroxham Station is really in Hoveton, so are the two inns to which anglers resort, and their addresses are Simpson, Hoveton, King's Head; and Whittaker, the Horseshoe, Hoveton. Simpson's is where the better, or rather wealthier, class usually stay, and Whittaker's is much resorted to by the anglers of humbler means; but in each you get good attention, civility, and very reasonable charges. There are plenty of boats at 1s. a day, and the famed Wroxham Broad is within easy distance, and is not closed (as unfortunately too many lovely sheets of water now are, on which it might almost be said the eye of man rarely rests). Sport is excellent here, both up and down stream. Some prefer going up Coltishall direction, whilst others affect spots known to them between the bridge and the Broad. I had plenty of luck as far as numbers go, could at times catch fish nearly every swim, but in most cases so wretchedly small. A tench of 2lb. 11oz. gave me rare sport on my fine roach tackle, but after a game fight he had to give in. Two gentles on a No. 10 drawn gut was the lure. Worms are generally the bait which now and again tempts a tench to take a hook, but cases of the kind are rare. Bow nets or sickling do their business. Prospects all along the line excellent.—ROBERT MOLL.

## Wye and Derwent.

Both the above rivers are very low and clear, and the greatest care should ever be taken to protect the fish from being taken by the poachers. It is at these dry times, when there is nearly always such destruction made both in the brooks and rivers. I am very pleased to say that F. Cartwright, Esq., J.P., has given to the Matlock Angling Club his water below Cromford Bridge, from the 1st of this month; and the new fishing club is thinking of turning in a thousand Loch Leven trout yearly. The river below Cromford is going to be netted, on purpose to get the pike and coarse fish out. Any one requiring any information respecting this new club had better write to the secretary, Mr. A. Clarke, the Post Office, Matlock Bath. Sport on these rivers has been very fair, especially the last thing at night, and baskets up to seven brace per angler are nightly made. The killing flies have been yellow dun, light dun, and sand flies; the little blacks have also killed a few fish. The dibbing fraternity have killed a lot of good trout lately by dibbing under the bushes and trees, with the natural downlooker and small bluebottle flies. The Bottom fishers have done fairly well with both worms, wasp flies, and maggots, chiefly last thing at night. Weather excessively hot, rain much wanted, both by the farmers and anglers.—GEORGE JAMES EATON.

## The Yare (Norwich).

As I anticipated, the warm weather during the past fortnight has caused the fish of all kinds to come on feed first rate. Starting from Brundall (Flowers' Fishing and Yachting Station), and Coldham Hall (Host Brown), I hear of a remarkable catch of perch, in one instance as many as between 50 and 60 being caught, and another gentleman succeeded in securing 27 in a very short time; all were caught at the same spot, so there must have been a very numerous shoal. Catches of bream varying from 6st. (of 14lb.) downwards, have been recorded in numerous instances, whilst many anglers have also been busy amongst the roach, which may now be said to be well on. Lower down from Buckenham Ferry (Host Garretts) very encouraging reports, both with regard to bream and roach, have reached me; in several cases large numbers of fine fish have been taken here. I do not hear much from Cantley, but am of opinion that if this station were tried more than it is, many successful days would result, with the additional pleasure that usually only large fish are caught in these waters. Notwithstanding the long drought, the county of Norfolk looks first rate from an agricultural point of view, but rain would undoubtedly improve all the crops, as well as make the roads less disagreeable to all travellers; tho walking is simply horrible, as in some places the dust is inches thick. Prospects good.—ROBERT MOLL.

## SCOTCH FISHING NOTES.

LOCH RANNOCH.—The members of the Aberfeldy Anglers' Club had their annual lake competition on Loch Rannoch on Wednesday. The day was very boisterous. The following are the prize takers:—(1) Mr. W. L. Wood, of Craighill; (2) Mr. P. Stevens, Weem; (3) Mr. D. McFarlane, Aberfeldy; (4) Mr. John McGregor, Alberfeldy. The prize for the three heaviest trout was won by Mr. W L. Wood. Mr. Whyte and party, London, from the Burn-Rannoch Hotel, for two days' fishing had 6½ dozen trout and one Salmo ferox, 4¾lb.; Messrs. Hardie, of Edinburgh, from the Macdonald Arms Hotel, Kinloch, Rannoch, had good sport on Thursday last, capturing a fine Salmo ferox of fully 12lb., a trout of 4lb., and a number of smaller ones. The ferox is a well-shaped fish, being 29in. long with a girth of 18in. Mr. Hugh Mitchell, Pitlochry, fished this loch for a number of days last week. Each day he was out he procured a very satisfactory basket with the fly. On Loch Rannoch, on Friday, Messrs. Menzies, of Leith and Newcastle, from the Macdonald Arms Hotel, had five dozen fine trout; Messrs. Potter and Ridley, had 3½ dozen; and Messrs. Hardie, Edinburgh, had 2 dozen trout; Mr. Campbell, Shrewsbury, had 1½ dozen nice trout, several weighing over 1lb.; Mr. Hugh Mitchell, Pitlochry, had 13 dozen fair trout.

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LOCH TAY.—The Killin Fishing Club had a competition on Loch Tay on Monday. The weather was very unsuitable, being sultry and warm, and not a breeze of wind blowing. The following are the prize-takers:—1, Mr. John McDiarmid; 2, Mr. T. Crerar; 3, Mr.A. McNiven; 4, Mr. P. Stewart.—P. McG.

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LOCH AWE.—The following baskets were made on Wednesday on Loch Awe by gentlemen from the Tay Chreggan Hotel:—Messrs. Thomson and Hardinge, 24 trout; Messrs. Binge and Parsons, 20 trout; Messrs. Randall and Hoole, 10 trout. On Thursday Messrs. Binge and Parsons, 16 trout; Messrs. Thomson and Hardinge, 7 trout. On Saturday, Messrs. Thomson and Hardinge secured 8 dozen nice trout. The hill lochs are all yielding large baskets.—P. McG.

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LOCHS ERICHT AND LOGGAN.—On Loch Loggan, on Friday, Mr. Goltz, Leith, and Mr. Scotland, Glasgow, killed 16lb. of trout; Mr. McGregor, Leith, and Mr. Haddie, Leith, 14½lb. of trout. Loch Ericht.—Although last week was very unfavourable for fishing, yet good baskets were got. On Wednesday, Mr. Scott, Dundee, fishing from the shore, the day being too stormy for the boats to go out, was successful in capturing, in three hours, 13 trout and 68 char. Such a large quantity of char has never before been taken from Loch Ericht. They were in fine condition, and some of them fully weighed ¼lb.

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THE TUMMEL.—Messrs. Charles and George Scott fished the Pitlochry Hotel water on Tuesday morning for a short time. The water was low and clear, but they got a very good basket of trout with bait. They had 13 trout, and the weight of them ran from ½lb. to 1¼lb. Loch Tummel was very calm and clear on Saturday. One party was out and got one good trout on the loch, but not meeting with success, went to the river and captured other eleven. P. McG.

# NOTICES OF FLIES, &c.

MR. TRAHERNE'S SALMON FLIES.—Mr. Kelson has kindly consented to continue the description of these patterns next week, when he proposes to illustrate "Tippetiwitchet."

A FINE RUDD.—Mr. C. A. Bryant, of Huntingdon, has captured a splendid rudd in the river Ouse weighing a little over 2¾lb.

# CLUB REPORTS.

[*Continued from page* 5.]

## HIGHBURY ANGLING SOCIETY.

The following members weighed in on the 29th ult :—Mr. Henry Temple, a capital show of barbel, chub, and dace from the Thames, the heaviest of the two former scaling respectively 3lb. and 1lb. 6oz. Mr. Higley, a nice basket of bream, between 7lb. and 8lb., heaviest single 1lb. 5½oz., and Mr. Anthony, a pretty assortment of bream, roach, and dace. Many other members contributed to the trays, the most prominent being Mr. G. Howell, jun., Mr. Young, Mr. E. Wheatley, Mr. K. Middleton, Mr. H. Champ, and Mr. Edwards.—Jas. E. Wheatley, sec.

## INDEPENDENT BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

We have had a nice show of fish on our trays this week, consisting of chub, roach, dace, and gudgeon, taken by Messrs. Clark, Coomes, Roberts, Moore, and Leader. We shall be happy to enrol the names of some more gentlemen as members.—H. Moore, sec.

## LINCOLN ANGLING SOCIETY.

On the 29th ult. we were able to produce a nice show of fish, which repaid us for the bad show the week before. Our one-armed champion, H. Bingle, came to the front with a grand show of roach and dace. Several others also weighed. We go to Sunbury on the 6th inst. for several prizes.—H. Bingle, secretary.

## LONDON AND SOUTH-WESTERN RAILWAY ANGLING CLUB.

The committee of the above-named club desire it to be perfectly understood they hope that all anglers visiting the neighbourhood of Ashford, Wraysbury, and Staines will respect our members' right of fishing at these places. Gentlemen desirous of fishing same can do so by obtaining a ticket at a cost of 5s. per year from J. Woodcock, sec.

## NORTH-WESTERN ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of this society intend that the aggregate weight of fish this year will supersede those of late years. A fine show of bream and jack took place on the 29th ult. The trays that had already been painted, were quite finished when they received the contents of the numerous bags the members brought in. Mr. Grindley, brace of jack, Mr. Plumpton, sen., also a brace, Messrs. Hayes, Hillier, and Wynn, jack, Mr. H. Underwood, a fine lot of bream, weighing 40lb., Mr. Roxbee, roach.—W. Hillier, Secretary.

## PHŒNIX ANGLING SOCIETY.

The following members—viz., Messrs. Reed, Milton, Keen, Bartrip, Milton, Elbourn, Baillie, and Ashley, were out on the 29th ult., but the takes were not great—about 10lb. of fish between the lot. Never mind, boys; try again, and get better luck is the wish of—W. E. Lee.

## SIR HUGH MYDDELTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of the above society were out on the 28th ult. for a series of prizes. Although the members visited different rivers, the shows of fish were meagre; the general complaint of the members was water too bright. Mr. Will. Fowler took first prize with dace, Mr. Caborn second prize with a pretty show of roach and rudd, 13 fish scaling 9lb. Messrs. Rogers and Falcon had some fine fish from the Thames, but were too late to weigh. The prizes not won will be fished for on the 6th inst.; go where you like.—Geo. Caborn.

## SOUTH EASTERN ANGLING SOCIETY.

This, our last meeting on Wednesday night, was fairly attended, and some important work was got through, after which the question of the overstanding prizes was gone into. It was resolved that the presentation of same should take place on Tuesday, July 15th, when it is hoped all members, and as many friends as can, will attend. There were present three out of the five gentlemen who were proposed, two of whom were elected members. Ballot for the remainder to take place on the 8th inst. The veterans, Messrs. J. Smith, sen., J. Smith, jun., and F. Allard were out on the 29th ult., at Staines, weighing in some nice barbel, dace, roach and chub, while others of their party were less fortunate, returning without a weighable fish.—F. H. H. Weston, sec.

P.S.—Our meetings in future will be held on Tuesdays and Sundays.

## SOUTH LONDON UNITED.

On the 29th, some of the members of the above—about 60—started from Waterloo for Staines, to compete for the first pegged-down match of the season, and a solid prize, given by Mr. Jones, of The Swan Hotel. Previous to our starting from Waterloo the clouds became dark and the prospects looked wet; we had scarcely passed Vauxhall before it came down in torrents, but when we reached Staines the rain ceased. No time was lost in getting to friend Jones's, down by the river side near the bridge on the Egham side; here we were met by Messrs. Gafney and Allen, who collected the tickets for the competition and distributed to each member the number of his swim. The swims commenced near the railway bridge and reached up to the gas works. Having seen all members off to their swims, I passed in and saw Mr. Jones, who promised me he would add to his already large collection of Posters, one of the Fishing Gazette tournament. I then passed down to No. 1, where "The Baron" was spotted, and then returned up to 52, a swim allotted to me. I must say that the water was a nice colour, and as smooth as a mill-pond, except when steamers, tow-boats, row-boats, and other vessels were passing, which, I must say, was rather too often for me, for several times when I got nicely settled down, some imbecile, acting the part of a donkey, tugging a rope with a boat at the end of it containing four or six brother imbeciles would come along, the delight of the occupants being to steer the boat as near shore as possible and catch the lines, and thereby draw the rods into the water should the owners not be present, to say nothing about disturbing the swims. A friend walking up near the lock found a rod so treated, and on rescuing it found all the line run off the winch. He wound it up to within a few yards, and discovered an eel was on. He laid the rod on the bank and left the eel in the water. On the arrival of the owner he informed him that he had caught a fish for him. "What did you want to touch it for? You had better left it alone!" was the thanks he got. Moral.—Never land a fish or take a rod out of the water unless you are acquainted with the owner. Anglers are funny people. At seven o'clock time was called by "The Baron," and a retreat was soon made to The Swan. Here Messrs. Field and Allen weighed the fish, with the following result:—Mr. Wright, of The Second Surrey, 2lb. 15oz. of roach and dace, largest fish 10oz., took the first prize, and also Mr. J. Smith's prize; Mr. Howe's, Second Surrey, 1lb. 8½oz. roach and dace, 2nd prize: Mr. Beard, Peckham Brothers, 3rd; Mr. Davis, Anchor and Hope, 4th: Mr. Divers, United Brothers, 5th; and Mr. Robins, Second Surrey, 6th. Messrs. Tyler, Gafney, and Grant also had fish. Mr. Jones, in presenting his prize, stated that it gave him much pleasure to see so many down, considering the condition of the river at the present time. It was not in a state to be productive of large takes of fish on account of the dry weather we have had, but as soon as we get some rain the place will then be in a condition to get some good shows. He thanked them one and all for coming there, and at any future occasion he could do anything for them he would be most happy to do so. The prizes were then handed over to the various winners, and they departed thence to catch the train for London.—Pixie.

P.S.—The next return visit will go to the Rodney Piscatorials, Rodney Tavern, Rodney-road, Walworth, on Monday next, when Mr. Hotham, the Secretary, will welcome all who may please to pay them a visit.

## ST. JOHN'S AMATEUR ANGLING CLUB.

The members of this club have held their first outing this season to compete for prizes. There were about twenty met. There were five prizes to fish for; and Thursday last was a hot bright day—all points against killing a good dish of fish; but the spirits of the anglers were high, and all went to work well, trusting that fortune would favour each one, as he felt that the honour would be easily obtained, as no one could take more than one prize; but there seemed to be every reason to think that the day would be a blank. At the hour appointed for refreshments none failed to take his appointed post, or rather seat. To look around at the cheerful faces, who would have thought all had been disappointed by the finny tribe? None at that hour, 6 p.m., had fish worth weighing in; but the worthy host, Mr. Higgs, soon put us all something to do, and all, like Britons, got to work; if the fish would not take the bait, all the amateurs at angling seemed to me to be professionals with the knife and fork, and took the bait well. I could not let this feast pass without thinking of the great contrast between the Cromwellites, who, 244 years ago, sat round their camp fires the night before the Battle of Worcester, when Charles I. was defeated. The spot chosen for our tent was in the same meadow. Generation after generation it is handed down as the spot where the headquarters of the army of Cromwell camped on that memorable night. After the snack fishing was resumed, and the fish were a little on the move. The result was that Mr. Porter got Prize No. 1, Mr. Hill, hon. sec., No. 2, Mr. Burgess No. 3. For best, Mr. Brooks, No. 1; myself, No. 2. There was great fun, as one of the party struck at what seemed to be a good bite; it proved to be an old teapot when landed, and is now in the hands of a gentleman who would not part with it. It is intended that at the next outing this old teapot will be used, as many of the members are in favour of teetotalism.—J. A. Griffin.

## STOKE NEWINGTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

On the 29th ult. Mr. C. Martin weighed in 14lb. 5oz. roach and bream; Mr. W. Robinson, 5lb. 4oz. bream, roach, and dace; Mr. T. Gretton, 2lb. 12oz. bream; Mr. W. Webb, 2lb. 9½oz. bream; and Mr. W. Whitmore, perch.—T. Gretton.

## UNITED BROTHERS, DEPTFORD.

Most of our members fished in the match at Staines, and I am pleased to say Mr. W. Divers, came in for No. 5 prize, but did not show up at the club, but Mr. J. Jones saved the club from a blank with some fine roach from the canal.—H. T.

## RICHMOND PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The summer dinner of this flourishing society took place at the Mitre Hotel, Hampton Court, on Wednesday. On the same day there was a fishing competition for three prizes—one of £1 11s. 6d., one of £1 1s., presented by the society, and one of 10s. 6d. presented by Mr. Field. The fish were to be caught in the Thames between nine and five o'clock, and the prizes were for specimen fish. The first prize was won by Mr. Scantlebury, the second by Mr. Nicholls, and the third by Mr. W. Abbott.

The dinner passed off most successfully. Sixty gentlemen sat down to a banquet that was admirably served, the company including—Mr. A. J. Little (chairman), Mr. H. Dickinson (vice-chairman), Mr. Spreckley, and Mr. Brougham (chairman and secretary of the Thames Angling Preservation Society). Most of those present had ridden over from Richmond in an omnibus and a brake kindly lent for the purpose by Mr. W. Cockburn. The loyal toasts having been honoured, the Chairman proposed "Success to the Richmond Piscatorial Society." He said he was proud to be in that chair, and proud of the day's fishing, for although there had not been a large amount weighed in, he was glad to say the members had done all they could to carry out the suggestion of the committee that gross weight should be abolished, and only good fish entered on the books as taking the prizes of the society. (Applause.) He thanked those who had added to their prize fund, and hinted to others that the list was not yet full. He hoped all who took small fish would return them to the river, for it was useless for that society to send its annual five guineas to the Thames Angling Preservation Society if the members took out shovelfuls of small fish. He heard of a party recently who took thirty-nine dozen of dace in an afternoon. They were all over the six inches prescribed by the by-laws, and that was all the anglers in question cared; but in that society they thought eight or nine inches was not too large (Applause). They were now about to undertake a good work, which had been instituted by their vice-chairman, Mr. Dickinson. In October they were going to turn in fifty trout, two years old, in the tideway. (Applause.) Referring again to the competition of that day, he thanked Mr. Brougham and Mr. Dickinson for their service, and announced the result of the competition, adding that Mr. Terrill's handsome dace, nine-and-a-half inches long, was "highly commended."—The toast having been honoured, Mr. Powell proposed "The Thames Angling Preservation Society." He referred in high terms to the good work done by that society in the interests of the anglers. He thought it was a crying disgrace to Thames anglers that the income of the society only amounted to £400 per annum, one-fifth of which was given by certain City companies. He urged all present to send their names to Mr. Brougham as subscribers.—Mr. Spreckley, in responding, congratulated the members of the Richmond Piscatorial Society on the success of that dinner, much of which he thought was due to the respect they had for their chairman (Applause.) He then referred to the improved state of the Thames as to fish, and expressed his gratification at the steps taken in that day's competition with regard to the exclusion of small fish. Whatever was done for the Thames benefitted all classes of people. On the 29th ult., between Richmond Bridge and Teddington, there were something like two hundred bank anglers, the great bulk of whom went home perfectly satisfied with what they had done. That showed how much pleasure they could confer upon their fellow creatures by improving the angling. (Applause.)—Mr. Powell proposed "The Visitors," for whom Mr. Burrows and Mr. Board responded.—Mr. Dickinson proposed "The Chairman," referring to Mr. Little as "the right man in the right place," and one whose constant geniality and readiness to protect the interests of anglers made him exceedingly popular amongst the members of the society. The Chairman responded, after which Mr. W. Cockburn proposed "The Vice-Chairman," remarking that the longer they knew him the more they appreciated his worth. Mr. Dickinson replied, stating that he had been an angler since 1832, and all that time it had been his wish to retain only sizeable fish, and return the unsizeable to the water. The Chairman next proposed "The Officers," of whose services he spoke in high terms, and Mr. Terrill responded. The remaining toasts were "The Press," proposed by Mr. Turner, and acknowledged by Mr. Wheeldon and Mr. Dimbleby; "the health of Mr. W. Cockburn," proposed by Mr. Turner; "The Ladies," proposed by Mr. A. Clarke; and "the health of Mr. Brougham," proposed by Mr. Dickinson. Some excellent songs were given during the evening, Mr. Johnson presiding at the piano.

George James Eaton, of Starkholmes, Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required, from gentlemen who can fish, to prove whether they may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—(Advt.)

## POISONING FISH.

AT the Warwickshire Quarter Sessions, on Wednesday last, before Mr. J. S. Dugdale, Q.C., Chairman, Henry Timms was indicted for having at Arley unlawfully and maliciously put a certain noxious material into a brook with intent to kill and destroy the fish therein. Mr. Eardley Wilmot prosecuted, and Mr. Dorsett defended. The accused and three other men were found walking up and down the brookside collecting fish, which came up to the surface of the water, and, after swimming about for a short time, either became stupefied that they could be taken by the hand, or else they died. There was a strong smell of chloride of lime along the brookside, and the water was very much discoloured. Mr. Dorsett, for the defence, urged that there was no clear evidence as to any poisonous matter having been put in the water, and, even if they were satisfied that the water had been poisoned for the purpose of bringing up the fish, it had not been shown that his client was the guilty party. The Jury returned a verdict of guilty, and Mr. Shaw informed the Court that, on the day when this offence was committed, the fish were thrown up along the brook for a distance of two miles. That was bad enough; but, as the brook ran into the Birmingham reservoirs, the throwing of poison into the water might be attended with very serious consequences. Since the present defendant had been in custody the brook had been poisoned on two occasions. The Chairman said it was necessary to put a stop to an offence so dangerous, and sentenced defendant to eight months' imprisonment, with hard labour.

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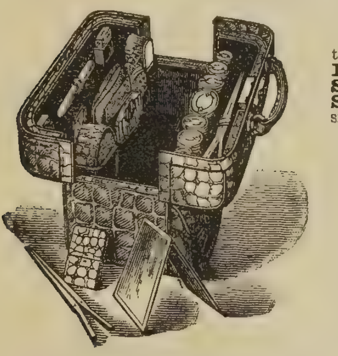

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## SALES BY AUCTION.

### ISLAND OF HERM.

The beautiful Island of Herm, between Guernsey and Sark, in the English Channel. A perfectly unique purchase for a nobleman, yachtsman, gentleman, or professional or business man seeking thorough rest and recreation in a charming climate at the seaside, with a series of attractions which could not be matched elsewhere within the same compass, and within 10 or 11 hours of London. The island is a mile and a half long, by three-quarters of a mile broad, and contains 460 statute acres, including 100 acres of highly fertile arable and pasture land, with fine deep alluvial soil, forming by far the largest farm in one occupation in the Channel Islands. The remainder of the land has a picturesque broken surface, clad with gorse and cover, and there are some rich feeding lands. Pheasants, partridges, and wild geese, and rabbits abound. The higher portions attain an altitude of upwards of 284ft. above sea level, and are crowned by several cromlechs, "The Old Mill of Herm," a noted nautical mark, and the ancient Franciscan chapel. At the western side of the island an excellent harbour, also landing steps accessible at all times of the tide; elsewhere are lofty and wild cliffs, gorges, romantic pinnacles of rock, and broken bits of wild rock scenery, which delight the eye of an artist, and form the natural home of the cormorant, gannet, guillemot, razor bill, curlew, of innumerable gulls, and other sea birds. The Creux, one of the sights of the Channel Islands, a deep, funnel-shaped depression near the shore, communicating at its base with the sea by a natural archway, and the renowned shell beach of Herm, an inexhaustible object of interest to conchologists. The entire island is in hand, and available for possession. A good family house, stabling, and gardens, in a well-chosen and picturesque position in the centre of the island, there are several smaller houses and cottages and a large hotel, which until lately realised £80 a year, and could be re-let. The lands are well adapted for the growth of fruit and the high-priced early potatoes and vegetables which are daily so extensively exported from the neighbouring islands of Guernsey and Jersey. The land could be farmed to great profit, or let at high rents. Exceedingly heavy crops of grapes, which can be exported at full prices, are obtained from the extensive vineries, and there are other sources of income, irrespective of the mineral wealth, which is more particularly referred to in the following advertisements. The property is likely to prove a good and remunerative investment for capital, besides offering a great scope for residential enjoyment. There are several springs of fine water on the island. The property is held on lease from the Crown (by order in Council of his Majesty George II.), perpetually renewable every 21 years on payment of a nominal fine of £42 and at a rent of £14 per annum, and is free from any rates, taxes, and Government dues of every kind. The population is 37. There is good fishing round the island, and lobsters and crabs are abundant.

MESSRS. DEBENHAM, TEWSON, FARMER, and BRIDGEWATER will SELL the above valuable and very attractive PROPERTY, at the Mart, on Tuesday, July 29th, at 2 o'clock (unless an acceptable offer be made by private contract). Mr. Simmonds, the resident manager, will, with his boat, meet any intending purchaser at St. Peter's Port, Guernsey, by appointment. Particulars, plans, and views (now ready) of Messrs. Arnold and Co., Solicitors, 60, Carey-street, W.C., and of the Auctioneers, 80, Cheapside.

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MESSRS. DEBENHAM, TEWSON, FARMER, and BRIDGEWATER beg to direct special attention to the preceding advertisement of the Island of Herm. The well-known shell beach, extending along many hundreds of yards of the shore, offers (in connection with a clay obtainable in the adjoining bays) the necessary material for the formation of first-class CEMENT, similar to the well-known Chunam (Madras) cement which is so extensively used for harbour and other submarine works. The free harbour at Herm affords cheap and ready facilities for the exportation of the finished article.

### To Road Contractors and Granite Merchants.

MESSRS. DEBENHAM, TEWSON, FARMER, and BRIDGEWATER direct special attention to the SALE of the ISLAND of HERM, referred to in the preceding advertisement. There are Four important Quarries of Granite, and the necessary dwelling houses for the overseer and workpeople. The quarries have not been worked during the proprietorship of the present owners of the island, but looking to the exceedingly large and annually increasing export of Guernsey granite, for which granite a very full price is obtained, and the advantages that Herm possesses by reason of its free harbour, there is not a doubt that operations at these quarries could be carried out advantageously. The stone from Herm was used for the formation of the causeway to the East and West India Docks, for the former paving in Cheapside, and for the formation of the steps of the Duke of York's column (the latter built about 60 years since, and showing no signs of wear).

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MANUFACTURER,
HIGH STREET, UPPINGHAM.

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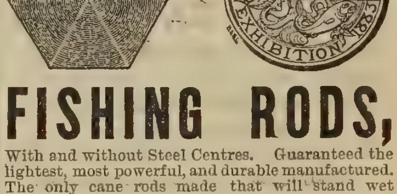

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London—BUTTERWORTHS, 7, Fleet Street, Her Majesty's Law Publishers.

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Communications relating to the Literary Department, Fishing Tackle for Notice, Books for Review, &c. must be addressed to the Editor of the FISHING GAZETTE, No. 12, Fetter Lane, London, E.C.

Contributions are solicited, but the Editor will not undertake to return rejected MSS. unless accompanied with a stamped addressed envelope.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only, and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith. Unless this rule be adhered to, no notice will be taken of such communications.

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The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, JULY 12, 1884.

## AN OLD WANDLE TROUT.

By Mr. Geo. M. Kelson.

PARADOXICAL as it may seem, it is nevertheless probable that more than one of my readers who have taken a basket of fish from this favourite river, have never yet seen a "Wandle trout." "Trout in the Wandle," and "Wandle trout," are now, alas! two different things. Take the train from London Bridge, or Victoria, to Mitcham Junction, there descend, and crossing the line, walk along the road to Carshalton. Right half-turn at the "Goat Inn" (and here, let me say, in parenthesis, if not a teetotaller, and if thirsty, you may pause without fear of being poisoned). Cross over the bridge by the mill, and take the road to the left, by the waterside, a road suddenly contracting itself to the more modest dimensions of a footpath. Peer into the water on the bright gravel patches between the long trailing tresses of green weed. What do you see? Trout of various sizes, and of almost every colour. Long, lean, black, eel-like rascals — cannibals these, more "fit for spear than spice," that ought to be knocked on the head and distributed on the farms for manure. Light yellow trout—bad risers these—occasionally taking a drowned fly, but grubbing like barbel, and paying more attention to the larvæ on the weeds, and cadis at the bottom of the water. Bright emerald green trout, with red stained sides, resembling in hue the tints of a stickleback in the spawning season (probably American brook trout), bad risers again, and suspected, not without reason, of a weakness for fish diet. And finally, bright silvery trout, very vivacious and quick to rise, but attaining, as a rule, no very great weight. These last are, I am told, none other than Loch Leven trout, slightly changed by altered conditions of water and diet.

All these are but immigrants, due to artificial hatching and stocking. But we have not yet met with the aboriginal native, nor is he often to be seen here; more's the pity!

In Mr. Bidder's water, lower down the stream, and in the intermediate reaches, you may occasionally meet with him; but here he seems to be crowded out by the host of foreigners that have invaded his haunts. Who, that has once seen him, can ever forget his golden-yellow back, his blood-red spots, his silver-white belly, his small head, deep shoulder, and thick tail? Who, that has seen him fresh from the water, can forget the prismatic sheen that flickers on him as he springs in the sunlight, his colour changing like shot silk? Who, that has tasted him, can forget the beautiful yellowish pink tinge of his flesh, almost as dark as that of a salmon trout, or ever forget the delicacy of his flavour?

I fear the day is not distant when this true Wandle trout will be the subject of history!

A well-known Wandle fisherman—Mr. Basil Field—to whose notes I am indebted for much of the matter in this article, gave me an account of the capture of one of these trout, that will, I think, be of interest to my readers. I will endeavour to tell the story as nearly as I can in his own words; so please note that from this point the personal pronoun "I" refers to Mr. Field, and not to me.

In June, 1882, I was fishing below Hackbridge with my friend M—. He is a first-rate performer; and as you know I am not entirely a novice, nevertheless we were doing badly. A desultory rise would occasionally come on for a minute or two, and just when we had caught a brace or so of undersized fish, which always take time to carefully unhook and return, it would cease, and the surface of the water resume the appearance of a looking-glass, with not a single ring to be seen anywhere. At last a rise of olive dun came on fast and furious, and it would have puzzled you to find a square yard of unbroken water in the whole reach from the "Limes" to the "Mill." M.'s rod and mine seemed in a chronic state of flexion, and "tight lines" became the normal state of things. Unfortunately, it was Saturday! To you who know the practice of the riparian owners on the Wandle, need I say more? I do not blame a man for liking a clean lawn on Sunday, but it *is* hard on London anglers, who are busy all the week, from Monday morn till Saturday afternoon, that every blade of grass, every uprooted weed, and every sort of garden refuse, should be swept into the river during the few brief hours they can spare for sport. In ten minutes fishing was absolutely impossible. The most aggravating circumstance was that the rise continued, the fish taking the fly under, between, and even off the mass of "salad" that completely covered the water.

In reference to stage-plays, I have often heard it objected that soliloquies are absurd; that no man ever speaks aloud when he is alone. Had any captious critic of the dramatic art been behind me unseen, when this cloud of weed and grass first came down, I think he would have heard some earnest and emphatic utterances that might have caused him to reconsider his opinion. I believe I *did* say something—I know I threw my rod down to the imminent danger of the top joint, lit a pipe, and walked down to the mill with a brace of fish for the miller, who had been very civil in allowing me to take a short cut through his yard.

What M.'s emotions were I know not, but I fancy I heard something very like a soldier's prayer wafted across the water.

The miller condoled with me, saying the weeds were nearly enough to choke his wheel, and to while away the time offered to show me a fine trout he had known for two or three years under a tree; adding, by way of encouragement, "You can't catch him, you know; lots of people have tried, but it's no good; he lies right under an overhanging branch, almost touching the water, and there are trees close above and below, so that no fly can get near him."

I went to inspect the "locus in quo," and the result was not promising. There was Mr. Trout, sure enough, and a beauty he was. He took no heed of us peeping through the bushes, but continued sucking down the duns, drawn over his nose by a convenient back eddy, with a confidence born of assured immunity from danger.

I watched him leisurely devouring the struggling insects as they were swept round and round in the eddy, picking them now and again from the submerged stems of grass and floating withered weeds. I observed that he fed entirely at the surface, and treated with contempt the half-drowned duns that were carried beneath him. It was evident a wet fly would be useless; and how on earth, or rather, "on water," could I ever pop a dry fly over him? Casting up stream was impossible, owing to the trees, and if I attempted to float my fly down it would inevitably sink by the weight of the line long before it reached the eddy. To utilise my obstructive opponents, the weeds, was a thought that struck me; and getting well above the spot, I sent a handful of grass and buttercups down the water, which floated on, till caught by the eddy, it was wafted over the nose of the trout. Eureka! I had found a vulnerable point in the enemy's position. Another raft of grass and weeds was launched, with my fly lightly hooked in the extreme edge of a daisy leaf, carefully placed on the top; the root of the daisy being imbedded in the bunch, so as to yield sufficient resistance to admit of the fly being quietly snatched away without drawing the plant with it. When the weeds came to the eddy, a short, smart jerk released the fly, and caused it to fall some inches nearer the trout, the rod point being immediately dropped that there might be no checking of the line. The fly floated slowly, surely, and buoyantly on . . . .

"Well! I'm blest if I a'int seen a lot of gentlemen try for that fish, but I never expected to see him on the bank, sir, I'll be hanged if I did; and he's all three pounds if he's an ounce—as true an old sort as ever I see."

I am bound to say he was not three pounds, but he was well over two and a half, and a beautiful specimen of "An Old Wandle Trout."

## ASSERTION OF ANGLERS' RIGHTS IN THAMES.

MR. PHILIP GEEN, President of the Association of London Anglers, called on us the other day. Among other things he mentioned that he was on his way to Eynsham to fight the Earl of Abingdon, who claimed the right of fishing in a certain part of the Thames over which Mr. Geen asserted his lordship had no right. We learn by telegram from Mr. Geen that Earl Abingdon has been defeated, and the case dismissed with costs. Mr. Geen took up the case on behalf of a local angler named Wall, who had been summoned for fishing by Earl Abingdon, although Wall had permission from another gentleman, the freeholder of the land. We hope Mr. Geen will give us a little account of the matter. He deserves the thanks of anglers for his spirited defence of their interests, all the more meritorious in his case because he has any amount of the best private fishing at his command.

## CONVICTION FOR FISHING IN THE FENCE MONTHS.

AT the Town Hall, Nottingham, Charles Handley was summoned for attempting to take fish within the close season on the 15th June.—Mr. Eddowes said he appeared to prosecute on behalf of the Trent Fishery Board. That Board employed a large number of water bailiffs, and on the day mentioned one of the bailiffs, named Swanwick, saw the defendant angling in private water within the jurisdiction of the Board. From inquiries that had been made, it appeared that the defendant had been visiting some friends in the neighbourhood and had committed the offence thoughtlessly.—A fine of 2s. 6d. was imposed.

## THE HEIGHAM SOUNDS CASE.

We see from the *Yarmouth Independent* that the Heigham Sounds Fishery Rights Case has come to a most unsatisfactory conclusion. Our readers will remember the affair, and how generously London anglers came forward to help what they were told was a good case. From the *Independent's* excellent *résumé* we quote the following :—

> "The Heigham Sounds controversy has at length come to a conclusion, so far as the appeal which was brought before the Court of Queen's Bench some months ago is concerned, and everybody who has followed the course of events must feel that the conclusion is one of about the most unsatisfactory nature that could well be conceived. The case was heard before Mr. Justice Day and Mr. Justice A. L. Smith, when, owing to the 'case' not sufficiently disclosing the real point at issue, the matter was referred back to the Justices at Smallburgh, and it was only to be expected it would come on again in the usual course. This idea has, however, been rudely dispelled by the proceedings which took place in the Queen's Bench Court on Monday, when the appellant—that is nominally Mr. Crowther, but in reality the Great Yarmouth Piscatorial Society, backed up by subscriptions obtained from all parts of the country, was adjudged to pay the respondent's costs, the appeal having been abandoned. The numerous persons who were liberal enough to subscribe their money to try this most important question, affecting as it does the welfare to a great extent of this neighbourhood, are placed in a position of great disappointment, and must be at a loss to know how the appeal was allowed to lapse in such a manner that their money has been simply thrown away to no purpose. It would seem that the proper course would have been to re-enter the appeal for trial after the case was referred back to the Justices within three days, and it would be interesting to know, looking at the important issues at stake, why this course was not taken. Of course it is possible to enter the appeal again for trial, but the whole matter will have to be gone into *de novo*, and all the expense that has already been incurred will have to be borne again. It is doubtful, however, whether persons, after the impotent issue arrived at, will be found ready to raise the necessary funds to fight a question that has been attended with such disappointing results. The whole thing would seem to have been mismanaged, and it is only due to those who subscribed so liberally to the funds that some explanation should be afforded as to the cause of failure."

We quite agree with our contemporary's remarks, and can assure Mr. Lark that anglers generally will be anxious to see what is the real reason of this collapse.

By omitting an important, and it appears vital, action in the legal conduct of their case, no decision has been arrived at, and they have to pay the costs, which will not be light. Surely someone is responsible for what appears like culpable negligence ? Whose duty was it to enter the appeal for trial ?

## A VALUABLE INVENTION IN GUT LINES.

### Patent Double Gut-Cast Lines.

Messrs. Carswell & Co., of Glasgow, write to us as follows : "We enclose samples of our new patent double gut-line, which we think you will approve of ; if so, we shall be glad if you will notice them. It has hitherto been quite impossible to make a double gut-line (not twisted) having the two strands bearing an equal strain. This difficulty is now entirely obviated by our new and simple method, which consists in tying each section of gut in a loop, in place of singly, and slipping the loops into each other after the manner of slip knots, so that any two pair of loops so slipped into each other when drawn taut distribute the stress of tension precisely at or from the central point of each loop, and so unite the strands of gut, so as to form virtually a thick single strand, thus preventing the excessive splash caused in casting the old-fashioned double gut-line."

We think very highly indeed of these lines, which are made of gut of most excellent quality, and Messrs. Carswell's patent system of putting them together does produce perfectly equal lengths between the knots, and therefore equal strain. Before testing them with a spring balance, we had an idea that at the slip knots the gut would be practically single, and that the lines would only pull the strength of single gut. But this theory was at once disposed of on putting the line to the proof, when the double line pulled 13½lb., and single strands of the same line only pulled 7lbs. A second experiment confirmed the result within an ounce or two. The fact is, as Messrs. Carswell point out, the strain is so distributed over the single strands as practically to form a knot, and this is also the case when the line or fly is attached to the gut by the loop. A gut-line which shows but little on the water and will bear a dead weight of over 12 or 13lb. is just what anglers want.

## THAMES ANGLING PRESERVATION SOCIETY.

The 46th anniversary banquet of this Society is announced for Wednesday, July 16th, at the Star and Garter Hotel, Richmond-hill, under the presidency of Mr. Thomas Spreckley. Already a considerable number of tickets have been sold, and there is every reason to believe the dinner will be a great success.

## THE BONA FIDE ANGLING SOCIETY.

The inaugural banquet of this young, but already strong, society took place on Thursday evening, Mr. R. B. Marston in the chair. We shall next week have an account of the affair, which went off most successfully and pleasantly.

## THE FISHERIES DIPLOMAS.

We learn from Mr. J. R. Somers Vine, the official agent of the Fisheries Exhibition, that the Paris printers made a first delivery last week, so that we may hope to see them before long. They are to be extremely beautiful, and will deserve a handsome gold frame and a place of honour on the wall.

## ADDITIONAL PRIZES FOR THE TOURNAMENT.

Mr. Thomas Spreckley, President of the T.A.P.S., says : "You can put me down for what you like up to, say, £3 or £4." Mr. Spreckley is sure to be forward in helping any good work.

Mr. J. C. Chubb, of 128, Queen Victoria-street, very kindly promises to give "one of our patent Cash-Boxes, value £1 1s., as a prize for the Tournament." Mr. Chubb is an enthusiastic angler, and succeeded in getting his first Thames trout the other night.

Mr. James Gregory, of Birmingham, has again promised us some of his metal baits as prizes.

The Manchester Cotton Twine Spinning Co. write :—

"Dear Sir,—You may promise, as prizes from us for the Tournament,

6 Trout lines, assorted ;
1 Best trout landing net ;
1 Taper salmon casting line ;
2 Cakes for re-dressing lines ;
3 Cable laid pike lines ;

and, perhaps, one or two out of three special salmon lines, which we have submitted to Mr. Kelson."

Mr. Malloch, of Perth, promises to give one of his new patent casting reels, value 22s. He says he hopes to be present.

Mr. Slater, of Newark, is also coming, and promises to send us some prizes.

Messrs. C. L. Mathews and Co., 1a, Wynyatt-street, E.C., have kindly promised half-a-dozen of their nickel-plated rod holders.

Mr. Henry Howse, Hon. Sec. of the Clapton Angling Society, 2, Comberton-road, Upper Clapton, E., says :—"I shall have much pleasure in giving another prize this year of 100 yards of waterproof line."

If other friends will add to the list we shall be all much obliged.

At the banquet of the Bonâ Fide Anglers, Mr. Marston sold 50 Tournament tickets.

## THE TOURNAMENT.

The following is a copy of a circular which has been sent out ; but in order to give it much wider publicity, we print it here :—

"Crown-buildings, 188, Fleet-street, London, E.C.
"July 10th, 1884.

"The Tournament of Anglers at the Welsh Harp, July 26th, 1884, in aid of the Funds of the Anglers' Benevolent Society.

"Dear Sir,—I have had the control of this placed in my hands by the committee of the Society, and for this charitable purpose I venture to ask if you will help us by giving some article as a prize ?

"I will undertake not only to acknowledge its receipt in the Fishing Gazette, but also to give it a notice in the same.

"Several firms and well-known anglers have already very kindly promised prizes.

"Anything will be acceptable : it need not refer specially to angling, or be of great value.

"I am, dear sir, faithfully yours,
"R. B. Marston.
"(Ed. Fishing Gazette.)"

## THE INTERNATIONAL HEALTH EXHIBITION.

[From Our Special Correspondent.]

One of the greatest discoveries of the period is doubtless that which has traced the majority of diseases—to which human and other living beings are liable—to the presence of parasites and specific germs which enter the system sometimes with the air, but much more frequently with water.

No lake or river is free from pollution of this kind. Small streams and tributaries germinate and conduct all sorts of organic matter resulting from vegetable and animal decomposition ; and the water is also poisoned by weeds, which become in a state of putrescence in the latter part of the summer. To bathe in it is injurious, as fever has been traced to this cause ; but to drink such polluted water is unquestionably dangerous. Malarious fevers, cutaneous complaints, boils and ulcers are often found to be connected with vegetable detritus contained in marshy water. Cholera, typhoid and yellow fever, erysipelas, and even diphtheria are known to be caused by drinking it when impure ; and if a small quantity of water undergoing putrefactive changes percolates, or by other means gets access to rivers and wells, it imparts to enormous volumes of wholesome water the power of propagating a disease, which, if not fatal, completely prostrates the patient.

Many of the poisonous parasites are infinitesimal, and surely it must occur to every angler to prevent these dreadful *bacteria* from entering the system to do their deadly work. To avoid them is simply to subject the water which we require for our use to a proper process of filtration.

It is pleasurable to see, as one of the outcomes of the late International Fisheries Exhibition, an invention which had already earned a well-merited reputation. We allude to Maignen's patent "Filtre Rapide," which is admirably adapted to the purpose under consideration. This rapid filter, so-called because it has a large filtering surface in a small compass, has been specially arranged to suit the convenience of fishermen, &c., &c. It is upon the same principle as that used at this and the last Exhibition to purify the whole of the water of the fish tanks, and the process is in course of adoption by several of the London water companies. But what concerns and interests our readers more is probably the fisherman's filter.

This small pocket filter consists of an oval filter case, measuring 5¼in., 3¼in. by 1½in. Inside this case is a filtering frame covered with pure asbestos cloth, offering a comparatively very large filtering surface to the water ; which cloth is indestructible, proof against fire, water, or acids ; and being a mineral cloth, cannot become impregnated by animalculæ. Round the filter case two drinking cups are telescoped. Of these, one is for the purpose of fetching the water from the river, the other to receive it from the filter.

Having alluded to the mechanical construction, it remains to say how the water is purified.

With the first water, put in one or two teaspoonfuls of finely-powdered charcoal ; Maignen's patent carbo-calcis is best. This soon settles evenly round the asbestos cloth, and the contrivance is ready for use.

The difficulty of cleansing—usually a drawback to filters—is entirely obviated here, and the facility with which this is accomplished rendered it one of the qualities for which Mr. Maignen received the highest honours from sanitarians, notably the Sanitary Institute of Great Britain, the National Health Society, and from the special Commissioners at the Fisheries. When the "Filtre Rapide" has been in use some time, say two months, the filtering frame is taken out, the old filtering medium or charcoal is easily removed under a tap and discarded, and a new supply as previously directed is put in at a cost too ridiculous to mention—probably not one farthing.

The fisherman has his packet of charcoal, and this, we may inform him, he will find also useful for other purposes. With it he not only purifies his drinking water, but he can also, by sprinkling a little in his frail, prevent and remove any and every bad smell arising from these baskets by their constantly being used for carrying fish. Not only that, if he puts some of this charcoal in the gills and mouth of his fish, and sprinkles some over them as well, they will remain fresh for a considerably longer time, and maintain their delicate flavour.

## THE DEE (ABERDEENSHIRE).—GRILSE FLIES.

### EVENING PATTERNS.

IN a former article on local flies for summer use, we observed that unless for fishing in very heavy water the irons on which grilse and salmon patterns are dressed can scarcely be too slender if sufficiently strong. We further noted that in a swift-flowing and "free-rising" river, such as the Dee, the advantage to the angler in possessing flies with nicely-tapered heads and spare, well-fixed hackles cannot well be over-estimated. To the same opinions we adhere in respect to flies for evening use. The only difference, bar a difference in pattern, that we would suggest is, that these lures should be ribbed pretty closely with broadish, flat tinsel. Fidelity to pattern and a desire to contribute toward success in angling leads us to make these observations.

The system of paying out a considerable quantity of line and winding in quickly is rapidly becoming popular amongst Dee fishermen. Especially in fishing for grilse when the river is anywise low and clear is this plan deserving of a trial. When the "giggling" fails (working the rod with a tremulous motion), this method of allurement is frequently successful. The Dusty Miller and Silver Doctor, sizes 7, 8, or 9, are two of the patterns with which the experiment can possibly be made.

As regards equipment, we may notice that in general we have been most successful with a fairly supple 16ft. rod. When a long cast is necessary, a rod of greater dimensions, if not too stiff, may be used with more success. By those who wade, however, these long casts are seldom required, provided the rod and line are nicely balanced. Grilse are so tender in the mouth, that working a stiff rod, and hooking one with a small fly attached to a weighty line, the chances are ten to one against the angler. Our reason for preferring a light rod is, therefore, obvious—the strain thereby being comparatively slight.

For grilse and sea trout fishing, the angler should be careful not to stint himself in respect to the quantity of cast line used. Five yards of nicely-tapered gut, though ample, is not too much. Personally, we rarely use less when the river is low and clear. The proportion of two to three yards, two plaited and three single, may be regarded as the most approved make-up. When evenly-tapered throughout, and stained a smoky blue, the cast is perfect. Attach the fly by the figure 8 process. These observations over, we are now in a position to describe

### NO. 1.—THE PEACOCK.—Limericks, Nos. 2, 3, 4, and 5.

Tag : Silver tinsel.

Tail : Double tipped, *upright* and proportionate with the size of the fly—for a No. 2 iron, about half-an-inch in length is a fair example.

Body : An equal proportion of orange and greenish blue mohair—the former to be closest to tag.

Ribbed : Flat tinsel (silver), 6 turns.

Wings : Strips from peacock's wing.

Hackle : Grey heron, a third-way down body, fairly longish likewise, and spare.

Shoulder : Teal (sparely) round about.

Head : Black.

Though regarded principally as an evening lure, the "peacock," if regulated in size, will be found a good all-round fly.

### NO. 2.—THE DODGER.—Limericks, Nos. 3, 4, 5, and 6.

Tag : Silver tinsel.

Tail : Golden pheasant rump feather.

Body : One turn orange, 2 turns greenish blue, and 3 turns clarety-red mohair —all fairly picked out.

Ribbed : Silver tinsel, 5 turns.

Wings : In strips, ginger speckled turkey, lightish toward the tips.

Hackle : Grey heron, very spare, and only a little way down the body.

Shoulder : Teal round about—a small quantity.

Head : Black.

Like No. 1, this fly is also suitable for general angling purposes.

### NO. 3.—THE SKIER

Works best late in the evening, and is described thus :—

Tag : Silver tinsel.

Tail : A bunch of tippet, double and upright.

Body : Black floss.

Ribbed : Flat silver tinsel, 5 turns.

Wings : Single strips of white turkey.

Hackle : Black, half-way up body.

Head : Black.

Limericks, Nos. 5, 6, and 7.

The above, with the addition of the ordinary grey heron and grey eagle, ranging in size from No. 2 to No. 5, form the best range of evening patterns for summer use.

W. M.

GEORGE JAMES EATON, of Starkholmes, Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required, from gentlemen who can fish, to prove whether they may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices : Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen ; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—(ADVT.)

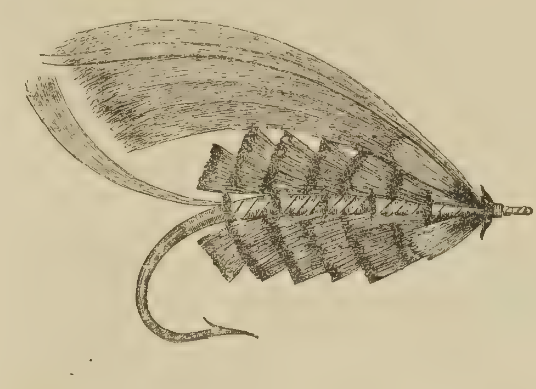
## ON THE DESCRIPTION OF SALMON FLIES.

BY MR. GEO. M. KELSON.

### MAJOR TRAHERNE'S PATTERNS *(continued)*.

### NO. 5.—TIPPETIWITCHET.

WITH reference to dyed hackles, it would be absurd not to admit they are cheap and convenient, and that, in many instances, we cannot dispense with them ; at least, until something more suitable is introduced. Fourpence per dozen all round cannot be said to be an exorbitant demand, but it is questionable whether in the end they are not more costly than "naturals." The numberless shades that may be purchased are almost unending in variety and tone. We may be told—and, indeed, it is often asserted—that the colours are fast, that, by some heoretical process, they must be so ; but after four-and-twenty hours' practical experience we invariably find this a mistake. Perhaps oranges and yellows under the influence of acids last longest ; but what can be worse than a washy blue, or generally better than a brilliant one ?—not that this applies to other colours, because a staring scarlet, for instance, is often better for a little toning down, except when the water is very clear ; then, as I have urged before, our colouring should be very bright.



The Vulturine guinea-fowl affords a splendid blue hackle, long or moderately short ; it never seems to fade unless exposed to the sun ; it plays beautifully in the water, and maintains its colour when in use. The light blue Macaw is a trifle more brilliant, but the fibre is coarser and consequently not so elastic in the water ; and the Jay is our recognised friend, but a little of it goes a long way, and flies are too frequently overburdened with this favourite feather.

If harmony were maintained there should be no difficulty for dyers to produce three or even four consecutive colours in a hackle ; say, for example, ½in. of golden yellow for the point, then the same space for red claret, following with orange and the rest blue. This feather would be a novelty, and one most useful to us ; it would save time, trouble, and expense, for a fly of such description would only take one instead of four hackles.

What is there that can boast of such a wide assortment of colour in so small a space as a salmon fly ? And, therefore, is not harmony of the greatest importance to us ? The metaphysician will speculate and advise there is no such thing as colour ; that what we call red is merely a sensation produced in the mind by a wave of light, in much the same way as a wave of sound is changed into a musical note. Some, indeed, assert that an atmospheric vibration produces simultaneously a sensation of colour and music, and consciously or unconsciously the one cannot occur without the other. Such theories, however, find little favour with the practical colourist. To him the harmony of colours is merely the result of combinations of primary, secondary, and tertiary pigments ; and he has little sympathy with the scientist who would rob him of the old red, yellow and blue primaries for the comparatively useless substitutes of violet and green, &c. The student should strive in such a way to arrange that, while each colour is shown to its fullest advantage, it is enhanced in beauty by proximity to the one next to it ; and this is equally applicable to seals' furs as well as hackles.

In reference to this week's illustration, "Tippetiwitchet" presents an attractiveness that can scarcely be surpassed. It is elaborately designed, and like those which preceded it, harmoniously coloured ; indeed, one other excellent specimen of our "Chief's" most golden and treasured fancies. It is, in short, a fly which will be sure to pique the curiosity of many a spring fisherman.

Perfection in fly dressing is the essence of an angler's life, and I have heard it said almost the end of his ambition. We can, however, only be led to perfection by the gentle hand of Time. None of our flies are infallible—if so, the charm of fishing would be irretrievably lost ; but we may often, when inventing, feel lifted above our-selves when we attain a point we had never reached before.

In describing this fly, which as heretofore I have been able to do without the aid of standard colours, I begin as usual with the

Tag : Silver twist, and light blue silk the same colour as a light blue chatterer.

Tail : A topping.

Butt : Black herl.

Body : In five equal divisions, each terminating with a black herl butt.
There are four tippets ; two (back to back) tied in top and bottom of every section as illustrated over the golden floss which, silk is the same shade as the golden toppings.

Ribbed : Oval tinsel.

Throat : Blue chatterer feather (as shown).

Wings : Five or six toppings, according to size of hook.

Cheeks : Blue chatterer.

Horns : Blue Macaw.

Head : Black herl.

I venture to state there is no fly in this valuable collection that requires more care in dressing ; the parallelism, and the coextension of the tippets being most important, and the quill of each one must be tied on so that the feather matches and rests gently against it mate. To effect this by mean manipulation after the body is finished—should any of them project—would be of no earthly use, because after a very few minutes' wear they would reassume their blundering and bulging position merely to skirt the water and scare the fish. It would be of no importance practically what deformity faultlessly-made Tippetiwitchets might assume by negligence in drying, because the bilateral symmetry of the tippets would be renewed in a moment when wetted again, on which occasion they would readily trim and fish as well, if not better, than ever.

In my opinion, the easiest plan for previously managing these tippets is to hold them at about an angle of 45 degrees flat, lengthways, and fibres upwards between the thumb and forefinger of the left hand, having its palm towards you. The quill of the feather is now projecting below for indentation by the right thumb nail which—to show its correct position—could carry a fourpenny-piece throughout the entire process.

The right hand is stationary, and pressing the quill against its forefinger with the thumb nail; and while so engaged, if the left elbow only is raised, say a foot, the dent for the tying silk will be properly shaped and completed; then it would be difficult to fix these feathers incorrectly from that point.

For the side of the hook facing you in the illustration, the upper or face of the feather should be held against the left thumb, and for the other side of the hook against the left forefinger.

Attention by the student to these and similar details would pave the way and make the high and pleasant road to perfection somewhat easier of access. The golden gates, not hopeless adamant to force, might thus be steadily stormed, and the goal reached by long laborious hours; and with his set purpose before him, this one great prize of his life would fall in time into his hands like ripe fruit, and then only would he understand with an unerring surety of perception that which is but unsubstantially revealed to others in their imagination.

Owing to the correspondence in former numbers of the Gazette, I will with pleasure give a description of the "Black Prince" next, which can be strongly recommended for dark, or porter-coloured water.

## ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A. B. C.—Try the "Marston" rod. The nearest firm to you which keep it in stock are Messrs. Watson, 308, High Holborn; they also supply a splendid line of the right size.

Oxonian.—We shall publish an Index shortly for the first six months of 1884, and provide a cover for this half-year.

C. Hartlepool.—Messrs. Hardy Bros., of Alnwick, send salted minnows in moss, and also small red worms by post at a very cheap rate. We fancy Mr. Cummins, of Bishop Auckland, also does the same.

J. H. W.—Of course it should have been printed "back hackle," and not "black hackle."

A. S. D.—Many thanks for the cutting.

# CORRESPONDENCE.

[*We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.*]

### MATERIAL FOR WINGS OF ARTIFICIAL FLIES.

Sir,—The remarks of "W. P. H.," in your issue of June 28th, have opened up a matter that has long been in my mind—namely, the procuring of a suitable material, other than feathers, to furnish the wings of artificials. I cannot see that mica would fulfil the end in view.

In addition to objections already shared by pike-scales, and other materials now used, it has also those of fragility, want of buoyancy—being heavier than water—and want of pliability in a greater degree. The latter defect is borne by all materials now known that are really serviceable for the purpose specified, and therin lies the great objection there is to them.

I have frequently found that the extreme rigidity of some materials used acts as a deterrent to the penetration of the hook in practice, and I should say in some cases is answerable for the hook losing its hold, acting, as they must do, as a lever against the angle of penetration of the hook.

Many materials I have tried and cast aside as unsuitable, some the outcome of my own inner consciousness, and others wrinkles picked up from extraneous sources.

Pike-scales are certainly the best that have been discovered up to the present time, but even they to a certain extent have some of the disadvantages already enumerated. Thin paper soaked in copal, and dried, is good, whilst it remains intact, but it soon cracks at the junction with the body of the fly, admits the water to the interior, and then comes the inevitable whipping-off. The skin of mutton suet is good, but will not stand the flicking in drying. Very thin sheets of lanthorn horn have the same objection as before stated. Thin sheets of gutta-percha are good for the wings of large flies, like the stone-fly, but too heavy for the delicate duns. Strips of bladder, which have enclosed lard, can be improved upon. Goldbeater's skin is all right until it is wetted, when it curls up and loses all shape. Thin bits of transparent quill, flattened by soaking in warm water, and drying under pressure, are good for some of the land flies, and of this material the wings of the artificial house-flies which I sent you recently, and of which you were pleased to approve, were composed; but this even has its objections. What is really required is a substance which combines the lightness and buoyancy of the feather in the air as well as in the water, with the toughness and power to retain its shape, of the quill, together with the pliability, transparency, and texture of the goldbeater's skin, and the property of being easily stained or dyed, and this material, as far as I know, has yet to be discovered. Indiarubber may give it. I have tried the stuff from toy balloons, but did not succeed. It should be made thicker at the base than at the tips of the wings, and I see no great difficulty in working it out.

It will not pay an amateur like myself to take the matter up alone, but I am willing to join both technically and pecuniarily anyone inclined to solve this interesting problem; but until something better than is already known is discovered I intend to stick to the feather, which after all, though the best, is but a very poor imitation of the original.

I am given sometimes to tying my flies with hackle-tips, and in many cases would rather tie the fly buzz than add a thick heavy feather, that is presumably of the right shade for wings. The hackle-tips are good for sunk flies, but are too divided in the fibre for floaters.

I attribute the success of the "Francis" as a sunk fly to the natural movement of its hackle-tip wings, and have constructed a dark fly on the same lines, using the red instead of the blue hackle. I find this good for heavy water, and as an evening fly.—I am, &c., Bittern.

### ANGLING IN THE WITHAM.

Sir,—Having occasion to visit Lincoln in connection with the usual trip of our Association, I took advantage of it, and with a friend, ran down to Dog Dyke, a station on the river Witham, and tried for a few bream, and although not well provided with baits, we took some very fine samples—the largest weighing 3lb., next 2½lb., and several between 1lb. and 2lb. each.

Although we did not take any, I heard of several fine tench being hooked, one man's rod (a Sheffield angler) being completely smashed with a splendid sample of about 3lb.

Roach, dace, and perch are coming on nicely. My friend took a nice roach of 14oz. well over spawning. Small eels were a nuisance.

Although the river was low and fine, with careful fishing and good ground baiting, a good basket could be got; but I would advise fishing well out. Lob worm was the best bait, paste the next; we could do nothing with maggot.

As our trip is for the 13th inst., and this letter is for information of members uncertain about going, I trust you will kindly allow it to appear in this week's Gazette, and oblige.—I am, &c., W. R. Ridgway, Hon. Secy.

2, Albert-square, Manchester.

### PATTERN OF SALMON FLY FOR COLOURED WATER.

Sir,—To the excellent letter from Major Traherne last week may be supplemented the following remarks in further reply to "Eastern."

The "blue-over-black," a very old pattern of mine, has been a great favourite everywhere in dark or porter-coloured water. But "Ajax," a later one, and perhaps not so well known, I find more successful. Hook, No. 1 Limerick; tag, ⅛th of an inch silver twist, butted with three or four turns of a small coch-a-bonddu hackle. Place over the hackle on either *side* of the hook the white and black point of a jungle. The body represents that of a wasp, by using alternate hoops of black and of yellow chenille. There would be about three turns of each to the middle of the hook. Here repeat the coch-a-bonddu and jungle, using the former feather larger; then continue with the chenilles as before, and at the head place another coch-a-bonddu and two jungle; the former reaching the barb of the hook, and the latter running parallel with the shank of the hook, like the others. The jungles must be very small. I prefer the winged fly in spring; this one in autumn.—I am, &c.,

Geo. M. K.

### FISH IN THE LEITH.

Sir,—The following is rather an interesting fact, and may be worthy of notice:—

"Fish in the Water of Leith.—As indicating the increasing purity of this river, it may be stated that the workmen engaged in contracting the channel at Reid-terrace have caught a considerable number of roach of an average size. One of them, about 8½in., may be seen alive at the shop of Mr. Somerville, bookseller, Stockbridge."

It would be difficult for the "oldest inhabitant" of Edinburgh to remember a similar catch in that part of the water of Leith which flows through the northern suburbs of the city.

Not long ago the water, during the prevalence of drought, was little else than a chain of stagnant, offensive-smelling pools, which received the sewage of a very populous district. The pollution was finally removed by the introduction of large drain pipes which follow the course of the water. Since then the progress of purification has been slow but sure.—I am, &c., William Stephen.

12, Rush Hill-road, Lavender-hill, S.W.

### AN UNFORTUNATE DOSE OF CASTOR OIL.

Sir,—Can any of your readers kindly help me out of the following mess? Some months ago—I think it was in the *Field*—I saw it recommended as a good waterproof for new boots, to rub them well with castor oil. I did so to a pair of new long fishing boots made of the usual leather. The result was the oil thoroughly saturated right through the leather, made them in a filthy mess inside, and every time I wear them the water follows through where the oil penetrated, and I come home with the boots half full of water. I have tried filling them with hot water; it certainly drew out some of the oil, but they are still quite unfit to wear. If anyone can tell me of a cure I shall be much obliged.—I am, &c., W. G. Turle.

### GREAT YARMOUTH PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

Sir,—Having, for certain reasons, retired from the Great Yarmouth Piscatorial Society, I beg to request that no further subscriptions to the "Potter Heigham Defence Fund" be forwarded to me as treasurer.—I am, &c.,

Alexander Mitchell, M.D., M.S.
(Late President and Treasurer of the Great Yarmouth Piscatorial Society.)
Burton House, Great Yarmouth, July 8.

### A CORACLE WANTED.

Sir,—Can any of your readers oblige by informing me where I can procure a coracle?—I am, &c.,

Conservative Club, Liverpool, July 9. X. Y. Z.

### A PISCINE MONSTROSITY.

Sir,—My object in writing at the present time is to inform your readers that I have alive a young trout (fario) with two well-formed heads attached to a perfectly-normal body. The operation of the gills in breathing (and not for eating and cleansing water, as has been stated recently by one of your correspondents), is somewhat heavy, but regular. I am not prepared to say whether this monstrosity belongs to my first or last delivery of ova, but it must at least be five weeks old. It cannot swim, but turns topsy-turvy when disturbed. I am not aware that it has had any food except what Nature provided for it at first, and as its food sac is now absorbed (only one food sac was provided), I am afraid the life of my curious bantling is fast ebbing away. I should be glad if some kind correspondent would write me how best to preserve and mount for microscopic purposes so interesting an object, and it would afford me pleasure to elicit whether it is on record of a fish, young or old, having been seen before with two heads.—I am, &c.,

Piethorne, near Rochdale. William Watts.

### "THE BLACK SPIDER" AND EXE FISHING.

Sir,—If your correspondent, "T. H. W.," who inquires as to the best hackle for dressing the plain, black spider, makes use of the black feather from the neck or back of the cock starling, he will find it kill well.

Stewart, in his admirable "Practical Angler," gives a high place to this hackle. He says, "We consider the feathers taken from the cock starling the most valuable of all to the angler. They have a rich, glossy black, which no other feathers possess, and we always use them in place of the black cock hackle."

Stewart's black spider is an easily-dressed fly, the body of brown silk with a few turns of the hackle down it. I have found it kill very well indeed on the Exe, particularly when the water is high and slightly discoloured; a gentleman tells me that he got with it one day this season eight fish, five of the larger ones weighing collectively 5lb.—a very unusual size for this river. It must, however, be invariably used for up-stream fishing. When cast down stream, the fibres of the hackle being extremely soft, are forced together, and no semblance of any insect is presented to the fish.

Owing to the extreme lowness of the river, there is little doing on the Exe just now, except at sundown, when a few trout may be had if the weather be favourable, and under such conditions, angling may be profitably pursued for the greater part of the night with large flies.

A fornight ago I saw some splendid fish that had been killed night fishing, the biggest weighing 3lb. It was taken with a floating green drake. Night fishing, however, is not always satisfactory just now. The hot, sultry days are often attended in the evening by heavy mists on the water, which effectually stop the rise of fly—and of fish too, or, perhaps, there is thunder hanging about. A week ago we had a thunderstorm, with seven or eight consecutive showers of heavy rain, which raised the water to a respectable stream, and the fish rose well while it lasted, but it went down again with the proverbial rapidity of a summer spate, leaving the river lower than ever,—I am, &c., R. A.

### FISHING NEAR WHITBY.

Sir,—In answer to query about fishing near Whitby, day tickets can be had on the Esk, to be obtained from most fishing-tackle shops, or from Mr. S. Wilkinson, 2, Grape-lane, Whitby. There are salmon, sea trout, and brown trout. From Whitby to Ruswarp the river is tidal, and from Ruswarp to Sleights there is a large mill dam, which is private; from there to Glaisdale the fishing is fair, though better for sea fish, and very good during a fresh. Salmon fishing is best in September. The Mirk Esk is a very pretty stream, and full of small trout; wading necessary. Above Glaisdale, I believe, there is another association on the Esk. There is good fishing to be had on the Derwent; apply to the Johnston Arms Hotel, Hackness. I never did any good sea fishing.—I am, &c.,

Manchester. J. A. Hutton.

## AN UNEXPECTED VISITOR.

Sir,—About three weeks ago a friend of mine residing at Richmond was sculling his wife and children up the river, and when near Pope's Villa a barbel, weighing about 2½lb., made its appearance in the bows of the boat. The fish was seen by the lock-keeper's man at Teddington, and ultimately given to a lad employed at Wheeler's boat-house, Richmond.

This rather unusual occurrence may probably interest your piscatorial readers.—I am, &c., W. R. Lyne.

66, Old Broad-street, E.C., July 8.

[Strong corroborative evidence as to the bad state of Thames water at the present time.—Ed.]

## DRY-FLY FISHING.

Sir,—I am of opinion that the idea is as old as the art itself; it was a favourite practice of my father when a boy, and he is now 81 years of age, and I have often followed suit. I consider a dark fly the best for this style, and better in a lake than a stream. Best feather for wing, water hen (Coote), and if killed at the proper season it makes a very buoyant fly, and will float on surface of the water a long time. It should be watched carefully, and as the line will bag you must strike instantly. All this arises out of the old, old story—fish are shy, and we keep on changing in hopes of finding out the sure-killing fly; but I go in for exercise, and if fishing a water fairly known to me, I would put on a cast of three flies I had confidence in, and keep flogging away, and in the long run it will lick all fancy fishing into a cocked hat. Excuse the length of this. I inclose stamps for another six months' subscriptions, and, trusting you are going on an angling tour soon, and will give us an account,—I am, &c., John Kinna.

Liverpool.

## PATTERNS OF SEWIN FLIES.

Sir,—If "Bittern" will send me his address to Junior United Service Club, London, S.W., I shall be happy to send him some patterns of sewin flies.—I am, &c., John P. Traherne.

July 7th.

## LLANFAIRFECHAN, N. WALES.

Sir,—Can any of the readers of the Fishing Gazette kindly give me information on the following points:—

1. Is there any trout fishing to be had within walking distance of the village of Llanfairfechan, N. Wales, during the latter end of September?
2. If so, what flies would be best to use?
3. Is there any sea-fishing to be had at Llanfairfechan?

Any information will be acceptable.—I am, &c., E. M.

## A CORRECTION.

Sir,—Mr. George Cording requests that you will allow me to state that the trees with which he supplied me were not "Carmichael," but indiarubber boot-driers, of his own manufacture. They are, I believe, somewhat different in construction from the article as advertised in your paper.—I am, &c., Chas. C. Capel.

Cray Fishery, Foot's Cray, Kent, July 6.

## SCOTCH FISHING NOTES.

Earn.—Rain has fallen here more or less heavily since the thunderstorm, and anglers are in high hopes of having splendid sport. The river is in fair condition, and the numerous streams in the neighbourhood have a good flow. On Monday morning, Mr. P. Jack had a basket of 12lb.

Allan.—During the past few days numerous anglers have been out in the expectation of good sport after the rains. The streams, notwithstanding the rain which has fallen, are still small, and consequently the takes have been light. On the Allan on Monday, Mr. Alex. M. Faichney, Forfar, had over five dozen excellent trout, with worm as bait.

Loch Awe.—Yesterday Miss Allen, St. Ann's, North Berwick, killed a very fine pike weighing 13lb., in one of the bays. It gave very good sport.

Loch Ard.—On Monday two parties were out, and had respectively 19 trout, weighing 17lb., and 23 trout, weighing 13lb. Several of the trout were close on 2lb. weight. Several other anglers were also out, but had but indifferent sport.

Loch Ericht.—Mr. Chambers and friend, Perth, has had, in four days' fishing, 37lb. trout and three Salmo ferox of 2, 5½, and 6lb. each. On Wednesday, Major Parker and friend, Perth, had 13lb. trout, two weighing 2 and 3lb. each, and a ferox of 6lb.

Loch Rannoch.—Last week the weather was unfavourable for sport. Some days the surface of the lake presented the appearance of a mirror, reflecting a lovely picture the livelong day. On other days the wind was boisterous and frequently a dense mist capped the surrounding hills. The elements being thus unpropitious, good sport was not to be expected, and the hopes of anglers were not very high. Notwithstanding, some nice baskets were made. Major Colquhoun, Edinburgh, from Bun Rannoch Hotel, killed a ferox of 5lb., and another gentleman from the same hotel captured a 3lb. trout. Mr. Duncan Macgregor, Mr. Gregor Macgregor, and Mr. John Morris, all of Edinburgh, were out on Friday from Bun Rannoch Hotel—the two former fishing from the same boat. Messrs. Macgregor landed 20lb. of trout, all with fly; and Mr. Morris, with the same lure, had 40 trout to his own rod. The weather, for the greater part of the day, was too stormy: and Mr. Morris, happening to be caught in an unlucky moment at a part of the loch exposed to the full severity of the wind, had to take shelter in a small creek, and thus lost four hours' fishing. The night fishing on the river is now at its best—the stonefly being out—and good takes were got by the parties from Edinburgh on Wednesday and Thursday nights between 9·30 and 11. On Friday night, Mr. Ellis landed a trout of 3lb. behind the hotel.

Lochleven.—Perth Club Competition.—This club competed for five prizes on Wednesday, it being their second competition on the loch this season. The weather was favourable from a fine steady easterly wind and a moist atmosphere, so that the club had a fair prospect of good sport. They had six boats engaged, with eleven competitors, who succeeded in capturing 45 trout, weighing 45lb. 3½oz., the prizes being gained as follows:—1, Mr. P. D. Malloch, 9 trout, 8lb.; 2, Mr. James Kaye, 5 trout, 6lb. 3oz.; 3 (in the same boat), Mr. James Fenton, 5 trout, 4lb. 10oz.; 4, Sergeant-Major Knight, 6 trout, 4lb. 7oz.; 5, Mr. W. Wilson, 4 trout, 4lb. 5oz. The heaviest trout was a very fine one weighing 2lb. 10½oz., and was killed by Mr. Kaye. Private parties gave in the following reports:—Messrs. W. Dougal, Singapore, and Mr. John Macdonald, Alloa, 11 trout, 10½lb.; Mr. Salt, 7 trout, 7lb; Mr. A. Smith, of Brighton, 15 trout, 14½lb. Dunfermline club competes to-morrow.

Loch Ericht.—On Tuesday the morning looked threatening, and few boats ventured out. The weather, however, improved in the afternoon and excellent sport was got. Captain Murray and Mr. Martin L. Martin had a basket of trout weighing 18¼lb., besides two Salmo ferox of 2 and 4½lb. Mr. Thursby, of Burnley, and Mr. Handsley had 8lb. of trout and one Salmo ferox—a beauty, weighing 10lb.

The Earn.—On Monday Mr. Cameron M'Leod, Edinburgh, and Mr. James M'Laren, Crieff, fished the Earn, and got a fine basket of 7 dozen. The anglers in this district are having splendid sport now.

## FIELD'S PATENT AERATING BAIT CAN.

The open season for pike fishing being fairly commenced, I may call attention to this useful Can which, as will be seen in another column, is now to be obtained by the public.

The Fishing Gazette gave a flattering notice of this ingenious contrivance, June 2nd, 1883. Since then its value has been practically tested, and baits confined in it have not only sustained a long journey without the least injury, but have been kept alive for three days without a change of water.

The law of Nature which suggested this invention, and the means by which the conditions of such law have been complied with, may be briefly explained as follows:—

The exposure to air is a provision necessary for the maintenance of life of all organised beings. Beast, bird, fish, reptile, insect, and plant alike, die if excluded from air. It might be conjectured that fish were an exception; but such is not the case. Place fish in water that has had the air exhausted by boiling, or by the action of an air-pump, and they will suffer at once, and soon die. Water absorbs and retains a considerable quantity of air. Fish breathe by taking water in at the mouth and forcing it out through the apertures on each side of the throat into the gill-cavities; the air contained in the water being, in its passage, brought in contact with the blood-vessels in the gills; and the oxygen—a component part of the air, which has the property of renovating the blood—being extracted, and carbonic acid given off in the process. If the supply of oxygen be cut off, or when all the oxygen that was in the water has been absorbed and its place taken by carbonic acid, the fish die of suffocation—just as man would do under similar conditions. A question here naturally suggests itself. If fish are air-breathing animals, why should they die when taken from the water if still exposed to the air? Simply because the gills get clogged for want of moisture, and the act of respiration cannot, therefore, be properly performed. If fish are wrapped in moist grass, or put under a tap dripping with water, they will sustain life for a considerable time, and would probably live still longer did they not exhaust themselves in repeated and ineffectual struggles to regain their natural element.

A fish that has been stunned by a blow on the head, but not killed, will live much longer out of water than one that has retained its vital energy.

All fishermen know that the best way to "drown" a fish—as it is commonly called—is to drag it down the stream in a rapid current. This is because the action of the water makes it difficult for the fish to shut its gill-covers when taking water in its mouth, and equally difficult to force such water out again when once taken in, through the gill apertures while going against the stream. The fish is, in fact, "out of breath," as we should say if speaking of a man or a horse. It is to avoid this difficulty in respiration that exhausted salmon, when seeking the sea, go down the rapids tail first.

But I have digressed sadly; let me return to the Can. Given that air when exhausted by respiration must be renewed in order to sustain life, let us now examine how far and by what means this condition is fulfilled.

The Can, which has been much improved since the first embodiment of the idea was exhibited in the "Fisheries," is now made on the Slapton Ley pattern. It has, that is to say, an inner chamber or cage of perforated metal, which can be either taken out altogether, or so far raised as to admit of baits being selected and extracted without the intervention of a bait-kettle net, and in either case without the loss of water.

This inner chamber has a lid capable of being fastened, and a wire handle, to which a piece of string can be attached.

The Can, in fact, forms two Cans, one within the other. The inner Can, on arrival at the fishing station, may be taken out and immersed in the water, thus forming a reserve reservoir for one's baits not wanted for immediate use. Such as are wanted for the time may be carried in the outer Can, to which a lid is also fitted when desired, and which then forms a second can complete in itself. In the handle of this outer can is fitted a cylindrical air chamber or bellows of indiarubber, worked by a compressor which passes through the top of the handle, and may be conveniently acted upon by the thumb while the Can is being carried. From these bellows a small brass tube is fastened down the side and along the bottom into a rose or distributor, having a series of minute holes in it. The air forced down the bellows passes through these holes and ascends through the water, producing a number of small bubbles, which are further broken up, multiplied, and scattered by the perforated inner chamber, thus enabling the water throughout to imbibe fresh oxygen in place of that which has been exhausted in the manner already described, by the respiration of the baits.

I should not be surprised if this invention, when applied to vessels of a larger size, might prove of use in Fish Hatching establishments, where delicate and tender young fry have to be moved from pond to pond. Certainly, in its present form it will be such a boon to many a travelling angler, that it is with the greatest pleasure I have at some length endeavoured to explain its value.

Geo. M. Kelson.

# NOTICES OF FISHING TACKLE, &c.

An Automatic Swimming Bait (Patent).—Miss M. C. Campbell, Fishing Bait Maker, of 2, Cecil-terrace, Maynard-road, Walthamstow, writes as follows:—"Sir,—Enclosed you will find one of my Automatic Swimming Baits, and I trust you will be able to notice it after a fair trial. Throw the bait into a basin of water, and you will find that it keeps its proper balance. The fins and tail move by the action of the water. Take hold of the loop and pull the bait backwards and forwards, and you will see the natural effect. The fins and tail become pliable almost immediately. You can make the bait heavier by squeezing it a few times under water. I make them in eight sizes, and painted to life to represent every kind of fish." We have tried this new bait, and have no scruples in endorsing all Miss Campbell says about it; and, although we shall not have a chance just yet of trying it with trout, we feel perfectly certain that it will be found to answer very well indeed if fished on fine stained gut and fished properly. It should be cast across and down stream and overhand like a fly, then brought back with a series of pulls and stops, as in working a salmon fly. The hooks are ingeniously hidden; in fact, we do not remember to have seen a more life-like deception, especially when in the water and the fins are working. It will be irresistible for pike—*i.e.*, if Miss Campbell can make as good a resemblance of a Thames dace as she does of a samlet. Miss Campbell also makes about fifteen other kinds of artificial baits.

A Vice for Fly and Tackle Making.—Messrs. O'Handlen and Co., of 48, Victoria and Temple-streets, Bristol, have brought out a most useful little instrument for those who make flies and other tackle requiring the use of a vice. It can be used in three positions—viz., upright, fixed to a table, or slanting to the right or left, and has the advantage of good wide jaws giving a firm grip. It is well spoken of by Mr. H. S. Hall, one of the best, if not the best, amateur trout-fly makers living, and this alone ought to be sufficient to recommend it. It is very well made and not expensive.

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Ten dozen "Elliott's Angler's Guide," published to sell at 2d. each, 10s.; specimen copy, 2 stamps.—Alfred C. Elliott, Naturalist, Deeping, St. James.

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To the Queen.
Table Waters

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# RIVER REPORTS.

### TIME OF HIGH WATER IN THE THAMES.

To find the time of high water in the Thames at any of the following places, to the time of high water at London Bridge (given below).

Add 30 minutes for Chelsea.
40 „ Putney.
45 „ Hammersmith.
50 „ Barnes.
55 „ Kew.
75 „ Richmond.
80 „ Twickenham.
85 „ Teddington.

Example:—If it is high water at 2 o'clock at London Bridge, it will be high water at Teddington about 3.25, or eighty-five minutes later; but it must be remembered that a strong wind accelerates or retards the tide very much.

FOR TIMES OF HIGH WATER AT LONDON BRIDGE.

| | Morning. | Afternoon. |
|---|---|---|
| Saturday, July 12 ... ... | 4.13 | 4.33 |
| Sunday, „ 13 ... ... | 4.52 | 5.11 |
| Monday, „ 14 ... ... | 5.30 | 5.52 |
| TUESDAY, „ 15 (ST. SWITHIN'S) | 6.14 | 6.38 |
| Wednesday, „ 16 ... ... | 7.3 | 7.31 |
| Thursday, „ 17 ... ... | 8.0 | 8.32 |
| Friday, „ 18 ... ... | 9.7 | 9.48 |

NOTE.—New moon, July 22; high tide, July 24.

## THE LOWER THAMES.

### GENERAL REMARKS.

It appears the heavy rainfall which accompanied the thunderstorms was only partial, and the river has received scarcely any benefit from it. There is a lamentable deficiency of water everywhere. The following interesting communication from an old practical fisherman will somewhat explain matters piscatorial:—"The boats from Hampton Court have all been doing well amongst the roach and dace. The takes daily have varied from eight to twelve dozen between Thames Ditton and Hampton Court weir. That reach of water is all alive with those fish, and the reason why that portion of the river is so thick with roach and dace is the weather being so dry, and the weir being shut in so close, there is no stream anywhere else. The fish collect themselves together where the water is deep and good. There are great quantities of chub and barbel to be seen on the Weir hill, but they will not feed, and nothing will be done with the barbel till we get some rain." Another old fisherman writes:—"You can see any amount of fish on a morning, and I am sure there will be some good sport if we could get a couple of day's rain and some stream. The water is quite warm, and the large fish do not seem to care about feeding in the middle of the day." The report from the tidal waters is, "No improvement in the water yet." It is satisfactory to know the bank anglers have been doing remarkably well. One of them at Teddington, at the end of last week, got four barbel weighing 18lb., and everywhere throughout the entire district of the Lower Thames this class of sportsmen have done some good business. The following reports will show what has been done:—

**Richmond.**—Christopher Brown, in six days, has made a total score of forty-eight dozen of dace. Job Brain brings up a total of twenty dozen of dace, one barbel, and three chub; and Henry Howard, as a result of four days' records, twenty-nine dozen of dace.

**Twickenham.**—George Coxen, during four days, credits himself with twenty dozen of dace and roach, one of the dace measuring $9\frac{3}{4}$in. Samuel Cole, in three days, ten dozen of dace, two barbel, and a bream of $3\frac{1}{2}$lb. Edward Finch, in the same time, sixteen dozen of dace, two bream, and one barbel. C. Miles, in two days, about seven dozen of dace. Joseph Debbins, in one day, five dozen of roach and dace, which he says were all good fish. John Spong, in one day, with Mr. Walker, eight dozen of roach and dace, and another day four dozen.

**Teddington.**—Joseph Baldwin, in four days, eleven dozen of roach and dace, and one barbel. The bank anglers have done well, and in one of the takes there were a couple of flounders, one measuring 8in. and the other 6in., the rest of the fish being six dozen of dace.

**Kingston.**—John Johnson, sen., in two days, five dozen of roach and dace, four barbel, twelve brace of perch, and six fine eels. John Johnson, jun., in three days, four jack, the largest 7lb., eight barbel, five chub, six dozen of roach and dace, and nine perch. James Wilks, in four days, ten dozen of roach and dace, six brace of perch, five bream, the largest 5lb., and one chub. The bank anglers have been getting about nine dozen of roach and dace in the day, and during the week some bream, barbel, chub, and perch, the largest barbel 6½lb. ; and at Surbiton the sport has been considerably better, including a bream of 5½lb., a barbel of 6½lb., and some good eels.

**Hampton Court.**—William Milbourne, in two days, sixteen dozen of roach and dace ; and John Smith, in six days, thirty-seven dozen of roach and dace, three barbel of 2½lb. each, and three perch, the largest 1lb. The bank anglers have been getting a good supply of roach, dace, and perch. At "Tagg's Island Fishery," in addition to about twenty dozen of roach and dace falling to the rods of the bank anglers, some fine bream, chub, and perch have been brought to grief.

**Sunbury.**—Messrs. Edward Clarke and sons, in two days, six brace of perch, and thirteen dozen of roach and dace. The bank anglers between Hampton and Sunbury have had some capital sport amongst the roach, dace, perch, chub, and gudgeon, and all good fish ; the roach going up to 1¼lb., dace 10in., and gudgeon 6½in., measured by one of the keepers.

**Walton.**—Richard Watford, in one day, four dozen of roach, and three bream. George Hone, one day, five dozen of roach, and three bream ; and another day twelve bream, one jack, and four dozen of roach and dace. John Hone, one day, seventeen bream, and four dozen of roach; and another day ten dozen of roach and three bream. Samuel Rosewell, during the week, twenty-two dozen of roach, seventeen bream, and two jack, weighing respectively 5lb. and 4lb.

**Halliford.**—Thomas Strudwick, during the week, makes a total return of twenty-two dozen of roach and dace ; and Edward Rosewell, in one day, six dozen of roach and two bream. The latter fisherman has succeeded to the business of his late father, "Old Tom Rosewell," and evidences great interest in assisting in the work of river preservation.

**Weybridge.**—Herbert Curr, in one day, with the Rev. H. Lewis and friend, got a fine pike of 9lb. in splendid condition, and three dozen of roach and dace ; and another day, with the same clergyman and his son, four dozen of good roach and dace, and a fine perch. Captain Wilmore and Mr. Burrows in bottom fishing caught a trout of 1¾lb., which was at once returned to the river. Mr. William, in fly fishing, got one chub of 1¼lb., and another of 2¾lb.

**Shepperton.**—F. Purdue, in one day, seven dozen of gudgeons, one jack, and three perch ; H. Purdue, a jack of 3lb., and ten dozen of gudgeons ; W. Rogerson, fourteen dozen of roach, six of the best fish weighing 1lb. each, and a perch of 1½lb. Above the lock Mr. Meyer, in one day, fishing with James Haslett, got four bream weighing 12lb., which were weighed in at the Piscatorial Society.

**Chertsey.**—James Poulter, in one day, seven dozen of roach, one chub, and eleven bream. The bank anglers have had some good sport between here and Penton Hook, and it is a favourite resort for the better class of anglers who fish from the banks.

**Staines.**—Charles Hone, in one day, three jack, which were put back again, and 9lb. of roach and dace ; J. Keene, jun., has a final score of twenty-three dozen of roach and dace, and four barbel ; Mr. Clarke, one barbel and one roach ; Mr. Smith, four barbel and one chub ; and G. Osman, one barbel, one roach, and a few dace. The barbel are showing themselves at Bell Weir ; Mr. Simmonds in one day got fifteen, and Mr. G. Rowles nine.

## UPPER THAMES.

Rain has been coming down for twenty-four hours in the proverbial "cat and dog" fashion. The state of the elements will materially improve the river, and render fishing pleasurable and lucrative. At Henley, since the regatta, fish would not bite at all at ordinary gentles, lob worms, or paste, in consequence, it is imagined, of their tastes being vitiated with pâte d'homme, lobster tails, and the thousand and one luxuries thrown away on such occasions by the Upper Ten. However, a day will come when Henley fish will be glad to accept the tail of a lob, instead of the ditto of a brother lobster, and then the human race will have the pull of them. At Hambleden three trout have been had during the past week, and at Hurley Messrs. Lever, Corneley, and Bogley have been doing execution amid the roach. At Marlow, a correspondent this morning tells me, that Mr. F. Francis has taken with a fly a pretty trout of 3½lb. Mr. F. has for some time run Father Thames down as a fishing river, and has sought "fresh fields and pastures new," Winchester way ; but this capture will, I hope, set him itching for his old love. Mr. Anthony, of Marlow, has kept his eyes on a 5lb. barbel, and Mr. Scott a pretty trout just under 4lb. The river, after this rain, will become in fine all round trim, and happy will be that man who has his quiver full of lob worms, for that will certainly now be the sort of bait to meet with success.—MARLOW BUZZ.

### Goring.

Water in good order for jack and perch fishing. Roach biting very well at night. We took two dozen of roach and dace in two hours. Gudgeon biting very well. One day six dozen of gudgeon and two dozen of perch. Some of the roach going over 1lb. ; largest dace ½lb.

### Datchet.

The fishing has been of a very uncertain kind, with the exception of the dace, and they bite beautifully. The barbel only fall to the lot of the very patient. Very heavy rain fell here on the 6th ; it has not affected the river in the least. R. F. Lines, Esq., on the 6th, some roach and dace, and a carp 1½lb. ; on the 7th, with me, three barbel and a chub, good fish, and some dace. Two patrons, with J. Hoare, on the 8th and 9th, a good bag of dace and roach, and a barbel or two—in all 30lb.

### Docket Point.

Missed the post last week. I have but one day to report—six bream, one perch—perhaps owing to price. Barbel and bream fishing wants doing. There are plenty of gentlemen know that I fish with not only ten-shilling-a-day, but more—I often get what gentlemen would begrudge the price for a day's barbel fishing. I know plenty ready to come, and I hope to send you more lively news next week. I commenced the fishing last season with the ledges and finished the same ; did but three days' jack and perch fishing ; but if one wants roach fishing six or seven days I am on the job. A few gentles and brand does not cost much, and there is no baiting for three days beforehand. Believe me, there is more to see to at the present time than what a fisherman gets for a day's fishing—I mean some rowing boats and launches, which go as fast as ever. Saturday's fishing with Mr. J. L. Meyer—five bream, one chub, put back two dozen roach and dace.—J. HASLETT.

### Thames (Oxford).

Fish, despite the unusually hot weather and the awfully low water, are feeding well. Meal worms, near a flour mill, and crayfish tail are unequalled for either roach or chub. With a fly, Pennell's sweep, the black and red palmers, and the black gnat and red hackle are about the best for chub or roach. On Thursday, out of a nice bag of 25 chub, Messrs. Kelson and Cooper had three fish over 2lb. On Monday, Mr. L. Kelson bagged two at Pinkhill, which scaled 5lb. On Tuesday, Mr. Kelson, at Pinkhill, had several chub, the best 2½lb., and a bleak measuring 6¾in. by 2¾in. On Wednesday, Mr. G. E. Simms, at Benson, landed a fine chub weighing 3lb. on Nottingham roach tackle, with a fine-drawn gut bottom and a No. 10 hook.—CHERWELL OTTER.

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### Bure.

From what I can gather, the same tale holds good of this river. Any number of fish can be caught, but they run exceptionally small. Here and there we hear of good catches of bream, especially on Wroxham Broad by those whose lungs and constitutions will allow them to be out in the open all night, and who commence with the dawn and leave off at breakfast time ; also at Acle (Host Rose), good bream fishing is to be had at the present time, and from a report in a local paper this morning, I find that a club, with the somewhat musical and feline title of "Cat and Fiddle," were at Horning Ferry the other day, and they had comparatively good sport, considering the thin character of the fish which are usually caught here. The season has now fairly commenced for the numerous clubs of Norwich to hold their annual matches and outings, and as they number upwards of 50, some lively proceedings at the various fishing stations may be looked for during the ensuing month or two. I find the Champion Club has fixed upon Ranworth for the exciting struggle for their beautiful challenge cup and other prize, whilst the Old Norwich Angling Club still clings to their old love, the "swift-flowing Yare," and have decided to hold their annual match at Buckenham, on Tuesday, August 12th. Prospects on Bure were never better. The storm of last night was very partial, but at Norwich it was short and sharp.—ROBERT MOLL.

### Ballynahinch.

Since last report nothing has been done on above, only a few trout, which are now making their appearance plentifully, wherever they can get into. We have no change as yet, and water is very low.—WALTER BLACKADDER.

### Chichester.

With weather changeable, sport has, during the week, been very unsatisfactory. Takes have been small, and fish small also. Some fine eels were landed with small roach on Tuesday. Water in excellent condition. Weather stormy.—GEORGE F. SALTER.

### Dove.

We have had showers nearly every day this week, but up to the time of writing (Wednesday evening) our river has not been materially affected either in height or colour. The land had become so hard and cracked that it has sucked in greedily every drop of rain that has fallen. However, if the wet continues much longer we shall have a great improvement in the condition of the river. I never knew the water want freshing up more. Old rodsters say it has been one of the dryest summers they ever remember. A heavy storm is falling as I write. This will beat down myriads of flies on the surface of the river, and there ought to be a good rise of trout at them during the next few days. The caterpillar and the coachman are still the best evening lures. The dishes since my last have amounted to about five brace per rod. There has not been much doing in the coarse fishing line. Anglers are awaiting a good rise of water.—THE SPLODGER.

### Exe and Barle.

The rivers are now exceedingly low ; consequently fishing by day is difficult and almost at a standstill. The evenings are, however, taken advantage of, and some nice baskets are made from about 8 until 11 p.m. The coachman, white moth, and red palmer are the best killers. Salmon fishing is quite out of the question, and will be until after heavy rain has fallen.—C. W. NELDER.

### Exe (Tiverton).

Showers have been frequent but not enough to satisfy the thirsty land, and the river continues in the same state—very low ; consequently very little is doing except of an evening, when some very good fish have been taken by those who have fished late. The flies that have taken best are the red ant and fern web.—W. MUDFORD.

### Ilfracombe.

Sea Fishing.—There has been a little thunder this week, so the fish did not bite so free ; however, several boating parties have been fishing off Popple Cove, and their average catches of bream, whiting, and codlin have been about 20lb. each boat per tide ; a few pout, weighing about 1½lb. each, were caught by rod and line. Fishers from the Flat Rock.—Several lobsters have been brought in from the pots. The fishing from the pier-head and jetty for rod and hand-line fishers, rather slack. Weather at present very fine.—E. COMER.

### Lark and Cam.

Bream feeding well now in these waters. Mr. Howlett, of Newmarket, took on Saturday last, in the morning, about 35lb. A tremendous thunderstorm coming up stopped the fishing ; ground bait grains, bait with lobworms. Dace are well on in the beautiful little Lark stream. Three gentlemen, on Monday, landed over 20lb., bait gentles. The greatest curse anglers have to contend with just now are the weeds coming down stream in acres; several good chub have been taken near Mildenhall, and some very fine perch at Workington, on the river Lark—Mr. Howlett landing one of 2lb. Netting is quiet at present owing to the exertions of Mr. W. Owens, of Mildenhall.—G. W. MERLIN.

### Lodden.

The weather having been so excessively hot and bright, and the river so exceedingly low, trout fishing has been completely "nihil." On Saturday last, fishing for nearly four hours, only rose one trout, but chub and dace were taken at nearly every throw. On Sunday we had several very heavy storms, each lasting for some time. The same kind of weather still with us, but very bright and hot between the showers. The river is but little affected at present with the downfalls, the earth being very much parched ; but the trout seemed to have benefited thereby, as they are rising splendidly ; many have been seen of 2lb. weight and upwards, so we anticipate good sport.—F. GOSDEN.

### Lea.

At last I have something worth reporting, and that is we have rain ; for it rained on Sunday, again on Wednesday very heavily, and to-day has rained all day, and in consequence the river is coloured a beautiful colour. It would do no harm if it kept on two or three more days, as the fish have too much natural food, and a good flood would cleanse the weeds. Mr. Buller has been at it again (netting), and fined 10s. and his net condemned, the net being worth £4, the Hertford Bench giving him the tip that they meant enforcing the laws in this respect. I hope to be able to give you some good takes next week. The natives have been using the caddis with good effect. P.S.—Is a license required for letting a punt on the Lea for fishing purposes ?—PIPE CLAY.

### Leicester.

Since Friday we have been visited by several very violent thunderstorms in this locality, considerable damage being done. Rain was greatly needed for the waters, and, besides putting anglers in good spirits, has caused the fish to bite more freely. In the local society's waters some rare sport has been had during the last day or two, more particularly among the roach, Messrs. Starkey, Bird, Gladstone, Real, and Mee, having on several occasions well filled baskets. Mr. Gladstone one day took eighteen roach, weighing 10lb. ; and on Tuesday last this angler had a good creel of fish, among which was one fine roach, weighing 1½lb. A large number of anglers have also had some good sport with the perch from the brook at Aylestone. Pike fishing remains quiet, a few small ones only being taken, the largest that came under my notice being about 4lb. The waters are now a good colour. The best fish have been taken with the straw-worm and may-grub. The rains have greatly benefitted the waters at the Wreake, which, until the downpour came, were very slow. Sport has, upon the whole, been fairly good. At the time of writing (Thursday night) rain is falling sharply.

### Lugg and Arrow (Leominster).

These streams are now in splendid order for the angler ; they still keep very low, but in good fly-fishing condition. The fish in both these streams are rising well at the fly ; there have been several very sharp showers in this district, but they made little or no difference to the colour of the water, and only made the fish bite better. The most killing flies at present are the blue dun, orle (in low streams), and Marlow buzz, and the anglers have been quite busy with them, and good baskets have been taken. Some capital sport was had in the Lugg, when a gentleman landed a splendid basket of fine trout with the orle and blue dun. In the Arrow, the same day, some very fine fish were taken with the blue dun. On Saturday a good day's sport was had by a gentleman in the Arrow, he landing, with the Marlow buzz and blue dun, a fine basket of 20 good fish, in fine condition. The Lugg was tried, and a very nice lot of trout was landed with the blue dun, averaging ½lb. each. Some very fine fish were landed by a gentleman on Monday, in the Arrow, with the orle. In the Lugg, the same day, some good sport was had with the blue dun; one rod landed a very nice basket of good fish, scaling 5lb. the lot. On Tuesday the fish were rising freely at the fly; a gentleman tried the Arrow with the Marlow buzz, and took a splendid lot of trout. Good sport was had in the Lugg the same day, and a good dish of trout was taken with the orle and blue dun. The Pinsley is in good fishing order, and the fish are rising well at the fly. Some very nice trout were taken on Saturday evening with the blue dun, and a good dish was taken on Tuesday. Some good fish have been landed in the Ivington waters, and some nice ones in the Shobdon waters.—Gwynne.

### Medway (Tunbridge).

Anglers, above all people, should be thankful for small mercies. At last, after many days, we have had a shower, though not enough to make a drizzle. This, however, makes it look more like fishing, and no doubt we shall soon have the bream lovers busy, as well as better swims.—A good bag or two has been taken at the ballast pit during the week.—Ye Medway Water Rat.

### Ouse (Huntingdon).

The water is in good condition for fishing; but nothing has been done lately but a few dace until this morning, the 14th. The bream have been off the feed until this heavy rain has fallen, which caused them to feed a little more. A nice take of bream were brought to land, but the weight I have not heard. Since my last report it has come to my notice that one gentleman took, on the last day of June, 35 chub, the largest weighing 7½lb. If the weather continues favourable, the bream will be on the feed well.—H. Rout.

### The Ouse and Ivel (Blunham.)

The late rain has very much improved the state of the waters, and some good takes have been had. Bream are feeding freely.—T. E.

### The Shannon (Castleconnel.)

The following fish were landed during the week:—Mr. Henry Hodges, on his Doonass fishery, 2nd inst., one salmon 24½lb., and two peal 6lb. and 7lb.; 4th, two, 6lb. and 5lb.; 5th, one salmon, 16lb.; 8th, one, 20lb. Mr. E. T. Ingham on his preserves, 3rd inst., one peal. 8lb.; 7th, one salmon, 28lb., and three peal, 6lb., 6½lb., and 8lb.; 8th, one, 8lb. and one 5lb. on the World's-end; 5th inst., Mr. T. B. Cartwright on his Newgarden fishery, 2nd inst., one peal, 6lb.; 3rd, four—4lb., 5lb., 6lb., 7lb.; 4th, two—5lb., and 6lb.; 5th, one peal, 5lb.; 7th, two—5lb. and 8lb.; 8th, one, 4lb. Mr. W. O. Bell Irving and Mr. Francis Joynson, on Prospect and Landscape fishery, 2nd inst., five peal—3lb., 4½lb., 5lb., 7½lb., and 8lb.; 3rd, two—5lb. and 5½lb.; 4th, one, 6lb.; 5th, one salmon, 11½lb., and two peal 6½lb. and 7½lb; 7th, two—6lb., and 6½lb. Lord Massey on Hermitage, 2nd inst., two peal—5lb. and 6lb.; 3rd, one salmon, 12lb.; 4th, two peal—5lb. and 8lb; 6th, one, 6½lb., and one salmon, 13lb.; 8th, one peal, 5½lb. Mr. G. A. G. Rush on Woodlands, 3rd inst., two peal—6lb. and 7lb.; 6th, three—4½lb., 5lb., and 7lb.; 8th, one, 8lb., and one salmon, 10lb. We have had a good spill of rain, which, no doubt, will improve sport. Trout fishing pretty fair. Perhaps it may be worth noting that a lamprey eel was hooked and landed on a trout fly black rail by a workman in the employ of Mrs. Phelps, Water Park, named Peter Hastings; it weighed 2lb.—J. Enright and Son.

### South Level Cut (Littleport).

Not much to report again this week. Roach still dead off feed, and bream fishing very uncertain, owing, as much as anything, to large quantities of floating weeds, which bother the angler awfully. When the wind has been sufficiently strong to blow them either one side or other of the river, there has been a chance, for several fly-anglers who have been down have done fairly well. Mr. Ward, Littleport, has also again had two or three fair takes, 7 good bream falling to his rod yesterday. Mr. T. South, Littleport, has also been among them. On the 7th, he got six, four largest going 3½lb., 3lb., 2lb., and 2lb. Mr. Tuck, Newbarns, Ely, got two very fine ones about 4½lb. and 3½lb. respectively. On the 8th, Mr. T. South again got five bream, 3¾, 3½, 3, 2¾, and 1½lb. respectively.—Charles South.

### Teme (Tenbury).

This stream is still in good fishing order, being rather low, but in splendid condition for the fly. The fish are sporting freely, and good sport has been had, and some very fine fish have been landed with the blue dun, Marlow buzz, and red spinner, which are the best flies on the water at present. At the latter end of last week a gamekeeper in the employment of a gentleman at Ashford was fishing in the water near to Newnham Bridge, below Tenbury, with the blue dun, when he hooked a fine trout, which turned out to be 1½lb. in weight, when a pike struck out from the side of the river and boldly seized the trout, which it held in its jaws for some seconds. The sight of the keeper no doubt caused it to relax its hold; but the body of the trout bore several traces of the teeth marks of the pike. Fishing on Friday in the water near Easton Court. a gentleman with the orle took a good basket of fine trout. On Saturday a good day's sport was had below the town with the fly; one gentleman landed a dish of 4lb. with the blue dun, and another nice dish was taken with the Marlow buzz. The water was tried on Monday, and a very nice lot of trout was landed above the bridge with the blue dun. Good sport was had on Tuesday near the bridge; the fish were sporting freely with the blue dun and Marlow buzz. A gentleman landed a very fine lot of trout, averaging from ½lb. each. A gentleman fishing the water from Little Hereford Bridge down, landed a fine lot of trout with the blue dun. The Rea and Kyre are both in good fishing condition; the fish are rising well at the fly. A good dish of trout was taken in the Rea on Monday. Some very nice fish have been landed in the Kyre this week. In the Ledwyche some very nice fish have been landed with the fly.—Worcester.

### Teme (Ludlow).

This river and all the tributaries have wonderfully improved, and are now in first, class condition for angling. The showers of rain that have fallen at intervals have been highly beneficial; particularly the smaller streams, which sadly wanted rain. I heard of a gentleman at the end of last week, who caught no less than 62 fish, principally trout, in Teme in one day with the fly. On Friday, a gentleman visiting Ludlow on an angling excursion caught 9½ brace with the blue dun. A gentleman down the Steventon waters on Monday caught seven nice trout, two chub, and six fineperch with the worm and maggot. On Monday, a mere boy, named Lowe, landed 11 trout from Teme with the blue dun. A well-known fisherman from Corve-street, caught up the Ony at the end of last week 20 grand fish. On Thursday, while passing over the gridge to Craven Arms, by Stokesay Castle, your correspondent saw some gentlemen and keepers netting the river Ony for "rough" fish. They brought up with the nets four large pike, one of which weighed nearly 8lb., the others ranged from 3 to 7lb. each. The nets brought up some very fine chub, and a quantity of dace, also large numbers of trout and grayling; these latter were carefully returned to the stream, none the worse for their visit to *terra firma*. One of the gentlemen appeared to possess an amphibious existence; even while we were looking his foot slipped, and he disappeared in the Ony, but quickly returned to Mother Earth none the worse for his compulsory baptism, and laughing, resumed his netting. Some few fish have been caught up the Clun this week, one gentleman on Tuesday securing some 8 brace of fine trout. We hear of some very nice fish being taken from Letwyche Pool.—S. Ludlow.

### Tweed (Berwick).

Since last writing there has been a considerable fall of rain; but the ground was so dry that it absorbed it nearly all. The fresh there has been has brought down much weed, causing the net fishers a deal of trouble. A much greater fresh is what they would like, to effect a clearance. The salmon continue to be few and far between. Little or nothing is being done with the rod as yet. The herring fishing has now commenced, putting more life into the "good old town of Berwick-on-Tweed."—J. J. H.

### Trent (Lower).

A number of anglers again were out on the Trent in the neighbourhood of Dunham, Torksey, &c., and though the weather influences were against them, here and there were fair takes to be found. Eels and flounders afford some good sport at places, and some anglers are taking roach, dace, and bream fairly. A gentleman early in the week at Dunham, caught a pike of over 3lb., as well as four bream nearly 3lb. each, along with a lot of smaller fry. Some few barbel have been also taken towards Carlton.—Trace.

### Trent (Newark).

Sport during the past week has been a little better; bream, roach, dace, eels, flounders, &c., have been taken in very fair quantities, the worm being the most successful bait. One angler had 17lb. of very nice bream, in fact, there has been nothing to grumble about these last few days. The long hoped for fresh is now coming down the river, the water being considerably higher and very much charged with colour, and as we have had a steady downpour most of to-day, I should not wonder, in fact, I hope, that the river will get a good cleaning out, which will be a very good job. The worm will be found the best bait under the present circumstances; but the angler must not be disappointed if he finds the Trent in high flood by the end of this week.—The Trent Otter.

### Trent (Nottingham).

On Wednesday there was a most refreshing downpour of thunder rain; but the river, so far as this district is concerned, remained very low and clear. Anglers, during the week, have been unusually numerous, and in the upper reaches first-rate sport has been met with amongst dace and chub by the wielders of the fly-rod. A few barbel have been secured with the worm in the Shardlow length, and reports as to these fish feeding are more favourable from Willington and Burton. On Monday a dead salmon weighing 25lb. was taken out of the river at Hazleford by the ferryman, and it is feared it had been blown up bp the dynamite fraternity. I learn that two pike of 9lb. and 5lb. have been caught in the Fleet, at Besthorpe, and that on Saturday two Nottingham gentlemen, Messrs. Bown and Butler, landed 4st. of bream. Salmon have been seen disporting themselves above Kelham-bridge, but the subscribers who have tried for them have met with no reward. Salmon are still plentiful at Weston; but pending a rise, there is, in this respect, a dearth of sport. A man named Joseph Benson, of this town, has been fined 40s. by the Southwell magistrates for attempting to catch fish during the close season in the river at Hoveringham. At the same time an information was laid against a water-bailiff named Foster, who was a witness in the case, on the ground of his having committed perjury.—The Man at the Clubs.

### Upper Test.

Water very much improved since the rain on Sunday, and fish are more on the feed. On the 8th they rose off and on all day, and were not so shy or particular as to fly. I killed three brace about 1¾lb. each, some on red quill gnat, others on olive dun ribbed with gold wire. I had to knock off at 5 o'clock in the evening. They rise like mad from about 7.30 to 9; after that a brace or two are always to be had by fishing across and down stream with two big flies—"adopted" and large ledge are very good. Of course if there is any moon, you require either a white moth or coachman, taking care to fish the deepest and quietest water, particularly the end of a bunch of weeds, and close in to your own bank. Avoid all bushes, ledges, &c., as once hung up you are done for. A long line is not necessary; strike from the reel the instant you feel the slightest touch. This style of fishing is not half practised enough—there is much more excitement in it; you do not know what you have got on till it is in or near the net, and with a little care there is no necessity to hang your line up. I believe it is called streaking.—Hampshire.

### Witham.

The prospects of the angler in the Witham will have been much improved by the heavy downfall of rain which has come since Tuesday last. Up to this the water has been low and bad to reach, and the flush which will naturally follow will put the fish freely on the move so soon as the electric influences which have accompanied the storms have been expended. During the earlier days of the week anglers did not, as a rule, do well; but here and there there were some decent takes. The best were made on the drains, and particularly on the Lowbridge drain, where some capital bream were landed. Several anglers caught bream up to four pounds each, and one named Wilde, of Sheffield, exhibited a fine specimen of 6lb. 2½oz., taken near to Boston. Mr. Smith, of Sheffield, had in his basket four bream, which scaled nearly 18lb. Some very nice tench were also taken in the Lowbridge drain. Roach have now got into good condition. Maggots and wasp grub are pretty generally used in this district now by the visiting anglers, but home anglers have a partiality for local paste and other baits.—The Yellow Belly.

We have been favoured with the presence of several of our old friends from Manchester, Sheffield, and other places, some of whom have had very good catches, more especially two gentlemen from Manchester, who landed some very fine bream weighing from two to three pounds each. Both perch and roach are now beginning to come on feed. I would advise anglers to provide themselves with worms.—Packet Hotel, Dogdyke.

### Walton-on-Thames.

A lot of rain fell here yesterday, which will improve the fishing very much; the barbel are biting more freely, the bream are very numerous, and of larger average. Friday, 4th inst., J. Hone, 6 bream and 2 doz. roach; on the same day G. Hone, jun., 3 bream and 4 doz. roach; on the 5th and 6th inst. J. Hone, 17 bream and 3 doz. roach; G. Hone, jun., 12 bream and 8 doz. roach, 2 pike, one 6½lb. Monday, 7th inst., J. Hone, 6 doz. roach; G. Hone, sen., 12 bream; G. Hone, jun., 2 bream and 6 doz. roach. Tuesday, J. Hone, 3 doz. roach. Thursday, J. Hone, 5 bream and 4 doz. roach. Watford has had some large baskets of fish, but details have not been reported. The anglers staying at the Swan Hotel have had some large baskets and several nice trout. On Thursday, a gentleman fishing near the gas works took a nice barbel of over 6lb., fishing near the bank.—Goldfinch.

### The Wharfe (Yorkshire).

At last the welcome rain has come, and the hopes of anglers are in the ascendant. A terrific thunderstorm burst over Leeds this afternoon (Wednesday), such a storm as I never witnessed before, and devoutly hope shall not again for some time; the lightning fairly blazed on all sides, and the peals of thunder were simply deafening, while the rain, mingled with large hailstones, descended in sheets. During the week the bottom fishers have had good sport with the eels, but excepting in the reservoirs, where one or two good dishes of trout have been taken with maggot, there has been little done in this district. As I write it is still raining heavily, so that I anticipate a good fresh down the Wharfe in the morning, when, no doubt, some splendid dishes of trout will be taken.—Francis M. Walbran.

### Wye and Derwent.

We have had a very great deal of thunder; rain fell during the past week. Yesterday (Wednesday), Derbyshire was visited with one of the severest thunderstorms ever known to the oldest inhabitants living, the lightning doing a vast deal of damage all over Derbyshire, such as killing a great quantity of cows, &c., splitting trees, and knocking chimneys down and the roofs off houses. Both the Wye and Derwent to-night (Thursday), have a nasty white limestone-coloured water on them. The Derwent is rising a little, so no doubt we shall have a flush before long. The bottom fishers, all up and down the Derwent, have killed a fair quantity of fish to-day, mostly with wasp grubs and maggots for baits. Mr. Smith, Matlock Bath, has killed a set of over 3lb. this morning, by angling with wasp grubs for baits. In iact, I hear of a lot of eels being killed on night lines lately. Sport during the week, with the artificial flies, has been very fair, and baskets up to nine brace per angler have been made. The killing flies have been bumbles, yellow dun, ash dun, and black gnat. F. C. Arkwright, Esq., of Willesley Castle, Cromford, has been having the Derwent netted below Cromford last week, on purpose to get the pike and coarse fish only. They killed two pike, the largest fish being 9¾lb., some chub of good size, and a number of roach and dace, the grayling and trout being returned to their native element again. Fishing prospects are looking first-class for next week.—George James Eaton.

### The Yare (Norwich).

As I fully expected when I wrote last week's report, sport has been first-rate at nearly all stations on this river. From Brundall, both at Messrs Flowers and Co., and also at Coldham Hall, reports of an exceedingly encouraging character have reached me. Without going into names or details, suffice it to say that both roach and bream are now sharp on feed, and nearly every party who understands these peculiar waters are successful. If friends from a distance visit these waters and rely on their own experience, they will, in all probability be disappointed, as fishing here requires some local knowledge, and as the season is now fully in, I shall be pleased to answer any inquiries, and to give any information to the best of my ability to intending visitors, always provided they inclose *stamped* directed envelope. Braam are now being caught all the way down at the rate of from 4 to 6st. per boat, and two friends of mine fishing at Cantley on July 10th, had a very rare and interesting incident occur whilst angling. A gentleman, by name Mr. Lapthorne, was suddenly hit by something in the back of the neck whilst bream fishing from a punt, and to his and his companions' astonishment they found it was a trout of nearly 4lb., which had jumped into their boat. The prize was exhibited in Mr. Lapthorne's window on Thursday, July 10th. From Buckenham the reports are first-rate, both with regard to roach and bream, and I should advise all those who contemplate a visit to Norfolk to come as soon as possible, for the prospects were never better. A heavy storm, accompanied by sharp lightning and thunder, visited this district last night (Wednesday), but it was not enough to disturb angling. Eels were picked up next morning, also pike, near Norwich.

### Yore (Hawes).

My long silence has been caused by want of matter that would interest your readers. I have now good news for them. The weather has broken, and there is now every prospect of sport. The river came out on Thursday, and again on Friday. A friend of mine took 17 brace on Friday, and 3 brace on Saturday morning. I was out myself for about three hours on Friday evening, and got 6 brace. I do not hear of any large fish being taken. The "cuss" is on in millions, and the river seems literally alive with small fry. I am glad to note that a good many spiles have been put into the river during the dry time, but unfortuaately not soon enough, as I am of opinion many of the finest holes were cleared out by the netting fraternity; but better late than never. Weather dull. Barometer falling. Thermometer lower than it has been for some time.—Joseph Corry.

## CLUB REPORTS.

### ACTON PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

Having resigned the Acton Piscatorial Society, I beg to send you my last report for them, per same post. The members of the above society held their first dinner of the season on June 18th, Mr. A. C. Bocking in the chair, Mr. W. Eydman, vice. After the usual loyal toasts had been drunk, "The Army and Navy" followed, being responded to, the former by Mr. M. H. Robinson, of the Yeomanry, in a humorous speech. Mr. Brougham responded for "The Thames Angling Preservation Society" in his usual form. In the absence of Mr. P. Geen, the name of one of the delegates to the Anglers' Association responded for that body. Mr. Brougham, secretary of the T.A.P.S., in a happy manner proposed "The Health of the Society," which was coupled with the names of Mr. Bocking and Sec. Simpson. "The Prize Winners of the Past Season" was proposed by Mr. Parker, our champion fly fisher, and was drunk, coupled with the names of Messrs. Cook, W. Eydman, E. Eydman, F. West, W. Howell, C. Simpson, and G. Townsend, who took, as named, some good prizes, Mr. Cook wetting the cup won by him with some "cham.," which was passed round the top end of the table, and seemed to me, from the bottom end, to be enjoyed. Some good prizes were given for the season 1884-85, Mr. Cook's 10s. being followed by a shower of them (prizes I mean), given by Messrs. W. Eydman, West, Richardson, Simpson, R. M. Robinson (another cup for the first fish sizeable for setting up by the society), Mr. Blackman, Mr. Blackbag, and Mr. Bocking, our president. Mr. M. H. Robinson gave us as a prize, the Fishing Gazette, handsomely bound, up to present date, for the first roach, 1lb. 4oz., to be set up by the club. The chairman having ruled short speeches were to be the order of the evening, that was carried out by himself and others, some capital singing filling up the evening.—C. J. Dean.

### ALEXANDRA SOCIETY OF ANGLERS.

The members of the above society had an excellent show of fish on the 6th inst. Mr. Wilson and Mr. Tom Gripton, bream from Dagenham; Mr. E. Wicks, roach, perch, and dace; Mr. Flansie, perch. Mr. Hicks, our worthy host, has given a very handsome fishing box as a prize for the heaviest weight, and several other prizes are promised.—F. Wagner, sec.

### AMICABLE BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

The thirty-first annual dinner took place at the Five Horse Shoes, Hoddesdon, Herts. Thirty members and friends sat down. The dinner passed off very successfully, Mr. Coomes having catered in his usual manner, leaving nothing to be wished for. Mr. Medcalf occupied the chair, faced by your humble servant. Notable amongst the guests were Mr. Murray, Mr. Crumplen, Mr. Hatfield, and Mr. Fitch. Mr. Hatfield brought an American friend, who kindly gave us some of his experiences across the broad Atlantic with regard to fishing and other matters. They do catch "whoppers" over there. After dinner Mr. Brearley proposed the toast, "Success to the Society," Mr. Medcalf, "The Press," which was responded to by Mr Crumplen, followed by others from Messrs. Murray, Hatfield, Fitch, Sinclair, &c., when the chairmsn announced that the open air would be a benefit to all, and stated that Mr. Coome, the host, would take the guests and himself for a ride. All anglers like to see water, whether it be salt or fresh, so that it can produce a fish; so we went to have a look at the source of that beautiful river known as the New River, although it is very old, and known as the Amwell Springs. Then we paid a visit to the quaint old church and churchyard—Amwell. Afterwards we went to Mr. Longmate's, the Red Lion, at Stanstead, to have a look at Mr. Murray's breeding-boxes, and the baby perch contained therein. We met Mr. R. Ghurney there, and several suggested alterations for the future, for the benefit of breeding fish for the anglers—whose name is legion and still they come. After which we returned to the starting-point and had a very good tea, Mr. Medcalf doing the old lady's part with the teapot in his usual genial manner, in which I think very few can surpass him. After tea to the Rye House and gardens, and then the return to London. We have to record a blank with regard to weighing fish in on that day; but several were fishing and got fish—Mr. Willis, Mr. Powers, and others, during the short time they had to try. I shall now conclude with my most hearty thanks to those gentlemen who did us the very great honour by their presence on that occasion.—J. Worledge, sec.

### ANCHOR AND HOPE ANGLING SOCIETY.

About 20 members of the above society fished for a series of prizes on the 6th inst., at Tonbridge; but after a hard day's fishing only two prizes were taken, the following being successful:—Mr. Clark, sen., first; Mr. Somers, sen., second.—D. Davis, sec.

### ANGLERS' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

Since my last report I beg to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of 16s. from the donation box of the Highbury Angling Society.—G. Ghurney, sec.

### BRISTOL GOLDEN CARP ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

Messrs. Wride, Tippitt, Stephens, and Harvey had some nice bags of roach and dace at Highbridge on Saturday last. Amongst Mr. Wride's catch was a couple of very fine roach, one scaling 1lb. 9oz., and the other a little over 1lb.

### BROMPTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

Some more good shows on July 6th, Messrs. Ducker, Roach, and Burbidge having some nice bream; Messrs. E. Saunders, C. Saunders, and Dutton, roach; Messrs. Stonebridge and Pearce, dace—altogether a very creditable display for the visitors and fellow-members.—W. Dutton, sec.

### BURDETT ANGLING SOCIETY.

The following gentlemen have weighed in fish at this club during the past fortnight:—On the 29th ult., Mr. Hadkiss, bream and roach; Mr. Reeves, chub; Mr. Stoke, perch; Mr. Eaton, chub and roach; Mr. Hammond, bream; Mr. Searle, tench; Mr. Flint, bream. On the 6th inst., Mr. Hadkiss, bream; Mr. Reeves, chub; Mr. Searle, tench.—T. G. Walker.

### CITY OF LONDON ANGLING SOCIETY.

We had a good show of bream and roach from Dagenham on the 6th, contributed by Messrs. Castell, Chambers, and G. Blackwell. Our return visit was not so well attended as our former ones, owing to the hot weather, 17 clubs being represented, viz., Hoxton Brothers, Reform, City of London, Waltonians, Convivial, Brompton, Good Intent, Bermondsey Brothers Stoke Newington, and Original Clerkenwell, also the Angler's Pride, Bostonians, Crown, Piscatorial, Globe, Independent Brothers, Peckham Brothers, and Rodney. Mr. Rowland, of the Waltonians, was in the chair, faced by Mr. Holmes, of the Globe; Mr. Beningfield pianist. The following gentlemen contributed to the harmony, Mr. Rowland singing "Don't I Love my Rose"; Mr. Holmes, "Sunny Days"; Mr. Scott, "A Man is a Man," and "Never Desert an Old Friend"; Mr. Watkins, "The Midshipmite"; Mr. Cecil, "Curious Days"; Mr. Roberts, "Chamois Hunter"; Mr. Ethridge, a reading; Mr. Burwash, "The Old Nigger"; Mr. Chambers, "Love is a Funny Thing"; Mr. Jennings, "Sailing"; Mr. Cecil, "Paddy and the Rope"; Mr. Ellis, a song; Mr. Constable, "Bonnie Black Bess"; Mr. Adams, "The Spade"; and Mr. Loomes, the last song of the evening. The next visit on the general list will go to the Waltonians, and the next on the district list to the Bermondsey Brothers. I am requested to thank those gentlemen who attended.—Cas.

### CLAPTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The ordinary weekly meeting was held on Wednesday last, Mr. G. Parry in the chair. The Secretary reported that since the last meeting an agreement had been entered into with Mr. Coventry, by which the Clapton now had the right of fishing his waters for the season. This was much approved by the members, as now, besides the fisheries at the Tottenham, they had also the fisheries from Flanders Weir to Enfield lock. The secretary brought forward a suggestion than an alteration should be made in the day upon which the weekly meetings were held, and suggested Monday as far more suitable than Wednesday. The former day would allow of catches on the preceding Saturday to be shown on the Monday, whereas such catches would not be fit to show on Wednesday. Mr. Howse instanced the number of City gentlemen who had joined the Society, the majority of whom would avail of the Saturday afternoon for angling. Those also who angled on Sunday and Monday could so easily weigh in and show their catches on the Monday. The members present thought the suggestion an excellent one, and it was unanaimously ageed to. The secretary stated that he would have a circular printed and sent to each member notifying the proposed alteration, and if the members not then present were agreeable to the alteration, that it could come into force after the next meeting which would be held as usual on Wednesday next. The secretary reported that he had great pleasure in stating that the numbers were now upwards of 60, and that he thought the members should congratulate themselves in knowing this, that they had 20 miles of excellently preserved water close to their houses available for a day, afternoon, or evening's fishing; also that they had pieces of private waters gratuitously placed at their service by a gentleman in the neighbourhood, and he suggested that it would be only now fair to the present members that those joining the society after the expiration of the present month, should pay an entrance fee of 10s. 6d. This was generally agreed to. There were several shows of fish, notably: Mr. Graham Bennett, roach from the Lea, largest 13½oz.; Mr. Chillingworth, roach from the Lea, largest 9¾.oz; Mr. H. Short, small barbel and fine dace from the Thames. Five new members were elected. The secretary then alluded to the poisonous condition of the river, and read a letter, copies of which he sent to the papers. The secretary's son produced a basketful of fish, poisoned and stinking, which had been collected in a few minutes from the river at the end of spring-hill. It was stated that thousands of fish were then floating about dead, and surprise was expressed that any fish should live at all in such a poisoned water. A cordial vote of thanks to the chairman closed the proceedings.—Henry Howse, hon sec.

### CROWN PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The members of this society fished at Weybridge, on the 6th inst., for the following prizes:—A Handsome Lamp and Silver Watch (club prizes), Mr. Senneck; a Fishing Box and Knives for the third, Mr. Penn; a Volume of Novels for fourth. I am happy to say that all were taken; first, by Mr. W. Burwash, with roach and dace; second, by Mr. Johnson, with dace; third, by Mr. Cavanagh, with roach; a fourth, by Mr. W. Attridge, with perch. Mr. Johnson promises a prize for the gross weight from Dagenham Lake, taken during July.—Old Nigger, sec.

### EDMONTON AND TOTTENHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

This society had a fine show of fish at the club-room on the 6th. Our trays not being large enough to hold all of them, we had to borrow two more from our treasurer, Mr. C. Lowen. The following gentlemen had fish:—Messsrs. Crane and Bentley, trout and dace, and roach, dace, and perch; Messrs. Gray, Collyer, Nathen, Ferry, and Foster, bream and roach; and Mr. J. Hasler tench from our water. This is the largest show we have had this season, but we hope to have a good many more like it.—F. A. Gray, sec.

### FITZROY ANGLERS.

This society, which is held at F. Kemp's, The Crown, Cleveland-street, Fitzroy-square, had some nice fish on view on the 6th, from various parts of the country. Mr. Mitchell had three bream that turned the scale at 9½lb., and a roach over 1lb.; Mr. Ramsey also had some nice fish. On the 8th, Mr. F. Kemp was out with a friend for a few hours, and got a nice lot of dace from the Thames. On the same evening The Golden Barbel paid this society a complimentary visit. Mr. Ramsey presided, assisted by Mr. Ralph George. Mr. Emery and friends entertained the company with selections on the banjo and concertinas, and a very pleasant evening was passed. The members of Golden Barbel, Great Northern, and the Fitzroy will fish for a prize given by Mr. Kemp. The competition will take place at Shiplake on the 27th, all to start from Paddington by the 9 o'clock train.—Pixie.

### THE GRANGE ANGLING SOCIETY.

The usual fortnightly meeting was held on the 3rd inst., Mr. Hosken, the president, presiding, there being also a good attendance of members. After the business of the evening was concluded, Mr. George Gibbons presented to the society, for the use of the members, fifty gauge boards, giving both Thames and Association measurements, a specimen of which, Mr. Editor, I send you with this report for your inspection. The boards will be a great acquisition, as no undersized fish can now be taken in error. A hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Gibbons for his kindness brought the meeting to a close.—W. K..

### GREAT NORTHERN BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

July 6th the following members weighed in roach, dace, and bream—the takes were small :—Messrs. G. Watling, Scott, King, W. Theobald, Martinella, P. Stammer, Baker, F. Watling, Young, Hewitt, Seeley, J. K. Fitch, and Watling, sen.—J. Fitch, sec.

### GREAT GRIMSBY ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

List of names of successful competitors in the match fished on June 25th, 1884 :—1st prize, Mr. Southern ; 2nd prize, Mr. Ellis ; 3rd prize, Mr. Gibbons ; 4th prize, Mr. Morris ; 5th prize, Mr. Stokes ; 6th prize, Mr. Willmott ; 7th prize, Mr. Johnson ; 8th prize, Mr. Skelton ; 9th prize, Mr. Croft ; 10th prize, Mr. Thompson ; 11th prize, Mr. F. Robinson ; 12th prize, Mr. Trolley ; 13th prize, Mr. T. Green ; 14th prize, Mr. Senior ; 15th prize, Mr. Calvert. Prize for largest roach, Mr. Willmott ; prize for largest perch, Mr. Forge, sen. ; prize for largest eel, Mr. Senior ; prize for greatest number of fish, Mr. Southern ; prize for greatest variety, Messrs. Forge, Senior, and Johnson.—J. Green, sec.

### GOLDEN BARBEL.

On the 6th several of the members visited the Welsh Harp. Master Crow (a youth about 14) managed to hook a very nice carp about 10lb. It was successfully landed by Mr. Stoner, much to the delight of the whole body of Golden Barbels present. Master Crow not being a member, transferred the fish to the society for a consideration, and the fish is now in the hands of Mr. J. Lancaster, of Camden Town, for the purpose of preservation. On the 8th Mr. J. J. Jones had some nice plump roach from Rickmansworth.—Pixie.

### GOOD INTENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of this club fished at Ware on June 22nd for 10 prizes, the winners being the following :—Mr. J. Bell, first ; Mr. Maybury, second ; Mr. Kemp, third ; Mr. Winter, fourth ; Mr. Rollison, fifth ; Mr. Hadfield, sixth ; Mr. Ormes, seventh ; Mr. Green, eighth ; Mr. Philpott, ninth ; Mr. Lassiter, tenth. On June 29th, the members fished for 10 prizes, go where you please, the result being some good takes, the winners being the following in order :—Mr. Maybury, first ; Mr. Fortiscue, second ; Mr. Philpott, third ; Mr. Devon, fourth ; Mr. Guntrip, fifth ; Mr. Nelson, sixth ; Mr. Pluckrose, seventh ; Mr. Murphy, eighth ; Mr. H. Lord, ninth ; Mr. J. Robinson, tenth. That concludes our prizes for the year. On July 6th there was a good show of roach, bream, and dace—Mr. Philpott having two roach, one 1lb. 10½oz., and the other 1lb. 4½oz., and some good bream. This brings our financial year to a close.—R. Murphy.

### GREENWICH ANGLING SOCIETY.

President—Baron Henry de Worms, M.P. Members of neighbouring clubs are informed that this society has removed to the Prince Albert, Royal Hill, Greenwich, and are invited to attend any Thursday evening at 9 o'clock.

### HIGHBURY ANGLING SOCIETY.

Several members were out on the 6th instant, but the result of their efforts did not realise their expectations. The following gentlemen, however, produced some very fair roach, perch, gudgeon, dace, and bream—namely, Messrs. Higley, Edwards, E. Wheatley, H. Temple, and S. Howell, jun. The annual dinner is fixed to take place at Mr. Lyndsell's, the Pied Bull, St. Margaret's, on Saturday the 30th August next.—Jas. E. Wheatley, sec.

### INDEPENDENT JOVIAL ANGLING SOCIETY.

Several of our members were out on the 6th, but met with very little success. One of our members, Mr. Spratley, fishing in the river Colne, landed 11¾lb. of bream in about three hours ; he was quite busy. Lost several others, he having left his landing net at home.—C. Smart, sec.

### IZAAK WALTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

Mr. Wilshire has again had some very fine dace. Messrs. T. Dennison, sen., and T. Dennison, jun., had roach and dace on Wednesday, the 2nd inst. Messrs. B. Crook, A. Bass, and J. K. Charters had roach and dace on the 6th inst., and Mr. Stevenson, a visitor, showed roach on the same morning. Messrs. G. Wood and G. P. Rolt had some very good bream on Wednesday, the 9th inst. ; Mr. G. Bliss had roach on the same day. Messrs. G. Wood and G. Bliss won the two special prizes given by Messrs. A. Bass and G. P. Rolt, for the two heaviest weights of any kind taken on the first four Wednesdays in the season. The week-day members dine at Mr. J. Lyndsell's, Pied Bull, Stanstead, St. Margarets, Herts, on Wednesday next, the 16th inst. Dinner on table at 2.30 precisely.—H. B.

### LIVERPOOL ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

We had our opening day after the close season on the 19th ultimo, when thirty members fished in New Pool and Petty Pool by the kind permission of Lord Delamere, per G. Garfit, Esq. The weather and scenery were all that could be wished for, and the outing was thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated by every one, though light creels were the order of the day ; but this matters little when accompanied by light hearts, as was the case on this occasion. The prize winners were, Messrs. H. Wood, Leaman, Cardwell, and Woolfall, in the order named. Our next excursion is fixed for the 24th inst. in the large lake at Combermere Abbey, by the special permission of Lord Combermere. There will no doubt be a goodly muster of members on this occasion, as the lake is famous for its abundant store of big fish, and the ancient and historical abbey for its lovely surroundings and scenery. Members will receive the usual circular with full particulars in due course, and, as I shall endeavour to get a saloon carriage for the party, I have to ask each one to make up his mind as soon as he can and inform me without delay of the result.—R. Woolfall, hon. sec.

### LIVERPOOL CENTRAL ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

The members of the above club held their first match of this season on July 7th, in the canal near Mollington. The weather being very unfavourable, there being thunder and heavy rain the greater part of the day, the baskets were small, and only two prizes taken. First prize, silver lever hunting watch, taken by Mr. W. Wilds, with roach and bream. Reel and line, specimen prize, taken by Mr. G. McKee, with the heaviest single fish.—R. S McQueen, hon. sec.

### NEWARK-ON-TRENT PISCATORIALS.

The supper and prize distribution of the winter club of the above took place on Tuesday evening, July 1st, at the Horse and Gears Inn, Portland-street. A large number of members were present, who partook of an excellent supper, after which prizes were presented to the successful competitors as follows :—Roach : R. Chilton, G. Gumsley, and R. Dale. Dace : H. Smith and F. I. Levick. Bream : J. H. Levick and T. Longdon. Chub : A. J. Allcock, A. Wilson, and H. Cubley. Perch : W. H. Norledge, W. Atkinson, and C. Lane. Bleak : J. Proctor, W. Edlington, and J. Roe. A pike club was also started by nearly a score of members paying one shilling in addition to their usual contribution. This association is now in a very promising state, the doubtful members having received a check by having three of their number expelled for illegal practices during the last club, it being the purpose of the committee to try and remove the reproach sometimes attached to Nottingham and district clubs.

### NORWICH PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

A special meeting of the members of this flourishing club was held on Tuesday evening, 8th inst., at their club house, The Walnut Shades, for the purpose of presenting the prizes won in the first peg-down match, which was fished at Horning Ferry on Thursday, the 3rd inst., and, although the weather, &c., was everything that could be desired, yet the sport was slow. This is accounted for, undoubtedly, by the fact of the angling taking place during the middle and hottest part of the day, the fish usually beginning to come on just as a match concludes. There were present on this interesting occasion the president (Mr. Charles Daniels), Messrs. F. Parker (chairman), R. Otty (vice-chairman), O. B. Wilson, J. Wayth, J. Barnes, J. Carey, F. F. Bradley, R. Bradley, G. Bassingthwaite, J. Johnson, E. H. Capon, Lemmon, W. Butler, E. H. Corbyn, H. C. Townshend, F. Spelman, W. Page, J. Weyer, T. Kelf, W. Wright, R. Page, J. Holmes, A. Bunnett, Russell, W. Hinsby, W. Gill, Plummer, Tandy, Barnes, Paveley, G. Cubitt, A. Simm, W. Capon (hon. sec.), and R. Moll (hon. sec. Norwich Angling Club. The chairman stated that 43 members entered for the match, and that it was his pleasing duty to present prizes to the 21 successful competitors, whose catches averaged about 5lb. each. Their prize list was one of the best they had ever known, and he heartily congratulated the winners. The prize winners were :—1st, Mr. R. Page ; 2nd, Mr. Gill ; 3rd, Mr. H. Lacey ; 4th, Mr. Hinsby ; 5th, Mr. Cushion ; 6th, Mr. O. B. Wilson ; 7th, Mr. W. Wright ; 8th, Mr. Cubitt ; 9th, Mr. W. Capon ; 10th, Mr. Russell ; 11th, Mr. Lemmon ; 12th, Mr. Otty ; 13th, Mr. Butler ; 14th, Mr. C. Daniels ; 15th, Mr. W. Page ; 16th, Mr. Corbyn ; 17th, Mr. F. Spelman ; 18th, Mr. J. Barnes ; 19th, Mr. F. Bradley ; 20th, Mr. E. Capon ; 21st, Mr. Kelf. The proceedings were interspersed with some capital songs by Messrs. Corbyn, Carey, Barnes, and Paveley, accompanied by Mr. Bunnett. The toasts of the prize winners and non-winners were coupled with names of Messrs. Page and Gill and Wayth and Simm, and "Kindred Societies" with the name of Mr. R. Moll, and a hearty vote of thanks to Messrs. Butler and Spelman, for their arrangements on the morning of the match, brought to a close one of the most successful meetings of this prosperous society.—R. Moll.

### NORFOLK ANGLING SOCIETY.

On June 29th, Mr. Measures and Phelps had a fine show of bream weighing over 30lb., largest weighing 4lb. 4oz. ; Mr. Tattenhall also showing a very nice tray of roach and dace, On July 2nd, Mr. Foulger had a splendid show of tench and one jack weighing 28lb., largest tench 5lb. On 6th, Mr. Tattenhall weighed in another pretty lot of dace. Mr. Wharton showed roach and dace, but not at all up to his old form.

### NORTH-WESTERN ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of this society have been getting some sport lately. On the 6th inst. the trays in the clubroom were well filled with fish. Mr. Culpitt, 3 jack ; Messrs. D. North and W. Plumpton, sen., a brace each ; Messrs. J. Grindley, W. Aldis, W. Hillier, jack, bream, and roach. On the 5th, Mr. England weighed in a brace of jack and some bream.—W. Hillier, sec.

### ORIGINAL CLERKENWELL PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The following members weighed in some capital fish on the 6th inst., consisting of roach, dace, and a few perch :—Mr. Longman, roach, dace, and perch, 10lb. ; Mr. Craffard, roach and dace, 9lb. 5oz. ; Mr. Kent, roach and dace, 8lb. 4oz. ; Messrs. Laundy, Newman, and Obbard also weighed in, the latter winning Mr. Laundy's prize.—J. Obbard, sec.

### PECKHAM BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of this club fished at Amberley on the 6th, "The Duke" scoring a win for the President's cup, beating W. H. Page by 6oz. Messrs. Gafney, Parsons, and Brancher also weighed in. A special general meeting, to vote club prizes for the season, will take place on the 22nd ; all members are requested to attend.—Gadfly.

### PHŒNIX ANGLING SOCIETY.

About 12lb. of bream, perch, roach, and rudd were weighed in on the 6th inst. by the brothers Ashley, Joe Keen, Grist, Reed, and Milton.—W. E.

### THE PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

Last Monday was the half-yearly meeting of this society, and the circular convening the meeting set forth the following business :—1. To receive the treasurer's audited financial statement for the past half-year. 2. To appoint the date, and fix place of meeting for the summer dinner. 3. To elect a chairman and vice-chairman to preside over same. 4. To consider and to confirm, if approved of, the following alterations to rules : Rule 5. After the words "to consist of," to read "the president, treasurer," &c. Rule 6. After the word "committee," to read "president, treasurer," &c. Rule 26. To add after the word "year," "and caught and weighed 20lb. of fish, and has paid all arrears due." Regulation.—"Grayling," to read as follows: "To be taken only from 16th June to 14th March, not less than 8oz. in weight." Perhaps it is hardly necessary to say that the spacious room was exceedingly well filled, amongst those present being Messrs. Pattisson, Brougham, Meyer, Gillatt, Booker, Inderwick, Jesse, Blundell, Goodger, G. Gillatt, Fennings (hon. treasurer), Godwin, Turnner, Brown, Gray, Sachs, Foreman, Dr. Brunton, Perelli Rocco, Bennett, Walker, Russell, Huggett, Crumplen, Clegg, Bromley, Rev. G. Sumner, Hatfield, Wheeldon, Harden, Beasley, Gray, J. Lander (hon. sec.), &c., &c. Amongst the visitors were Messrs. Spreckley, G. Smith, &c. The hon. treasurer was unanimously voted to the chair. The minutes were read and confirmed in the usual manner. The audited statement of accounts for the half-year was duly submitted to the meeting ; and the finances being in a satisfactory condition, the accounts were unanimously passed. The fixing of the place for the summer dinner led to a division, as follows : Mr. Pattisson proposed, and Mr. Gillatt seconded, that the dinner be held at Mr. Stone's, The Ship Hotel, Halliford. Mr. H. B. Brown moved as an amendment, and Mr. Foreman seconded, that the dinner be held at the Ray Mead Hotel, Maidenhead. In the result the amendment was carried by a large majority. The date was fixed for 23rd July. The chairman of the summer dinner will be Mr. T. R. Sachs, and the vice-chairman Mr. H. B. Brown. The alterations of rules 5 and 6 were carried *nemine contradicente*. A long discussion took place on the suggested alteration to rule 26, which had been proposed by Mr. T. Gillatt, and which in effect made it impossible for any member who had not during the year weighed in 20lb. weight of fish to take any prize or prizes. Rev. G. Sumner opposed the motion, on the ground that it would be a hardship for a member to be excluded from prize winning supposing he had taken a splendid specimen of either the salmon, trout, or grayling. The weight of coarse fish was an entirely separate and distinct question. Dr. Brunton moved an amendment to the effect that salmon, trout, and grayling specimens should still be entitled to prizes if they gained them ; Mr. Crumplen seconded. Mr. Ross Faulkener, by letter, opposed the alteration of the rule as suggested. Mr. Pattisson moved that no alteration should take place in the present rule ; seconded by Mr. Lander. Dr. Brunton hereupon withdrew his amendment. A division was then taken. For Mr. Gillatt's proposed alteration, 4 ; for Mr. Pattison's motion, 21. The proposal was therefore lost. Several of the members did not vote. Mr. H. B. Brown carried his proposed alteration of the rule as to grayling, except so far that the 1st of August is, I believe, the first day on which he may be shown on the tables of this society. Messrs. Brunton, Sumner, and Walker took part in this question. Mr. Spreckley was of opinion that this society should not only amend their own rules if necessary, but should show a leading spirit in the alteration of any rules throughout the country which injuriously affected the fisheries. Not only the grayling, salmon, and trout fisheries, but also those of every other kind of fish. He believed more attention would be paid to this subject during the next few years than had been paid to them for centuries. Mr. Huggett weighed in three chub (the largest 3lb. 5oz.), from Sonning ; and Mr. Meyer four bream, from the Thames, and their healths were proposed as the successful anglers. The "continued success of the Piscatorial Society" was carried with the usual *éclat*. Although some divisions had taken place on the proposed alterations of rules, the utmost cordiality and good fellowship prevailed. "The Health of the Chairman" was duly proposed and carried, and the meeting brought to a close.—T. H.

### PORTSMOUTH WALTONIAN ANGLING SOCIETY.

On Monday, June 30th, the members and friends of the above society had their annual outing to Rooksbury Park, the seat of J. Carpenter-Garnier, M.P. About seventy started from the club quarters in four brakes. The drive is through some of the most delightful scenery in Hampshire, and the weather was all that could be wished for in "Leafy June." Carp fishing was the order of the day, and three prizes were to be contended for, value £10, divided as follows ;—1st, £5 ; 2nd, £3 ; 3rd, £2. The first and second was won, but the third did not come up to the mark. After a most enjoyable time of it, the party returned to head-quarters about 11 o'clock p.m. This is the third year they have accepted the hospitality of J. Carpenter-Garnier, he placing the whole of his extensive lakes at the disposal of the club on that special day.—Daggerwood.

### RODNEY PISCATORIALS.

On the 6th Mr. R. Smith exhibited some nice bream and perch from Amberley. On the 7th the South London United visited the headquarters of this society, and the result was a very pleasant evening. Mr. R. Smith, R.P., presided, assisted by Mr. Bignall, P.B., and sounds rang through the old hostelry that made the old walls ring again. Among those present were Messrs. Field, T. S. Hughes, Beckett, Page, Hopkins, J. Smith, Allen, &c. On the roll being called, the following societies responded : Bermondsey Brothers, Second Surrey, South London, Peckham Brothers, Wellington, South-Eastern, United Brothers, the Crown, Angler's Pride, Original Angler's Pride, Excelsior, Battersea Friendly, the Grange, the Marlborough, Busy Bees, St. Alban's, Gold Barbel, City of London, the Independent, and Walworth Piscatorials. On behalf of the Rodney Piscatorials, I beg to thank one and all for their company that evening, and when we get into our new quarters we shall be very happy to see them again, and exhibit the whole of Mr. T. Hughes' grand collection of piscatorial trophies. The next return of the South London United will be paid to the South London, Mr. Morris's, George and Dragon, Camberwell-road, the date of which will be announced by Mr. Kirwin, secretary of that society.—Pixie.

At a meeting held on the 9th inst. it was proposed that the next competition take place on the 20th inst., up the Thames, for prizes. Members are requested to attend on the 16th to confirm the above proposition.—Pixie.

### ROYAL GEORGE ANGLING SOCIETY.

A great number of the members of the above society went out on the 6th inst., the result generally being very good. The maximum quantity of fish was brought from Amberley, but the Thames was not badly represented. Messrs Palmer, Holden, Sinclair, Hewett, and Farey visited Amberley. Messrs. Henderson, Wood, Rider, and Hughes the Thames. We all hope to do better as soon as we get some heavy rains, as there are some good prizes to be fished for.—W. H. Rider.

### STOKE-UPON-TRENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

The first annual dinner of the above society was held at the Roebuck Hotel on Friday evening, June 27th, when thirty-three members and friends sat down to an excellent repast, prepared by the hostess, Mrs. Goodwin, to whom great praise was accorded for the admirable manner in which everything was served. The worthy president of the society, Mr. J. E. Hassall, being unable to attend through illness, Mr. Councillor Adams was voted to the chair, and Mr. W. R. Taylor to the vice-chair, when, after the removal of the cloth, the presentation of prizes to the successful competitors in the late contest was proceeded with, after which the chairman gave the usual loyal toast. The vice-chairman next gave "The Mayor and Corporation of Stoke," and was suitably responded to by the chairman. Mr. J. Montford next proposed "The Town and Trade of Stoke," Mr. Elliman responding. Mr. J. G. Fenn then proposed, in a neat little speech, the toast of the evening, "The Stoke-upon-Trent Angling Society," which was received with great enthusiasm. "The Ladies," "The Visitors," "The Hostess," and "The Hon. Secretary," then followed, the latter toast being proposed by the vice-chairman. Mr. J. Hollins, in responding, spoke of the great progress of the Society, and congratulated the members on its present flourishing condition. He also pointed out the great advantage of having one great centre association for the district, and regretted that his efforts towards this end had met with such poor support from the other societies in the neighbourhood, "The Dresden" and the Longton "Izaak Waltons" being the only societies which had signified their intention to co-operate. Notwithstanding this, he assured them he did not intend to relax his efforts in this direction. Mr. F. Clark very ably presided at the pianoforte, and during the evening sang several songs in capital style. Messrs. Baily, Fenn, J. Bell, Potts, Wm. Hollins, and Young also sang, and were thoroughly appreciated. A vote of thanks was given to the chairman and vice-chairman, and a most enjoyable evening was concluded by the singing of the "National Anthem."—J. Hollins, hon. sec.

### UNITED LONDON FISHERIES SOCIETY.

A meeting of the full committee will take place on Monday evening, July 14th, at 9 o'clock.—J. C. Murray, chairman ; R. Ghurney sec.

### UNITED BROTHERS, DEPTFORD.

Several of our members were out on the 6th, and had some very good sport. The following members weighed in :—Mr. G. Belton, roach and chub from the Medway ; Mr. H. Tyler, roach and perch from the Medway ; Messrs. Currans, Payne, Penton, and Beak, bream from Dagenham Lake. All members are requested to show up on Saturday night, as some very important business is to be done.—H. T.

### WAVENEY ANGLING CLUB, BECCLES.

The ordinary monthly meeting of this club took place on Thursday evening, July 3rd, at the club room, Caxton Arms, the Mayor (J. P. Walton, Esq.) in the chair. After the preliminary business was disposed of, and five new members elected, Mr. Oldham gave two humorous readings from "Anglers' Evenings," entitled "A Conger Story," and "An Intercepted Letter." Votes of thanks were accorded to Mr. Oldham for his readings, and to the Mayor for presiding. On Saturday afternoon several members assembled between the Swing Bridge and Cove Mill, to take part in the first match for prizes. Fishing commenced at about 3.15, and ended at 7.30, when the competitors adjourned to the club room to weigh in. The principal weights were as follows :—1st J. Hooker, 5lb. 14oz. ; 2nd, C. Chase, 3lb. 7oz. ; 3rd, T. Rouse, 2lb. 12oz. ; 4th, G. Knell, 2lb. 7oz. ; 5th — Oldham, 2lb. 2oz. ; 6th, J. Rouse, 1lb. 15¾oz. Mr. Chase, who caught the largest fish of the day (a roach 1lb. 2½oz.) takes Mr. Pickthall's special prize for the finest tray of six fish caught during the competition. The next monthly meeting of the club will take place on Thursday, August 14th, when Mr. West will give a practical paper on fishing tackle.—J. Hooker, hon. sec.

### WESTBOURNE PARK PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The usual weekly meeting of this society took place at the Pelican Hotel, Westbourne-park, on Tuesday evening last, there being a good attendance of members, several of whom have joined in a sweepstakes for competition on the Thames on the 13th July, at an entrance fee of 5s. each, although with very little confidence in securing a good take of fish. owing to the present very low state of the river. Since the opening season several good fish have been recorded, Mr. Beasley having several bream from the Thames, the largest weighing 4¼lb. ; but subsequently overtaken by Mr. Buttery with one of 4½lb. Mr. Walker has been successful among the rudd, having weighed among others last week one of 2lb., which would tax a good many to surpass. Others have been trying their skill with more or less fortune, Mr. Bowen producing on Monday some of the Welsh Harp bream, one weighing 3lb. 3oz. He did not, however, bring with him one of those large carp—no doubt, to his disappointment, as his visit to this water was, we believe, expressly for this species of fish.

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## A COARSE FISH ANGLER'S ADVENTURE WITH A SALMON, AND OPINION OF THE FISH.

MR. THOMAS WALKER, secretary of the Sheffied Anglers' Association, sends us the following :—" If the fish had not prevented me, I think I should have turned a poacher under the Salmon Acts last Saturday. I was ledgering in the Trent, above Torksey, for eels and flounders. I had caught two eels over a pound each with well-scoured lob-worm, and had put on another splendid bait, when off went my reel like a steam engine, and I found I had hooked a splendid salmon. Unfortunately, we did not keep company long, for he rushed up stream, and I followed until stopped by a stiff fence, which came down to the water's edge, and he smashed me.

" The play of a pike is only like having hold of a bleak compared with the fighting qualities of salmon."

TWEED AND TEVIOT.—The heavy pluvial descents of Saturday night and Sunday had the effect of bringing down the Tweed and Teviot to the extent of 2ft., thus rendering trout angling a little more productive than it has been for some weeks back. Taking advantage of the rise in the streams, anglers have again been at their favourite sport, and good baskets have been got. On the Tweed on Monday night, George Fairbairn had 8½lb. In the same river yesterday, Thomas Wightman had 5lb. ; and on the Teviot J. Johnston had 4lb. Many lighter baskets have also been killed. The rivers were again rapidly fining down, but rains overnight have caused a rise to-day of about 2ft. Our Coldstream correspondent writes as follows :—With the heavy thunderstorm which was experienced on Saturday night, the river on Sunday and Monday rose to over 3ft. With this fresh run of water the various fishing stations, which have for weeks been blank, had a few takes on Monday night. Twizel Mill tops the list with 27 grilse and 70 trout, Tweedwell and Lennel Haugh had four salmon and some trout, and most of the other stations had also a few. The following baskets were killed on the Tweed and Gala in the Galashiels district on Saturday :—Geo. Noble, 13½lb. ; Wm. Grant, 7¼lb. ; P. Bell, 7lb. ; J. Willcox, 6½lb. ; A. Blake, 5½lb. ; J. Murray, 5½lb. ; R. Key had six weighing 2½lb.—MAXWHEEL, Kelso.

TWEED SALMON FISHING.—The reports from these fishings state that last week trout, which had been the principal source of supply for the last month, were showing signs of decrease ; whilst grilse, which should have been increasing, show no signs of improvement, and salmon were as scarce as ever. On Saturday week, Mr. F. Edwards, Bridge-street, Berwick, had a fish, caught at Middle Seas, which weighed 38lb. The coast fisheries—notably Marshall Meadows and Goswick—are, however, getting better catches than they obtained last year at the same period. During the present week, however, the fishings showed a great improvement, the heavy rains on Saturday and Sunday having flooded the river. Yesterday the prices were : Salmon, 1s. 3d. ; grilse, 1s. ; trout, 1s. 11d. per lb.

CAPTURE OF A FINE STURGEON IN THE SEVERN.—One of the largest sturgeons ever caught so high up in the Severn for the past four years was captured off Gatcombe on Saturday by a fisherman named John Withers, of Awre. The royal fish measured 6ft. 2in. in length, and weighed 265lb. It was secured by a gentleman of Lydney, and forwarded to Birmingham.

PUBLIC RIGHTS.—ILLEGAL FISHING IN TEME.—On Tuesday, at Worcester County Petty Sessions, Mr. R. Rofe, innkeeper, Angel-street, Worcester, was summoned by Mr. G. A. Griffin, lessee of the fishing in the river Teme below Powick Bridge, for illegal fishing on June 26th. Defendant admitted fishing there, but said he did not know he was infringing private rights. He was fined 13s. including costs. It will be remembered that some time since the place where the defendant was fishing was claimed as a place where the public had the right to fish, but the justices decided adversely to the public.

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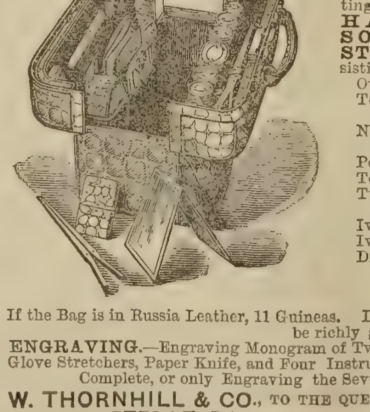

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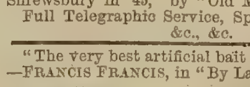

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Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only, and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith. Unless this rule be adhered to, no notice will be taken of such communications.

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# The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, JULY 19, 1884.

## STAFFORD ANGLERS AND IZAAK WALTON.

THERE is something very appropriate in the establishment of an angling club for Stafford, which was for a long time the home of Izaak Walton, and where, he tells us, it was his delight to

> "Loiter long days by Shalford brook."

The Club has purchased the right of angling in "some excellent water at Newton Bridge and Shallowford, the same water that has in years gone by been angled in by Izaak Walton, and whose house still stands in close proximity." We have much pleasure in referring our readers to the report of the hon. sec., Mr. B. Downing, and hope that some day the club will permit us to catch a trout or grayling in their classic stream.

## ANOTHER SILVER CUP FOR THE TOURNAMENT.

AFTER the T.A.P.S. dinner the other evening, Mr. R. B. Marston called on the Richmond Piscatorials, with the object of angling for a prize for the Tournament, and although the disbursements of the club, having been rather heavy, prevented their giving as a club, after an appeal from Mr. Marston in a very few minutes the sum of five guineas was promised, made up as follows :—Mr. Nuthall (Mayor of Kingston), £2 2s. ; Mr. Little, president of the society, £1 1s. ; Mr. Eyre, £1 1s. ; Mr. G. V. Powell, 10s. 6d. ; Mr. Smith, 10s. 6d. ; and it was decided to give a five guinea cup on the same conditions as before—the entrance fee to be 2s. 6d. A good many tickets for the Tournament were also disposed of. Will not some others, and much larger societies, follow the example of the generous Richmond Club ?

## ADDITIONAL PRIZES FOR THE TOURNAMENT.

THE Editor begs to acknowledge with thanks the following additional prizes for the Anglers' Tournament at the Welsh Harp on July 26, in aid of the Anglers' Benevolent Society. The programme of the Tournament will be published next week, and a complete list of the prizes, with notices of the same, on July 26.

THE TWO GUINEA CUP kindly promised us by Mr. W. Thomas, of the Gresham Angling Society, has arrived.

Miss CAMPBELL, of 2, Cecil-terrace, Maynard-road, Walthamstow, Essex, writes :—"In answer to your note, I shall be most happy to contribute for the Tournament a card of different kinds of baits, value about 25s. I have also a great curiosity, which will indeed be a prize—viz., a very little dog about 4in. long and perfect in form, mounted in a case ; it lived three months. Will ladies be admitted to the Tournament ?" Of course, we replied that ladies were admitted, and that we cannot have too many of them.

Messrs. D. and W. FOSTER, Naturalist Anglers and Tackle Makers, Ashbourne, write :—"We will send 100 yards of salmon line, value £1, as a prize."

Messrs. S. ALLCOCK and Co., of Redditch, say :—"We send you as prizes one of our new patent standard fly books, value 15s., and two fishing straps made from Col. Mawson's design, value 3s. 6d. each.

Mr. REUBEN HEATON, of Hospital-street, Birmingham, says :—"I have much pleasure in sending you this day one of my patent reels and a spring balance up to 40lb. in case as a contribution to the prizes for the Anglers' Benevolent Society, and I trust it may be greatly benefited by the Tournament. (Will Mr. H. kindly say value of each ?)

Messrs. GEO. ROUTLEDGE and SONS, The Broadway, Ludgate Hill, send us as prizes one copy each of Pennell's "Angler Naturalist," "Modern Angler," and "Book of the Pike."

Mr. TRELOAR, of Ludgate Hill, has kindly sent one of his guinea carpets as a prize.

Messrs. GILLETT, 40, Fetter-lane, say :—"We have much pleasure in sending you one of our solid cane fly rods, two tops, bronzed ferrules, bound cane handle, landing handles, and bag and spear, value 21s., as a prize for the Tournament."

Mr. H. BOOTH, 13, Chariot-street, Hull, promises a 12s. fly rod. (We wish he would give a couple of his capital light roach rods instead. We have used one now almost constantly for two years, and have caught pike and bream up to 5lb. and tench up to 2½lb., besides eels and numberless roach and rudd on it, and it is as good as ever.)

Messrs. W. WATSON and SONS, 308, High Holborn, say :—"We have the pleasure to send herewith a 'Tourists' General Rod,' value £1 10s., as a prize for the forthcoming Tournament, wishing you every success."

Mr. ROBERT RAMSBOTTOM, 81, Market-street, Manchester, writes :—"In response to your request, I beg to inclose a hank of my long gut as prize, and hope the affair will be a success." (Kindly say value, Mr. R. ; it is splendid in length and quality.)

Mr. A. BULMER, of 62, Wandsworth-road, says :—"I have sent by parcels delivery a landing net, which I shall be pleased to contribute."

Messrs. WOODFIELD and SONS, of Redditch, write :—"We send as prize one of our new patent joint folding landing rings, with net and telescope landing handle, as a prize for the Tournament."

YE MEDWAY DACE, one of our correspondents, kindly promises a prize.

Mr. WM. BROWN, 36, George-street, Aberdeen, says :—"I send you half-a-dozen of my phantom minnows as prizes for the Tournament."

Messrs. H. SCHWEITZER and Co. say :—"We shall be pleased to give a small contribution of cocoatina in aid of the funds of the A. B. Society."

The following prizes, which were not won, remain over from last year :—"British Sportsman," given by Mr. Day. Plated Tankard, given by Mr. Parker, of the "Good Intent" Anglers. Three Spinning Baits, given by Mr. Wrigley, of Cheltenham. Three Spinning Baits, given by Mr. Bullock, of Derby. Victor Hugo's "History of a Crime," and "Darwin on Worms," given by Mr. Marriott.

(We shall doubtless have other prizes to announce next week).

## THAMES ANGLING PRESERVATION SOCIETY.

THE Star and Garter Hotel at Richmond was, on Wednesday, the scene of the forty-sixth anniversary banquet of the Thames Angling Preservation Society, at which many well-known faces were to be seen, although the attendance was not so large as on some former occasions. The chair was occupied by Mr. Thomas Spreckley, the president of the society, and amongst others who were present were :—Sir Trevor Lawrence, Bart., M.P. for Mid-Surrey, the Mayor of Kingston (Mr. Alfred Nuthall), Captain Alfred, Mr. Joseph Andrews, Mr. W. H. Brougham (the secretary of the society), Mr. Joseph Brougham, Mr. J. M. Brougham, Mr. Lewis Brylett, Mr. J. Colston, J.P., Mr. F. H. Lemann, Mr. W. D. Lewis, Mr. A. J. Little, Mr. R. Lloyd, Mr. R. B. Marston, Mr. Hugh Marston, Mr. P. Mason, Mr. Ellis Mason, Mr. A. O. Miles, Mr. F. Moore, Mr. J. Reid, Mr. T. R. Sachs, Mr. W. Senior, Mr. W. R. Spreckley, Mr. J. P. Wheeldon, Mr. S. White, and Mr. N. Wootton.

During the assembling of the company, a well-executed painting of a perch and roach was exhibited by Mr. C. Eorster, of Dalston, who for many years was in the studio of the late Mr. H. J. Rolfe, and who is well-known to a large number of Thames anglers who were in the habit of visiting "The Landseer amongst fishes" in Nicholas-lane. The musical arrangements for the evening were kindly taken in hand by Mr. John Larkins, who gave some excellent songs, as also did Mr. H. H. Hughes and Mr. Evans, Signor Mori (of the Richter Concerts) presiding at the piano. The whole of these gave their services.

The toasts of "The Queen" and "The Prince and Princess of Wales and the rest of the Royal Family" were given from the chair, and heartily received.

Mr. Samuel White proposed "The Army, Navy, and Reserve Forces."

Mr. Joseph Andrews, whose name was coupled with the toast, said that with regard to the army he was very pleased to see that the supply had not been reduced, and while there was a sufficiency in that respect he was quite sure the army would be able to undertake anything that was placed in its way. A remark made by the speaker as to the position of General Gordon, which was understood by some who were not near him to be a political reference, gave rise to some expressions of disapprobation, mingled with cheers. Mr. Andrews went on to say that, with regard to the navy, he was quite sure our wooden walls, although turned into iron walls, might still be depended upon, for the ships were good and the men were strong. (Cheers.) The reserve forces were extremely valuable, and if the Government would give a little more money to encourage them they would still be more useful. When the volunteer movement commenced the corps were composed principally of gentlemen and men of business who had not much time to spare ; but now we had the working men, the sinew of the country, who were ready to do good service More officers were needed, and he thought many anglers, if they had a little time to spare, might do well to accept commissions in the volunteer service.

Captain Alfred also responded, remarking that he had been connected with the service for twenty-five years, having held her Majesty's commission in the oldest regiment in the service, the Honourable Artillery Company of London. The army had done good service in Egypt, and they had also done good service as anglers, for there was some good fishing in the Suez Canal.

The Chairman, in proposing "Success to the Thames Angling Preservation Society," said he wished to thank them all for coming at the call of the society to support him on that occasion. He did not feel very lively in giving that toast, for there were a great many absentees, but he wished to remind them that this was a society by itself. It knew no other society, and leaned on none. It was either a great lie or a great and living truth. If it was a lie they were doing wrong in receiving the money of the anglers and many of their kind-hearted friends who supported it although they never wetted a line. But they would easily see that it was not a lie. Was the old Thames full of fish ? Was it so seven or eight years ago ? (No, no.) Was it full of fish now ? (Yes, yes.) Everybody told him that it was so, and that was supposed to be owing to the preservation of the angling in the river during the last nine or ten years. (Cheers.) He was not going to detain them with a long speech, but he gave them that as a text to drop down into their hearts, to be photographed on their minds, and to carry home with them—a text which he commended to all who loved angling in the grand old river they had enjoyed so long, and that they hoped to enjoy for many years to come—(Cheers)—and if they went on in the way that he believed they were going on, they would be doing something that would not only enable them to enjoy it, but their boys, and even their girls too, might enjoy it when they were laid in their graves (cheers). The members of the Thames Angling Preservation Society were a very quiet lot of people. His friend Mr. Brougham did a good deal, but they did not puff themselves much. Their work, however, was making its influence felt in many directions, and they would easily recognise that if they knew the hundreds and hundreds of letters that were received with respect to it, and the many people who called, not only at their office, but at his counting-house, with respect to its work. In fact, his partners talked about cashiering him, because they thought he devoted more time to the society than he did to their business, but he told them that they ought to think it an honour that he could trust them to carry on the business without him (laughter). He, and their old friend Brougham—who had sown good seed that would bring forth fruit when they were all dead (applause)—had answered hundreds of letters from people in the country, who inquired as to the best way to form similar associations. They had a member of Parliament with them that evening (applause), and he hoped that Sir Trevor

Lawrence would do what he could to promote angling. Fishing was a great institution. The welfare and happiness of a great many people depended upon it. Many gentlemen who owned waters in this country possessed the power of giving an immense amount of pleasure to the hard-worked bread-winners of our great towns—pleasures which would make them good citizens, good patriots, and good men.- He had great pleasure in proposing the toast of "Success to the Thames Angling Preservation Society" (cheers).

Mr. W. H. Brougham, who was heartily received, here stated that amongst a number of letters which he had received in connection with that meeting was one from Sir J. Whittaker Ellis, M.P., who said that he would never forget the very pleasant evening he spent with the Thames anglers a few years ago, when his friend, Mr. Frank Buckland, was alive. That was about ten years ago, and he believed on that occasion they collected something like £200 for the society. He had very much hoped to be with them that evening, but he found that his engagements in town rendered that impossible. He regretted that the more, as he had hoped to have had the pleasure of meeting his colleague, Sir Trevor Lawrence, and their esteemed president, Mr. Spreckley. (Cheers).

Mr. A. J. Little, Chairman of the Richmond Piscatorial Society, said he had been asked to propose "The Board of Thames Conservancy." He did so with very great pleasure, because the Thames Angling Preservation Society would be no good at all without the Thames Conservancy, for they enforced the by-laws which that board issued, and at the same time he was happy to say they had done a great deal of work in instructing the Conservators as to what those bye-laws ought to be. A year, or a year and a half ago, all the angling societies of London—he might almost say of England—met together and suggested a revision of the by-laws. He was happy to say that the Conservators adopted their suggestions, and those by-laws were now in force. (Applause.) As one of the society's honorary river-keepers, he had a good deal to do with those connected with the Conservancy, and they worked very happily together. Sir Frederick Nicholson and Captain Burstall were always ready to do whatever they could to further the interests of the anglers. He would like to take that opportunity of thanking Sir Trevor Lawrence for the handsome prize he had given to the Richmond Piscatorial Society. He was always ready to look after the interests of fishing. (Applause.)

The Chairman remarked that in everything they did they were in full accord with the Thames conservators, who were willing to do whatever the society desired to add to the comfort of those who fished in the Thames. (Cheers.)

The Mayor of Kingston proposed "The Press," remarking that inasmuch as the gentlemen connected with the Press present that evening were not only thorough anglers, but personal friends of his, he did so with much pleasure. He expressed great regret at the long illness of Mr. Francis Francis, and remarked that his paper, the *Field*, had always been a great friend to the society, and contributed twenty guineas a year to its funds. They were glad to see Mr. Senior there as the representative of that paper—a gentleman whose experience in angling matters, both here and abroad, must have brought him to their notice. They also had amongst them their friend, Mr. Marston, the Editor of the FISHING GAZETTE, a gentleman who was a thorough angler. The reports they received weekly in the FISHING GAZETTE were most accurate and useful. He congratulated Mr. Marston upon the enlargement of his paper. Then there was Captain Alfred, of the *Angling Journal*, who gave them very fair accounts of fishing on all parts of the river, and finished up with a few little tit-bits which must be very amusing to them all. Mr. Wheeldon was one of the greatest anglers of the day, and nothing had been read with greater interest than his writings in *Bell's Life*. There was also their friend, Mr. Temple, of pictorial fame. He had great pleasure in proposing the health of these gentlemen.

Mr. Senior, in responding, said that good wine needed no bush, and at this time of day not only the power but the services of the Press were sufficiently well known to require no description. He thanked them very heartily for the manner in which the toast had been received.

Mr. Marston, in response to the calls of the company, said the Thames Angling Preservation Society had already done a great deal of good, and might do much more now that the Thames seemed to be in a state of Banting up the river, and was in a state of corpulency in the lower reaches that certaintly wanted taking down. If those who had the power would do something to keep sewage out of the river, it would be a great benefit, for it was no use preserving fish if the water was not fit for them to live in. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Wheeldon also responded, remarking that he was proud to have been associated for many years with the Press of England, whose boast was that it endeavoured to salve over every difficulty that arose, and to make peace where it could. In that respect it was not like the Press of a neighbouring country, which seemed to delight in fomenting a quarrel. He congratulated the society on the good work it had done. Having fished in the Thames for many years, he was well able to respond to the challenge of the Chairman when he asked whether the river was not now full of fish, for he knew that it was. The work of filling the Thames with good fish had been the work of this society. He had been endeavouring for years past to preach the doctrine that it was a standing disgrace to the anglers of London that the income of that society should be so small.

Sir Trevor Lawrence, M.P., who was received with loud and protracted cheering, said that just at the last moment of those cheers he caught the smallest echo of the voice of a gentleman who said, "No politics." He thought he might very fairly and honestly appeal to every gentleman present at that table to ask them if he had not, as far as in him lay, on every occasion of a non-political nature, done his best to forget that such a thing as politics existed? (Applause.) He need scarcely say that nothing would have occurred to his mind to have been more inappropriate on that occasion than to make the smallest reference to political subjects. With regard to their chairman and president, whose health he had the honour to propose—(applause)—he knew that it was absolutely unnecessary for him to say anything as to his merits. They knew what he had done for the society, they knew what he had done for Thames angling, and how he had done everything that he could to advance the interests and realise the wishes and desires of the anglers. He happened to have on his right some gentlemen who were the chairman's neighbours in Kent, and they told him that he was highly esteemed in the district in which he lived as a man full of public spirit, anxious to help his neighbours in every way, and a man for whom everybody had the highest possible respect. He thought they might congratulate themselves as a society that they had the honour of having him as president. It was a great thing to have a man of energy and capacity too. (Hear, hear.) He had interested himself very much in regard to the question of increasing the supply of fish in the Thames, and, no doubt, that supply had greatly increased. He (Sir Trevor) had a sort of feeling that the fish must be saying to one another what the American young lady said when it was suggested to her at the close of a dinner that she should have some lobster salad: she said she was "pretty crowded already." (Laughter.) He could not help thinking that what with the increase in the number of fish, and the present smallness of the stream, they must be "pretty crowded." They had now to supply the fish with water. It was a most melancholy consideration to see the state to which the river was now reduced, and the worst of it was that they did not see how it was to be improved. As to the suggestion which had been made that it might be possible to prevent the population of London taking what water they wanted from the river, those of them who were acquainted with the feeling of London must know that that was a perfectly idle suggestion. (Hear, hear.) Whether anything could be done with regard to placing locks lower down the Thames, or embanking the river higher up, he could not say, for he was not an engineer, and he knew nothing about these things; but it was a very serious question for the dwellers in the Thames valley to consider what could be done to improve matters in view of the yearly decreasing supply of water in the river. Their chairman, in speaking on another subject, turned to him, and said that anybody who had control over a reach of a river had the power in his hands to do a great deal to the advantage and interest of his fellow creatures. He happened to be in that position. He possessed about a mile of the Mole—a miserable stream; but they had fish in it, and on no occasion had any gentleman, or any gentleman's son—for some of them were very small anglers—asked him to be allowed to fish there, but the request had been cheerfully granted. (Applause.) He did not claim any great credit for that, for he would think it a very churlish thing to prevent anybody exercising such a right as that. The last time, or the last but one, that he had the honour of dining with them, they had his friend, Mr. Frank Buckland, with them. The appointment of that gentleman as inspector of fisheries was one of the best appointments ever made. It was a very great advantage that of late years they had had connected with the fishery interests of this country men of science. When, to succeed Mr. Walpole, Mr. Huxley was induced to take the position he now occupied, it was greatly to the interest of fishing. No doubt they had seen the perfectly ridiculous outcry that was made about mackerel, because the mackerel, like human beings, had a few parasites. They knew how, in a few sentences, Mr. Huxley disposed of that. Returning to the toast, he thought their chairman was a man who had his heart in the right place, and a man who devoted himself to the duties of his post. He had told him that evening that he did not think there was any place in the Lower Thames where there was any danger of poaching or other malpractices, but he could get several boats' crews together at very short notice to deal with the offenders. He was the right man to deal with the interests of anglers, and he was sure they had done right in selecting him as their President. He begged to propose to them, with the greatest possible pleasure, the health of a man who had thoroughly earned the hearty goodwill of every angler—Mr. Thomas Spreckley. (Loud cheers.) The toast was drunk with musical honours.

The Chairman, in responding, said that so long as he had their esteem and confidence, he would be happy to do all he could for the society. In concluding, he proposed "The Kindred Societies of the Thames" and all societies that helped them in their work.

Mr. F. H. Lemann, of Maidenhead, responded.

The Chairman next proposed "The Visitors," for whom a neighbour of his, Mr. Richard Lloyd, of Sydenham, and Mr. J. Reid, responded.

"The Fishing Associations of London" was also proposed by the Chairman, and Mr. Murray, President of the Central Association, returned thanks.

Sir Trevor Lawrence proposed "The Ladies," for whom Mr. W. R. Spreckley responded.

The next toast was "The health of Mr. Brougham," the secretary of the society. This was heartily proposed by the Chairman, and enthusiastically received.

Mr. Brougham said that, during 25 out of the 46 years of the society's existence he had laboured heartily, earnestly, and diligently in the work of preserving Old Father Thames. He referred with pleasure to the presence that evening of Mr. Clark, a professional fisherman, who was a subscriber to the society, and expressed his hope that he would be able to continue for some years to come to do his best in the interests of the anglers, the professional fishermen, and the Thames Angling Preservation Society. (Applause.)

The Chairman proposed "The Vocalists," and Mr. Larkins having responded, the proceedings terminated.

## INAUGURAL BANQUET OF THE BONA FIDE ANGLERS.

ALTHOUGH one of the youngest of the metropolitan angling societies, the Bonâfideans have already become one of the most important. As their name implies, almost without exception all the members are actually anglers, and the club intend not to elect any gentlemen who are not anglers. They already have promises from members of large contributions of books on angling for their library, and ancient and modern fishing-tackle, poaching implements, &c., for their museum. On Thursday in last week they held their inaugural banquet, under the chairmanship of Mr. R. B. Marston, at the Moorgate Tavern, when about half a hundred gentlemen sat down to what proved to be in every way a most excellent dinner. Mr. Alfred Jardine was vice-chairman, and among those present were Messrs. H. Brett, E. H. Bassett, F. W. Jardine, W. H. Brougham, E. Frost, T. Dixon, C. Christie, W. F. Hammond, F. W. Norman, A. Paterson, T. James, F. G. Newton, McCulloch, S. Constable, Harvey, Homann, and Geo. M. Kelson.

Dessert having been removed, the Chairman gave the order to fire, and it would have done the heart of Sir Walter Raleigh, Izaak Walton, Thomas Carlyle, or any other "friend of the weed" good to have seen how every angler at once proclaimed himself also a smoker, and how under the influence of the "peaceful plant" harmony and good fellowship prevailed throughout the evening.

The Chairman, in giving the toast of "The Queen and the other members of the Royal Family," said that he was quite sure that this toast needed no recommendation to any body of British anglers. He had been to a great many meetings of anglers, but he had never heard it received otherwise than with enthusiasm and loyalty. From the earliest times the English Royal Family had been fond of fish, if not of fishing, and they would all remember the case of the English prince who died from eating too many lampreys. He might tell them that the late President of the Fisheries Exhibition (H.R.H. the Prince of Wales) had been nearly choked at one of the fish dinners by the enormous fish which did duty for whitebait. Then there was the Duke of Edinburgh: he had done more than most anglers could boast of—viz., nearly lost his life in a weir-hole when pike-fishing. He (the Chairman) had asked his Royal Highness for particulars of the affair; but the well-known modesty of the Royal Family and dislike of seeing their adventures in print had deprived them of an account of one of the most interesting episodes connected with angling, and especially with pike angling. It might not be known to some of those present that one of the most enjoyable days the family of the Prince of Wales spent during the year was their annual angling picnic on Virginia Water, and he hoped that might lead some of the young princes to become bonâ fide anglers. (Hear, hear.)

The National Anthem having been sung, the Chairman said the next toast he had to propose was that of "The Army, Navy, and Auxiliary Forces." He thought there was no more fascinating reading than the history of the feats of arms performed in battlefields on land and sea by our soldiers and sailors. He was no pessimist in regard to the future of the British Empire, which he believed was as yet only in its infancy. He thought it was only necessary to look about one and note the thousands of pretty girls—(hear, hear)—and handsome young fellows—the future fathers and mothers of the British race—to laugh at the idea of degeneracy. Outdoor sports of all kinds were never more popular than at present, and those who could play could fight. He knew it was advisable never to refer to political matters at angling meetings. At the same time, he didn't think much of a man who was ashamed of his opinions. He was a Conservative, and he could assure them that if ever that wretched Channel Tunnel was made, and the French came through to fish in our waters, we should all very soon become extremely Conservative. (Laughter.) He had much pleasure in coupling the toast with the name of Major-General W. F. Hammond, of the Honourable Artillery Company. They were all proud to think he was a member of their society.

Mr. Jardine having very effectively sung "Friends of the Brave," the Major replied. He said he was afraid he could not lay claim to such a high military title as had been bestowed on him by the chairman, but in whatever position the individual members of our fighting forces might be, he was quite sure they would always endeavour to do their duty to their country. There were doubtless troubles ahead; and, with an extended empire like ours, we could never hope to be quite free from little wars or big ones; but as long as we kept our powder dry and stood no nonsense we should easily hold our own. (Hear, hear.)

The Chairman then gave the toast of the evening, "The Society of Bonâ Fide Anglers." He said he was proud to be a member of their society because he believed it was one which intended to keep a thoroughly sportsmanlike feeling predominant. (Applause.) He did not think they would countenance the taking of fish out of condition merely because it was not illegal to take them, but that they would set themselves a high standard and rigidly maintain it. He was always glad to aid in the formation of angling societies, and had had the pleasure in assisting to bring to life very many of them in various parts of the country. They might not at first sight think there was much connection between angling societies and that bird of ill-omen, the cholera, which now threatened to sweep down on them, but he could assure them that there was. Impure and sewage contaminated water was the friend of cholera and many other diseases which, not half so much feared, were far more fatal. (Hear, hear.) Fish could not live in it, and anglers were the only portion of the community who made a stand against the conversion of our streams into sewers. He hoped in the future they would combine together, and, by means of their societies, compel the authorities to do their duty. Only the other day scores of tons of splendid fish had been killed in the Trent—("Shame")—and their Trent angling brethren were up in arms at once, and hoped to punish the perpetrators of this piscine atrocity. Their society would, he was sure, support all useful objects; they should remember that every angler and every society was the centre of a circle which could do good if once the ball was set rolling. Of course, they must aim at unity and never—well, hardly ever—quarrel. (Laughter.) Family squabbles were in the natural order of things, but they only cleared the air like the proverbial thunderstorm, after which everything was fresher and sweeter than ever. (Laughter.)

In responding, Mr. Jardine, the Vice-Chairman, mentioned that the inception of the society was the outcome of a meeting of anglers who, for reasons well known to those present, had decided to start a society, all the members of which must be good anglers. This had been achieved, and, with the view of preserving and developing fisheries and encouraging sportsmanlike angling, a high scale had been fixed in the various fish for weighing in, and much higher weights for specimens for the museum. He was glad to hear the remarks of their Chairman as to the number of their members who were fly-fishers—certainly a far larger proportion than any other London club could show.

The Hon. Secretary then gave "The Jolly Anglers" in capital style.

The Vice-Chairman, in proposing the toast of "The Preservation Associations," spoke of the stale condition of the rivers and the scarcity of water owing to the long-continued drought, and alluding to the old method of drainage and weirs which held the rain and floods back, drew comparison with modern weirs and systems of surface draining, whereby the rains ran off at once, carrying much of the tillage and artificial manures into the rivers, thereby injuring fish and fish-food, and producing but a temporary flush which was not of much use to anglers. He was sure the Thames Angling Preservation Society was doing great good to our metropolitan river. He had much pleasure in calling upon his old friend, Mr. Brougham, to respond.

Mr. W. H. Brougham, in reply, said he could lay claim to being the oldest official representative of one of the oldest, if not the oldest, Preservation Societies in England. The Thames Angling Preservation Society is recognised throughout the country as a parent institution, and frequently applied to for information and advice in the establishment of similar associations. He had been 25 years connected with his society, and could honestly say, whatever may be said to the contrary, during that period the preservation of the river had never been neglected, and scarcely any new methods had been adopted in that direction, which the minute books could testify, as well as the experience of his old friend Mr. Jardine when he came on the Committee fourteen years ago. It had always been a regret to him that not only the angling clubs of London, but anglers as well, did not support the society as they ought to do, for if its existence depended upon them it would soon cease to exist. The income of the society last year had exceeded the previous one by £80. In conclusion, he said all were indebted to Mr. Spreckley for his energy and liberality, and the feeling he had aroused in the interests of the Thames Fishery.

Mr. S. F. Hughes then favoured the company with a song, and Mr. G. H. Bassett, in a few very kind words, proposed the toast of "The Chairman."

Mr. Marston said he had felt much honoured in being asked to preside at their inaugural banquet. He thanked them most heartily for the kind way in which they had supported him, and he trusted the society would go on and flourish in such a way that before long there would be no jollier company of anglers, and none doing more useful work, than the Bonâ Fide Society. He would give them an opportunity of commencing that night by asking them to support the Anglers' Benevolent Society by purchasing the fifty tickets for the Tournament which he held in his hand.

Mr. Edwin Frost gave "Out with my gun in the morning" most effectively; and Mr. Geo. M. Kelson, in responding to the toast of "The Visitors," proposed by the Chairman, said: "I have only just been asked to reply for the visitors—a toast so admirably proposed and so heartily accepted—and for them I beg to thank you for your bountiful hospitality. For myself, I may say I am delighted I was able to accept your kind invitation, even had it only resulted in my increasing my angling acquaintance. Gentlemen, I have listened with much interest to the remarks which fell from the Chair and Vice-Chair in reference to angling differences of opinion. I cannot help thinking there are no sportsmen who can boast of more friends and fewer enemies than fishermen. I venture to say that we sometimes benefit by meeting those who do not quite strike the same key-note as our own, because in one or another of their arguments they may remind us of our own trivial errors; but, gentlemen, as to angling friends, we cannot have too many, and when associating with them, do they not often picture to us the sentiments uppermost in their mind which make the angler's life so enjoyable? You have no doubt many a time heard it said that 'brevity is the soul of wit.' Now, as I really am not able to make a speech, you will confer a favour by allowing my remarks to be very brief; and, as to wit, I cannot do better than leave that in the hands of our accomplished Chairman, from whom it has been so ably illustrated throughout the evening. But before resuming my seat, allow me to say that the more I come in contact with fishermen—no matter what sort—the more I see how readily the knapsack of custom, overladen with good fellowship and generosity, falls upon their backs; and so we cannot be introduced to too many. Gentlemen, I beg to thank you on behalf of the guests for a most pleasant and enjoyable evening."

In proposing the toast of "The Press," the Chairman said they had all hoped Mr. Wm. Senior would have been present to respond to it—(hear, hear)—but he regretted to say he had had a letter from Mr. Senior lamenting his enforced absence. He had known Mr. Senior personally for some years, and a great many more through his books and writings—in all angling literature there was hardly a more delightful book than his "Waterside Sketches"—and he could only say that he was never more pleased than when in his company, whether chatting about angling over a cigar or catching trout. He hoped Mr. Senior would join them on some future occasion. Mr. S. was an all-round angler, and he (the Chairman) felt sure would agree with him that an angler who prided himself on only going after one kind of fish was no true Waltonian. (Hear, hear.) He thought his friend the Vice-Chairman had something to say to them about this toast; perhaps he would get Mr. Brougham to respond.

The Vice-Chairman said he greatly regretted the absence of Mr. Senior; but they had another old Press man present in Mr. Brougham, and he would call upon him to reply to the toast, which Mr. Brougham briefly and pleasantly did.

At a late hour, and after songs from Mr. McCulloch, Mr. Jardine, and other gentlemen, the majority of the guests departed, and a most enjoyable and in every way pleasant evening came to an end. The members present each purchased a ticket for the Tournament.

## ON THE DESCRIPTION OF SALMON FLIES.

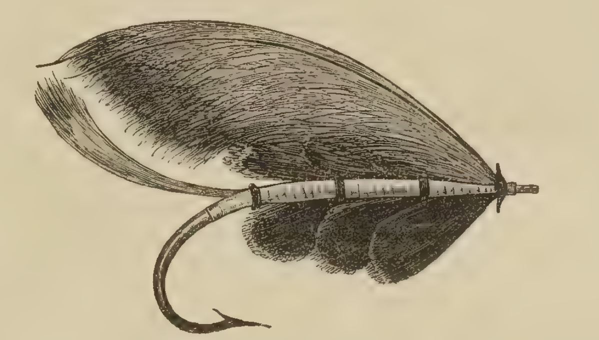
By Mr. Geo. M. Kelson.

Major Traherne's Patterns *(Continued)*.

### No. 6.—The "Black Prince."

In pursuing the subject of hackles, perhaps it would be well to come to some definite understanding for future reference regarding coch-a-bonddus. A coch-a-bonddu is a black-pointed furnace hackle. The red part cannot be too red for winged flies unless required for dark water, though the deeper shades are generally reserved for grubs, neither can the black list up the centre be too dark and shiny, nor the black points of the fibres too long. Evenly-tapered hackles having these qualities, with a good under colour, are, in my opinion, most valuable.

Then there are those something similar in character which have natural blue dun points, and that colour running up the middle of the feathers; these we will term "natural blue coch-a-bonddus." One just dipped in Bismarck brown aniline dye is, perhaps, the best of all hackles in low water everywhere; at least, as far as my experience goes.



And there are those I call "white coch-a-bonddus," having central black lists and points, but white where the red is in an ordinary one; they may be dyed any colour, and will be found to be much more attractive and killing than any plain white hackle stained. The black list enriches and "stands out" over any lightish body, and is very effective, as it is with "Childers," which is an old standard pattern.

That class of "naturals" which are most rare are, perhaps, the "Kneecaps," but they may easily be recognised. Except that they are reversed in order, the colours are red and black as with a coch-a-bonddu—that is to say, instead of black centres and points, they have red; the black part being the streak running up in the middle of the fibres.

Farlow purchased the whole of these birds—I know of no others in the kingdom; and the fly called "Kneecap" can only be obtained at this establishment, correct to pattern.

With regard to Fiery Browns, I consider those dyed and supplied by Mike Rogan, Ballyshannon, the best. Upon this, the whole of my friends who have a voice in the standard colours agree.

Plain white hackles may be purchased anywhere of almost any shade and size.

It will not be necessary, I think, to say any more about these feathers, if I may refer my readers to the article of the 8th March last, where particulars are given in detail how to double hackles. They should, however, be kept flat and not allowed to get twisted.

It is astonishing what quantities of valuable feathers are damaged in keeping, and, therefore, I particularly call attention to the letter in another column from a special correspondent relating to the Flymaker's Box. I have tried all sorts of plans, but have found nothing so suitable, convenient, and I may almost say, necessary, as the cabinet which he advocates.

When this fly is wanted smaller than the illustration, natural black hackles should be used instead of the feathers on the body, which, though flaccid, are not weak, but malleable, and have a yielding, leech-like appearance in water terribly seductive. Whole feathers, though, are not often used as hackles, because they are inanimate in the water; but the discovery here was indeed a grand one.

Many of the whole feathers that are used in wings are not only to a certain extent stubborn, but are intended to be stationary, simply to form a background for fibres of other varied shades over them to be shown to greater advantage—take, for instance, the tippet in the "Butcher." But in this pattern, as in other of these novelties, these "legs" are left to do duty alone without other facial union. The golden topping element, in dark water, when the "B. P." is always more successful, can claim but a trifling share of commendation; but in bright water, the sting of disappointment may often be averted, especially in a tumbling torrent, by this admirable contrast—these life-like, beguiling "decoy ducks" in the wing. Having the illustration, the fly may be described :—

Tag : Silver twist and golden silk (the same shade as toppings).

Tail : Topping.

Butt : Black herl.

Body : Three equal divisions of silver tinsel, butted, and with two black feathers from the nape of the Indian Crow at top and bottom at the termination of each section, V-shaped, as illustrated.

Wings : Five or six golden toppings.

Horns : Blue Macaw.

Head : Black herl.

Wherever salmon take a fly, at one time or another this bewitching "Circe" would be sure to tempt ; but if required spring size—or say, double, as large—these black feathers would be useless, and those from close under the blue striped feathers in the wing of the jay should be selected, and they will answer admirably, especially if the angler has *faith* and takes pains. But persistence is often forged hard in the flame of fashion ; in fact, the fascination for old standard flies—used, too, in the same customary way—is almost universal, and with some of us almost irresistible.

It is, however, astonishing how a "new acquaintance" will take at times; dressed in sombre array, or even gaudy glitter—a decided change—a "something they have never before seen," is unquestionably the fly to use in any fantastic way when salmon are immovable. Allow a quarter of an hour's rest if you can get in front of your fish, and, a yard from the fly, fix two or three swan shot ; cast, and let the fly remain perfectly still a few feet before and in a line with the fish for three or four minutes ; then drag it gently, say a couple of feet, and give it a short, sharp snatch ;if that fails, try a prawn. Great care must be taken to see that the fly is perfectly made, so that it fishes evenly, for if it wobbles the least atom there will be no recognition.

Messrs. Farlow, London ; Bernard, Piccadilly ; Malloch, Perth ; and Wright, Sprouston, supply these flies.

### THAMES BARBEL.

In spite of the lowness of the river, we hear of several fair takes of barbel. Mr. Alfred Jardine and Mr. Geo. M. Kelson got twenty-two nice fish last Saturday.

We are glad to see it is now becoming the general practice for barbel anglers to put back all the fish alive, with the exception of a small proportion of the best specimens.

### ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

F. Francis, Folkestone.—Mr. Basil Field's patent bait-can can be had of H. Bawcombe, 2a, Victoria-road, Holloway.

C. Fox, Kingsbridge.—Thanks for the letter and cuttings.

A Coggeshall Volunteer.—We have had one of Booth's roach rods in constant use for about two years, and can recommend it.

F. F. C.—Write to Mr. Vickery, of the Torcross Hotel. See his advertisement in our columns. We believe you would get good jack fishing there in August. Slapton Ley is also in the neighbourhood.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

[*We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.*]

### FISHING ON THE STOUR.

Sir,—I should feel exceedingly obliged if you or any of your readers could inform me whether any fishing is to be had on the river Stour—say between the villages of Saare and Minster. Also, for any particulars relating thereto.—I am, &c.,

Alfred J. Best.

[If Mr. Best will make an appointment with Mr. Kelson, of 13, Colville Mansions, W., to meet at 12, Fetter-lane, one morning at 11 o'clock, he will learn all particulars of a mile of fishing to be let at a reasonable sum near the association water on the Stour at Canterbury.—Ed.]

### PIKE FISHING NEAR MANCHESTER WANTED.

Sir,—Will any of your readers be good enough to inform me where good pike fishing can be had near Manchester ?—I am, &c.,

G. Maitland.

22, Bradshaw-street, Manchester, July 12.

### MATERIAL FOR WINGS OF ARTIFICIAL FLIES.

Sir,—I inclose you two backbones of the squid (*Loligo vulgaris*). If you wet them you will find them flexible and perfectly transparent. These were taken from good-sized fish, and may be a little too stout ; but the bones from the small ones are, I believe, exactly what are required. There are scores of these little fellows taken at every haul of the mackerel seines, and I will get you some in the course of a day or two.—I am, &c.,

E. Gosling.

Budleigh Salterton, July 12.

[We are much obliged, but fear the squid bone is too brittle even when wet to stand the flipping an artificial fly is exposed to. Pike scales, as prepared by Mr. McNee, answer admirably we always find. For instance, last Monday we were trout fishing, and out of nine and a half brace got several of the best fish in still, bright water after they had *refused* the feather fly (a yellow dun), notably in the case of a 1¼lb. fish which was feeding near the top in a deep still hole. The keeper said he had often been tried for ; on putting the feathered fly near him he carefully and leisurely examined it—even followed it for nearly a yard, but would not touch it or look at it again. We then put on a little quill gnat with pike scale wings, and much to the keeper's astonishment his old friend was on the bank in about two minutes.—Ed.]

### FISHING AT KINGSBRIDGE OR SALCOMBE.

Sir,—Can you or any of your correspondents tell me if there is any trout fishing in the neighbourhood of Kingsbridge or Salcombe, near Start Point, in South Devon, and the names of any small fishing inns on the Avon or neighbourhood ? I have looked up several books and do not find any, or I would not trouble you.—I am, &c.,

Alfred Brewer.

### FISHING NEAR SEASCALE, CUMBERLAND.

Sir,—Can any of the readers of the Fishing Gazette kindly give me any information on the following points :—Is there any trout or pike fishing within walking distance of Seascale, Cumberland ? If so, is it free, or can permission to fish be obtained ? Is there any sea fishing ? Any information will be acceptable.—I am, &c.,

R. M. H.

### WHO INVENTED DRY-FLY FISHING ?

Sir,—My husband wishes me to say that if Mr. Ogden was the inventor of dry-fly fishing it must have been very many years ago, as he (Mr. Francis) had friends who used that style of fishing some years before his "Book on Angling" was written. We have been away for a month, and I hope Mr. Francis will have greatly benefitted by the change.—I am, &c.,

Mary Francis.

The Firs, Twickenham.

[We sincerely trust Mr. Francis will continue to recover as rapidly as he is doing at present. We find the late James Ogden, in his work on "Fly Tying," published in 1879, says, page 31 :—"Some forty years ago, when I introduced my floating flies, the love of angling was increasing at the rate of ten to one from when I was a lad. I always found the more a stream was whipped over the more wary and shy the fish became, and I always made it a rule never to leave a good rising fish while he was feeding. I have tried every dodge, and often every fly in my book. By changing my end fly I have occasionally, without intending to do so, made a cast with a dry fly. In those days it was said this would scare a rising trout, and cause him to leave off feeding. On the other hand, I found while my fly was still on the surface, without a ripple, it has tempted the fish to seize it, after I have been throwing a sunk fly over him scores of times in vain. These observations were the cause of my introducing floating flies." A reference to Mr. Ogden's interesting little book will give more particulars about his dry flies. No one can read his book without seeing that he was a thoroughly practical angler.—Ed.]

### FIELD'S AERATING BAIT-CAN.

Sir,—I notice that your correspondent, G. M. Kelson, writes an extremely favourable notice of an aërating bait-can, which was shown at the "Fisheries," and awarded a prize by the Jury, of which your correspondent was a member. It seems to me only fair to point out that the aërating machinery appeared to be very likely to get out of order, as, in fact, it did soon after being placed on view. Then as to the internal can—called by your correspondent the "Slapton Ley" pattern—this is not even new, as Alfred and Son introduced this arrangement many years ago ; however, a can of their pattern exhibited by another firm was not even noticed by the Jury that was able to see considerable merit in an imitation. In conclusion, the best possible bait-can is one with the internal arrangement mentioned, but without the needless complication of the aërating apparatus so much liked by Mr. Kelson, as any good results obtained from it may be gained by an indiarubber tube with elastic ball attached, which costs very little, and is not likely to get out of order. Trusting that you will, in common fairness, insert these few lines,—I am, &c.,

C. S. Bentley.

[We understand Mr. Field's can has been greatly improved upon since last year. The one exhibited at the Fisheries was broken by the number of people, most of them non-anglers, who examined it. The principle of the inside perforated can was, undoubtedly, invented by the late Mr. Alfred, of 20, Moorgate-street ; but the chief feature in Mr. Field's can is the most excellent and simple aërating arrangement, of which we think most highly.—Ed.]

### CLOSE TIME AND LIVERPOOL ANGLERS.

Sir,—In the Fishing Gazette of 21st June a report of the "Liverpool Central Angling Association" appeared, signed "Piscator." In this report "Piscator" says, "This (the Liverpool Central) is the only Liverpool Association that have strictly observed the spirit of the Freshwater Fisheries Act on this particular point," *i.e.*, close time. Let us see how they observe the spirit of the Act. It can be proved by scores of witnesses that both officers and members of the Liverpool Central have during the whole of the close season been seen Sunday after Sunday—not to mention week days—returning with small perch and roach of a size any angler worthy the name would have scorned to carry away from the pond side, and have been ashamed to have had in possession. Why, in the very heart of the close time one of their members on a Sunday had a small creel full of "baby" roach, and triumphantly and openly boasted of his "catch"—save the mark !—and was a proud and a happy man, and the envied of his brother members, with whom he is a "hero" to this day. And not only have they fished (?) through the whole of the close season, but have done so for small "sweepstakes." Yet, knowing this, "Piscator" has dared to censure other Liverpool associations, alongside which the "Central" is a veritable pigmy, and to assert that they have observed the spirit of the Act referred to, whilst in fact they have been trampling the whole thing under foot. Take advice, "Piscator," and in future avoid straining at a gnat after having swallowed a camel, and do not bid for popularity at the expense of others. Remember that "those who live in glass houses should not throw stones."—I am, &c.,

Isaak.

### LLANFAIRFECHAN.

Sir,—If "E. M.," who inquires about trout fishing at Llanfairfechan will write to me, I shall be pleased to give him considerable information on the subject, as I know the district well.—I am, &c.,

J. R. Roberts.

Molland, South Molton, July 17th.

### CARP AND TENCH FISHING.

Sir,—In your July 5th paper a Mr. Wall seems to think that worms are not the natural bait for tench. I could soon satisfy him to the contrary. For instance, all bottom feeding fish, such as carp and tench, require to be baited with whatever you intended to fish twenty-four hours before fishing. Some few years ago a friend asked me to fish his pond for tench. He said no one could catch them. I said, "I will." I got his man to dig a quart of worms and throw them in the pond all together. He did so about 8 a.m. I fished next morning, twenty-four hours after, with one rod and worm on the bottom in the spot baited, and before 3 o'clock in the afternoon I had seventy-two tench—stocked all the ponds in the neighbourhood, also the people's tables.

A knowing angler once challenged me to fish for carp in a friend's park, where he had permission. I took the liberty the day before of pitching a good bait of worms in the water unknown to him. Of course, I took care to stick to my spot while he wandered about. He had a big float, which frightened the fish. I, with a very light float and bait on the bottom, took forty carp ; he a goose's egg.

Of course, the secret in all bottom fishing is to feed the fish twenty-one or twenty-four hours before you try them, and then fish with same bait. Many persons will groundbait the night before fishing, which is a mistake, as the fish are gorged and off the feed. Myself and friend in March on the Hampshire Avon in one day took between eighty and ninety pike, *all spinning*.—I am, &c.,

Devizes.

R. Howse.

[Worm is a bait we frequently catch tench with, though they will take bread paste often just as well. Boiled potatoes, mashed up with some bran and stale bread, makes a capital groundbait ; plain boiled potatoes are also good.—Ed.]

### GOOD FISHING AT HUNTINGDON.

Sir,—I wrote you at the commencement of the year concerning the fishing on the Ouse, Huntingdon. I take the liberty of so doing again, as I was there at the opening of the season until the 28th, and wish to say (and call the attention of our London anglers to this river) that during the time stated I was continually on the water, and never have, or ever wish, to see a prettier sight of bream than I witnessed during that period, both in size and numbers. Thousands might have been seen going up stream just under the surface—enough to make tears come into your eyes, after being out at 4 a.m. and not getting so much as a smell, leave alone a fish. I saw one buster, weight I cannot say ; but length was not under 24in. (2ft.), and plenty from 3lb. to 5lb. are often taken. The weather during the past fortnight was not of the best, owing to the stagnation of the river from want of rain. I only obtained about 40lb. weight, consisting of bream, eels, roach, chub, bleak, and perch.

I saw some very fine perch and roach on the shelf over which the water runs from the river into what I believe to be called Houghton Pool (a fine place for jack), and I hear that some of considerable size are often taken from this place. If any of our London anglers should go down, they can fish from the towing-path of the right bank (from the town). On the left it is not always open to anglers without permission, on account of the growing grass, and therefore it would be best to take the towing-path. If boats are wanted, they can be obtained of Mr. George Childs, The Waterloo, High-street, within a stone's throw of the river, who will give every attention to visitors ; as will also the river-keeper, Mr. Henry Rout, 43, Great Northern-street, and anyone wishing for a day's outing with him can do so by appointment ; and I venture to say that he knows where " they " are.—I am, &c.,

Grosvenor-park, Camberwell. J. T. FOVARGUE.

## ONE DAY IN THE COUNTRY.

SIR,—Last year you led some of your readers generously to help us to provide a day's excursion into Epping Forest for 800 poor girls and boys who attend the Hackney Juvenile Mission Ragged Schools at Bruce and Lyme Grove Halls. The committee hope to be able to take as many children this summer, and provide them with at least one substantial meal, and would be glad if your readers will assist and practically participate with them in this pleasure by sending contributions towards this Thirteenth Annual Day in the Country Fund to either Rev. William Tyler, 247, Hackney-road, N.E. ; the hon. secretary, Mr. J. Newman, 120, Cheapside, E.C. ; or to —Yours, &c., ATHRO ALFRED KNIGHT, hon. treasurer.

Knightsville Ladies College, Lewisham High-road, Brockley, S.E.,
July, 1884.

[Anglers so well know the delight of the many days in the country they get, that we feel sure they will, many of them, be glad to help these poor children.—ED.]

## THE FISH-EATING BLADDER WORT.

SIR,—As there appears no doubt but that Mr. Simms, of Oxford, has made an important discovery possessing a vital bearing upon the question of fish culture, would it not be well, instead of spreading far and wide sprays of this piratical plant, the well-wishers of pisciculture should do their best to exterminate rather than distribute so noxious an instrument to fish development?

The disastrous consequences which followed the popularising the American Anacharis plant by the dealers in aquaria, and which aquatic plant, growing while floating at every joint, soon choked our canals and waterways, impeded navigation, and destroyed all chance of fly fishing, must be pretty fresh in the memory of many of your readers.

This vegetable thing—the bladder wort—having been convicted of the wholesale destruction of infant fish life, may, as " groups " of vegetables are familiar to botany, it is possible, be of a family the predilections of which are more or less piscivorous—an analogy naturally suggested by the fly catching and carnivorous species on shore, and the aqueous element may not be contented with a single example.

Nor is it surprising that this fish-destroying plant should be met with in ditches and water courses, which have hitherto been considered harbours of refuge for the fry of fish from the ravages of their predatory enemies. May not the failure of many thousands of newly hatched alevins, so confidently entrusted in the early part of our fish hatching campaign be attributable to this hitherto unknown source of extirpation?

In reading Mr. Simms' interesting and suggestive description of the bladder wort, I was much struck with the resemblance in several particulars to the Sargasso weed, an account of which Professor Gosse gives in his "Letters from Alabama." He writes :—

" Its own structure is most interesting and surprising, for though it may be conjectured to have had an original root, a local habitation at some remote age, no connection with the shores or the bottom of the sea subsists now, for it evidently shoots and increases as it floats free on the surface of the waves. It consists of a multitude of well-formed leaves, with a rib running down the centre, and notched edges, set alternately on angular stems, which bear a number of globular berry-like vessels, about as large as currants, the office of which is to float the plant. But to a voyager, glad of any source of amusement, the Sargasso-weed is most welcome, because of the shelter which it affords for hosts of small marine animals. Fishes of various kinds crowd around and beneath it, for the sake of preying on the invertebrate creatures which browse upon its leaves or play among its branches." (Pp. 9, 10.)

We shall, doubtless, now that scientific attention has been drawn to this poaching plant, hear more of its peculiar and nefarious attributes, and all fish breeders should at once closely inspect the vicinity of their redds and nurseries, to render all apparatus as secure from the presence and influence of this wily marauder as possible.—I am, &c., CREEL.

## THE RED RIVER GOLDEN EYE.

SIR,—The Macnee flies came to hand safely, and have been regarded as an object of curiosity. I have sent some to Mr. Orvis and to Mr. A. N. Cheney. I regret I cannot find trout here to use them with. I am out of " trout range." Your request concerning " golden eye " shall be complied with. I will send at once a drawing of one, giving life-size, classification, and description. I was out fishing last evening, and in spite of musquito bites, had some good sport with golden eyes. They take flies splendidly as the season is advancing, and I found them rising at every fly fluttering over the water. They are game fish, fighting to the last, and trying every move to pull off the hook when struck. They test fine gut pretty severely, and unless handled carefully, break away, taking fly with them.

The U.S. Customs opened the package containing Theakston's book, and made me pay duty on the same; but it is a valuable one. I presented it to Mr. Orvis's daughter, who makes his fine flies, and received " heaps of thanks " for it. The book contains information not found in any American work, hence is valued by a fly-tier.—I am, &c., W. DAVID TOMLIN.

Hallock, Minnesota, U.S.A.

### DESCRIPTION OF THE GOLDEN EYE OF THE RED RIVER OF THE NORTH.

| RAYS. | | TEETH. |
|---|---|---|
| Dorsal .................. | 10 | Single row on lower jaw. |
| Adipose .................. | 11 | 4 rows on upper jaw. |
| 2nd Adipose ............ | 7 | Vomer, pronounced strong. |
| Ventral .................. | 20 | Truncated teeth, 2 rows. |

SCALES (OVATE).

6 Rows above line.
10 Rows below line.
59 to 65 scales in longitudinal line.
Nostrils, clearly defined, and double.

[We are much obliged to Mr. Tomlin. The sketch shows the fish to be not unlike our chub in shape.—ED.]

[Several letters, including a long one on " Eyed Hooks " from Mr. H. S. Hall, are unavoidably crowded out.—ED.]

## THE HEIGHAM SOUNDS CASE.

MR. LARK, the Hon. Sec. of the Yarmouth Piscatorial Society, asks us to hold over until next week correspondence on this matter, when he will make a statement which, we believe, will be satisfactory, as showing the club is in no way to blame.

## SCOTCH FISHING NOTES.

THE EARN.—The Earn is affording some good sport now. On Thursday, Messrs. Morgan and Graham, Crieff, had baskets of seven and five dozen trout, respectively. On Monday, Mr. Gardiner, Crieff, had 6lb. of excellent trout on this river.

MIDDLE MISHNISH LOCH (MULL).—Fishing from the Western Isles Hotel, Tobermory, Mull, on Tuesday, last week, Dr. Dougall had 10lb. of excellent trout on this loch. Messrs. Harrower and Ferguson fished this loch on Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday, and had 10lb., 11lb., and 12lb. each day, respectively. Mr. McLean, Lorne Cottage, fished Loch Frisa on Wednesday, and got five dozen trout weighing 18lb. Two of this catch weighed over 1lb.

LOCH TUMMEL.—Very few parties were out on Loch Tummel last week, on account of the water being very calm and clear. Good baskets have, however, been made since the rain began to fall. On Wednesday Mr. John Scotland, Pitlochry and Mr. Adam, Connacher, Ballyoukan, had splendid sport on this loch. Of their catch one trout weighed 2½lb., and another 1½lb. Three pike were also secured averaging 2lb. each. The river is in splendid ply, and some excellent sport is being got on the Pitlochry Hotel Water. A beautiful trout weighing 1lb. was captured by Mr. John McBeth, besides a number of smaller ones. The loch was in good ply for angling on Friday, and the weather was favourable. Fishing from one of the Loch Tummel Hotel boats, Messrs. McIntosh, McFarlane, and McNidder, Dundee, captured 12 beautiful trout. On Saturday the same party captured five trout averaging 2lb. each. Four pike captured by the same gentlemen weighed 6½lb. Mr. Wilson, Tummel Bridge, fished from one of the Loch Tummel Hotel boats, and captured a beautiful trout weighing 2¾lb., besides several other good fish. Mr. Finlay, Pitlochry, got a good basket of trout, averaging ½lb. each, while fishing on the Pitlochry Hotel water on Saturday. On Monday Mr. MacFarlane, Dundee, was out again in one of the Loch Tummel Hotel boats, and got three trout, 1lb. each. On Tuesday Major Carnegie, St. Andrews, and Mr. Lamb, Cupar Fife, fished the loch, and captured three trout weighing 6lb.

LOCH ERICHT.—Excellent sport is still being got on this loch. On Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday Captain Murray and Mr. Martin landed 53lb. of trout. Captain Murray had trout weighing 2½lb. and 2¾lb. each, and Mr. Martin killed a Salmo ferox with the fly weighing over 5lb. Mr. A. Harris, Dundee, killed three Salmo ferox weighing 2, 3, and 5lb. respectively. Mr. Kinnon, of Dundee, had a basket of 16lb. on Saturday. Rain fell heavily on Thursday and Friday, and the loch is now in good ply for fishing.

THE ORCHY.—This river is now in good fishing order, and fish are very plentiful. Rev. F. W. Peel, fishing on this river from the Inveroran Hotel, on Saturday, captured three splendid salmon weighing 16, 14, and 11lb. respectively. The same gentleman, on Tuesday, killed two salmon weighing 12lb. each. Mr. W. K. Gair fishing on the same river, landed two beautiful salmon weighing 13lb. each. Messrs. Townsend and M'Leod killed three splendid salmon weighing 9, 11, and 17lb. respectively while fishing on the Dalmally Hotel water on Wednesday.

LOCH RANNOCH.—Fishing from the Bun Rannoch Hotel water on Wednesday, Mr. Henry Ellis, Cheltenham, caught a splendid Salmo ferox weighing 10lb. Good baskets were also obtained by Messrs. Ferguson and Wilson, Glasgow, and Mr. Penman, Chesire, caught a trout weighing 4lb. ; and Colonel Latour, London, had one weighing 3lb. Several other good baskets were got. The water is now in good ply, and the fish are in splendid condition.

LOCH LAGGAN.—This loch was fished on Wednesday last by Rev. Dr. Anderson, Perth, and Mr. John Steele, of Blackpark, Perth, when good sport was obtained. Mr. Hunter, Pitlochry, fishing on the same day, secured a finely-shaped ferox of 10lb. after a keen run. Another of 2½lb. was landed, while one of about 6lb was lost. A ferox of 11½lb. was landed by Mr. Hunter in the evening of that day.

LOCH AWE.—Fishing on Loch Avich from the Taychreggan Hotel on Wednesday, Messrs. Millar and Turnbull got a basket of six dozen trout.

FORMATION OF AN ASSOCIATION FOR THE PROTECTIOM OF SALMON IN LOCH AWE DISTRICT.—On Tuesday a meeting was held in Loch Awe Hotel for the purpose of forming an association to improve the salmon and trout fishing in Loch Awe District. Mr. Bett, of Bolfrachs, presided, and among the other gentlemen present were: Colonel Allan ; Mr. Chub, Edinburgh ; Colonel Murray, of Polmaise ; Rev. Hugh Munro, Balnalean ; Messrs. Bruce, of Ederline, Hartley, McLaughlan, McKinnon, Frazer, Blythe, Munro, Baird, Cameron, and McIntyre. Letters of apology for absence were read from Sir H. Dalrymple, Messrs. Anderson, Caledonian Railway Company, Muir, Innistrynich, Murray, Taynuilt, and McArthur, Oban. These gentlemen expressed approval of the objects of the proposed association. It was agreed, on the motion of Mr. Hartley, seconded by Mr. Bruce, that an association should be formed for the protection and development of the salmon and trout fishing in the district of Loch Awe. On the motion of the Rev. Hugh Munro, the Earl of Breadalbane was unanimously appointed president of the association ; Mr. Hartley was appointed secretary and treasurer of a committee which was formed to carry out the objects of the association. Owing to the fact that almost the whole of the landowners, farmers, and others in the district have become members of this association, it is confidently hoped that by its work the fishing in Loch Awe and its tributaries will be greatly improved in the course of time.—P. MC.G.

## South of Ireland.

The long spell of dry weather we have in the South of Ireland has resulted in a complete clearance of all the rivers of everything in the shape of fish. Salmon fry and trout have been destroyed, all the rivers west of Macroom having been poisoned. A change has, fortunately, come. Rain has again appeared, and the waters of the Lee are swollen to their ordinary height. Peal and salmon have been utilising the high water in their ascent, and we may hear of some good angling during this and next month. The subject of the poaching of the river was discussed at the recent meeting of the Fishery Conservators. It was stated that immense quantities of fry, the product of last year's breeding, were destroyed. Some technicalities of the law with regard to poisoning were referred to, and it was shown that a man who was seen removing a salmon from a poisoned hole was liable to punishment, although he might be perfectly innocent of having placed the poison there ; while, if a number of poisoned fish were found in possession of the real offender a distance away from the river, there was no power to reach him by the law. This was considered an anomaly that should be rectified. It was stated that the poisoned salmon were not saleable at home, but were shipped to the Liverpool and Manchester markets, and sold there as good fish.—ANGLER.

POACHING ON THE LEADER.—During last week the river Leader was running low and clear. Still some very good baskets have been got with worm in the early morning. Between the hours of 1 and 4 on Saturday morning the river was netted by four poachers from Galashiels, who cleared upwards of 100lb. of trout. The amount would have been much larger had they not been interrupted close to Birkenside. The leader of the gang is known. This is the third time that the Leader has been netted this season.

GEORGE JAMES EATON, of Starkholmes, Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required, from gentlemen who can fish, to prove whether they may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen ; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—(ADVT.)

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CHAS. FARLOW & Co.,
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MANUFACTURERS OF FIRST-CLASS RODS AND TACKLE, SALMON AND TROUT FLIES, SUITABLE FOR ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD.
Mahseer Tackle in Great Variety.
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SILVER OR GILT.
Also coloured, similar to the Devon Baits, &c.
JAMES OGDEN'S
MULTUM IN PARVO FLY RODS,
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All Standard Flies ordered, or dressed correct to pattern, will be despatched by return of post.

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"It's Simply Perfection." Such is the unanimous report of all who have used the new line for both fly and mid-water fishing.

All the advantages of the original Acme are present in the improved and perfected make, together with well-nigh everlasting durability.

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Samples of the Improved Metal Centred Line may be tested prior to purchasing.

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SPIERS and POND, Limited.

"Art, empire, earth itself, *to change* are doomed."—The Hermit.

EXCHANGE.
Things Wanted—to BUY, to SELL, or to EXCHANGE.

N.B.—We take no responsibility whatever in connection with advertisements inserted in this or other parts of this paper; but beg our readers to expose any case of imposition. The prices for inserting advertisements in this "EXCHANGE" Column are 6d. per line for one, or 4d. per line for more than one insertion.—Address, Manager, Fishing Gazette, 12 and 13, Fetter Lane, London, and send stamps with the order, or the advertisement cannot be inserted.

WANTED.—Particulars and Prices of Second-hand Books on Angling and Fish Culture. Must be in good condition.—Address Editor, Fishing Gazette, 12 and 13, Fetter-lane, London, E.C.

Schweppe's These Waters are supplied To the Queen. Table Waters.

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## THE TOURNAMENT AT THE WELSH HARP NEXT SATURDAY.

The arrangements for the Tournament at the Welsh Harp, Hendon, next Saturday, are now completed. Anglers will remember that it commences at 2 o'clock. The entrance fee to the grounds is 6d. One thousand programmes and show-bills have been distributed, and a splendid lot of prizes secured. Competitors can enter on the ground; they must bring their own rods and lines, but baits to cast and flies will be provided. Mr A. J. Little (one of the judges) does not intend to compete, we understand. Particulars of the competition can be had of the Editor of the Fishing Gazette, 12, Fetter-lane, London, and the programme will be republished in the Gazette next week. In the fly-casting it has been decided to allow time, if the fly should be whipped off.

So many well-known anglers have promised to be present, that there is every prospect of a large attendance, and a most interesting and successful meeting.

## RIVER REPORTS.

### TIME OF HIGH WATER IN THE THAMES.

To find the time of high water in the Thames at any of the following places, to the time of high water at London Bridge (given below).

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Add | 30 | minutes for | Chelsea. |
| | 40 | „ | Putney. |
| | 45 | „ | Hammersmith. |
| | 50 | „ | Barnes. |
| | 55 | „ | Kew. |
| | 75 | „ | Richmond. |
| | 80 | „ | Twickenham. |
| | 85 | „ | Teddington. |

Example:—If it is high water at 2 o'clock at London Bridge, it will be high water at Teddington about 3.25, or eighty-five minutes later; but it must be remembered that a strong wind accelerates or retards the tide very much.

For Times of High Water at London Bridge.

| | Morning. | Afternoon. |
|---|---|---|
| Saturday, July 19 | 10.23 | 10.59 |
| Sunday, „ 20 | 11.37 | 12.0 |
| Monday, „ 21 | 12.10 | 12.41 |
| Tuesday, „ 22 | 1.8 | 1.37 |
| Wednesday, „ 23 | 2.3 | 2.27 |
| Thursday, „ 24 | 2.51 | 3.14 |
| Friday, „ 25 | 3.36 | 3.57 |

Note.—New moon, July 22; high tide, July 24.

### THE LOWER THAMES.

General Remarks.

The river is beginning to derive some benefit from the change. There is a great body of fish in the river, and some of the lower class of bank anglers are not content with rod and line fishing, but have been found infringing on the fixed line system, and several will be brought up as an example. The tidal waters from Teddington received a visit on Sunday afternoon last from Mr. Thomas Spreckley and Mr. W. H. Brougham, but they found nothing wrong; on the contrary, the punt anglers were taking plenty of dace eight or nine inches in length. On their arrival at Twickenham Ferry their attention was called to a dace that had been taken on the previous day of a golden bronze colour, and having black spots upon it similar to those on the golden tench. Some years ago a golden tench was caught at Twickenham by the late Dory Coxen, and being preserved, it is now to be seen at Mr. Walker's, the Two Sawyers Inn. The weather appears disturbed, and an increased supply of water in the Thames may be expected. A trout of about 8lb. was picked up dead at Teddington a few days ago, but the cause of its death was unknown.

**Richmond.**—Christopher Brown during the week has taken twenty-five barbel up to 5lb. each, and fifteen dozen dace. Henry Wheeler, in four days, 50lb. of dace. Henry Howard, in six days, 90lb. of dace. Job Brain, during the week, 80lb., one day alone getting 34lb. Henry Mansell, in one day with Mr. Kilrey of 355, Norwood-road, Lower Norwood, got twenty-four dozen of good roach and dace, and in three other days, four bream weighing 12lb., one brace of perch 3½lb., and forty-six dozen of dace. The barbel are reported to be well on the feed.

**Twickenham.**—Edward Finch, in a day and a half, three barbel, six dozen of dace, and a bream of 4½lb. Samuel Cole, in five days, seven barbel and twelve dozen of dace. C. Miles, in one day, three chub of 1lb. each. George Coxen, in two days, eight dozen of dace. H. Spiers, in two days and a half, eight dozen of dace and some barbel. John Spong, in four days, twenty-four dozen dace and one barbel. Mr. Walker's punts have been all engaged during the week with some very good takes of fish.

**Teddington.**—Charles Baldwin, in three days, ten dozen of roach and dace, and two barbel. Joseph Baldwin, in three days, fourteen dozen of roach and dace, two chub, and a couple of barbel. John Stevens, in two days, three dozen of dace, and five chub. The water in much better condition and a little higher. The bank anglers in the tideway have had a fair show of fish during the week during the time the tide has admitted of their fishing.

**Kingston.**—John Wilks, in one day, nine dozen of roach and dace, one bream, and one perch. John Johnson, junr., in four days, fourteen chub, eighteen brace of perch, and twelve dozen of roach and dace. John Johnson, senr., in two days, twenty dozen of roach and dace, and two bream. Mr. H. Dickinson, in one day, 7lb. of roach and dace. The bank anglers here and at Surbiton, in addition to roach and dace, have caught some good bream, barbel, and chub.

**Hampton Court.**—W. Milbourne, in one day, twenty-one barbel, and one chub, and in four other days twenty-five barbel, and seventeen dozen of roach and dace. J. Milbourne, in six days, twenty-four barbel, and twenty dozen of roach and dace. Thomas Davis, in one day, nine barbel and one chub. Charles Davis, a trout of 3lb., one chub, and nine barbel. J. Williams, in two days, eight bream, and four dozen of roach and dace. C. Stone, in three days, eleven barbel, five chub, and twenty-one dozen of roach and dace. John Smith has been out each day and had some good takes of barbel, chub, and roach. The bank anglers have done well, and those on "Tagg's Island Fishery" during the week have caught thirty dozen of roach and dace, and some good bream, perch, and chub.

**Sunbury.**—Messrs. Edward Clarke and Sons have taken, in three days, eight dozen of roach and dace, and some fine perch. The bank anglers have enjoyed capital sport amongst the roach, dace, perch, chub, and gudgeon. One bank angler got two and a half dozen of good roach up to 1½lb. each, and a bream of 4lb. 10oz.

**Walton.**—George Hone in four days, thirteen dozen of roach, fifteen bream, three chub, two perch, and four dozen of dace. John Hone, in five days, twenty-eight bream and eighteen dozen of roach; George Hone, jun., eighteen dozen of roach, seventeen bream, one brace of jack, three dozen of gudgeon, and seven perch; R. Watford, in four days, eighteen dozen of roach, fourteen bream, and a couple of barbel. Mr. Robinson, staying at the Swan Hotel, caught during the week seven trout, five being returned to the river again. The bream at Walton are very numerous, and the large ones are feeding.

**Halliford.**—George Rosewell, in two days, 19 bream; J. Strudwick, in one day, eight dozen of roach and dace, and some very good bream; and E. D. Rosewell, six dozen of roach and dace.

**Shepperton.**—David Hackett, in one day, six dozen of roach and three bream; W. House, a jack of 3lb., a bream of 2½lb., and three dozen of roach and dace; W. Rogerson, eight dozen; H. Purdue, fourteen dozen of gudgeons, one barbel, and three perch; F. Purdue, ten dozen of gudgeons, three perch, and three dozen of roach; James Haslett, seven bream, one perch, one chub, and five dozen of roach and dace.

**Weybridge.**—Mr. Hugh Marston, fishing with J. Poulter during the week, 18lb. weight of roach, one fish scaling 1lb. 2oz., six brace of perch, eight barbel, the largest 6½lb., and eight bream, the largest 5lb.; H. Cun, one day, two barbel, two eels, and six dozen of roach and dace, the largest dace 8½oz.; J. Upsdell, five barbel and four bream; W. Barrows, a chub of 2lb., one eel, and several fine dace ledgering.

**Chertsey.**—J. Poulter, one day, with Mr. Lea, three bream, three chub, one perch, and three large roach; and another day, with Mr. G. H. Thurston and his brother, two bream, four chub, one eel, and four dozen of roach and dace.

**Staines.**—G. Osman, in two days, three and a half dozen of roach and dace, and a couple of barbel; Mr. Clark, in one day, five barbel; F. Collyer, three jack, weighing respectively 13lb., 6lb., and 3½lb.; C. Hone, with Mr. Peach, in two days, a trout of 3½lb., and a fine show of roach and dace; John Keene, sen., in two days, twenty-two dozen of roach and dace, and one barbel; and another day, with Mr. W. Jones, of the Swan Hotel, two barbel, and a very handsome trout of 5lb. 13oz., which has been sent to Mr. Cooper for preservation. John Keene, jun., has been out five days, and made some good takes of barbel, roach, and dace.

## UPPER THAMES.

The condition of the Thames in the upper regions could not possibly be better for angling purposes, and in consequence of continuous rain is hourly improving. I hear of fair catches of roach and chub from nearly all stations between Staines and Oxford, but nothing, so far, of note as to be particularised. The Reading Association have turned into their waters some hundred brace of fine trout, two-pounders not being the least of the stock. This is the correct thing to do, for it is simply throwing money and good intentions away to put fingerlings into the Thames. At Hurley, two anglers have been busy amid the barbel, two of the catch going 11lb. odd. Mr. Parry, fishing from that comfortable angler's retreat, "The East Arms," Hurley, has been busy amid the roach; but Mr. P. has found the quality hitherto indifferent. Rain, which is falling heavily as I write, will improve matters in this respect, and anglers intending to pay a visit to Old Father Thames, cannot do better than do so at once.—Marlow Buzz.

### Thames (Datchet.)

The change in the weather has effected a change in the appetite of the barbel and knocked the dace off. On the 13th inst. I was trying the dace with patrons with very poor result. J. Hoare with patron, on the 13th inst., 30lb. of barbel; on the 14th, 30lb. again, largest 7lb., with greaves. Now that the rain has come, I hope to be able to do something with the barbel, with lobworms, as I have just had proof of their liking for them; greaves is very well in its way, but when those little pests of dace fall on to it, the moment it's down it is a nuisance. On the 11th, I gave a swim a feed of worms, and again on the 12th, but with no result to my patrons; I am sorry to say that it must be their fault for they will not stop anywhere. A good thing is always worth waiting for. On the 14th inst., with R. H. Lines, Esq., tried the barbel with worms for two hours in the morning—it was no go: went to another swim with worms, that was no good: as a last resort we had to return to our first love with greaves and soon hooked a good fish, played with him some time, then he took the hook. After that caught one, then another broke the line; the gentleman was going to drive back to town, it was time to be off, so very reluctantly we left them with the remark, that we ought to have got there first. Why did the fish bite here and not at the other swim? Because it had been baited longer and oftener, and I find that shifting about for barbel is a very bad plan; in fact, to get a swim in good order wants constant attention in the way of feeding which I am certain cannot be done. If you fish here one evening and there the next, they come and look for some bait next evening. Mr. Fisherman, he is away somewhere else; they cannot depend on him, so off they go disappointed of a tit bit. When I used to fish by myself I never thought of a second swim, and I think I can safely say, without fear of contradiction, nobody ever had greater success—in fact once I was given 2s. 6d. to give my swim up to another. Well, to conclude, I am not grumbling; for plenty of patronage I ought to be the happiest of fishermen, but I should like to see more fish. I had one hour and a half at the swim with lobworm, in the evening, to see if they would take them; when I arrived, it was being drilled from the bank; they had one fish—that riles me worse than anything. My eye! didn't they just about bite—six fish, about 20lb.—new swim, never had a fish out of it before; baited it well last season, but only fished it a little at midday when they went off bite at the other. Motto, "If they won't bite here, they won't bite there."

### Docket Point.

My two days' fishing—Seven bream, one chub, one perch, five dozen roach and dace. There are bream and barbel now to be had—only want trying for. There are two or three places here where they are lying pretty thick. Any gentleman wishing to try, please give two or three days' notice.—J. Haslett.

### Goring.

Water in good order for jack and perch. Gudgeons and perch biting very well. Two best days, five dozen gudgeons, two dozen roach, and three dozen very good perch. Prospects at present look good for the next few days.—John Rush.

### Sonning.

I have had several gentlemen out since Henley week; they have not done much. Mr. Baresford was out last Saturday, got a few barbel, none of any size, a few good perch, and a very nice chub. Mr. Haggett got a good many chub, taken with cheese. I went down to the landing-place last Friday, saw a large barbel over 8lb., which seemed hurt in some way, and got it out; it had life and that was all. There was another, much larger, just below they said; I had not time then to go and get it. There are plenty of worms to be got now; and if well baited there ought to be some good fish taken.—W. Hull.

### Thames (Oxford).

I do not think much of this wonderful Thames Valley drainage scheme; the only benefit which has resulted from it at present has accrued to the fish. On Saturday I had a run up the higher reaches, in company with Mr. W. Retson, the hon. sec. of the Oxford Angling Society. I have seen a few specimens of spade work in my life, in one shape or another, but I have never come across any that has so completely succeeded in spoiling a river. Every familiar landmark had disappeared. Noted chub haunts were gone altogether, roach holes, which in former days yielded good sport, were untenanted, and, after eight hours' hard work, we had to leave off without getting so many pounds weight of fish. The rains at the beginning of the week have done an immense amount of good, both to the land and the river. Perch have been going exceedingly well. On Friday Mr. Brightwell, spinning with an artificial bait, between Godstow and Medley, caught about 18lb. of them, and on Tuesday and Wednesday Mr. W. Retson, at St. John's Bridge, Lechlade, amongst a good bag of mixed fish, had twelve perch, averaging about ½lb. During the last month Mr. Retson, sen., has been enjoying excellent sport, several large roach having fallen to his rod, many of them going from 1lb. to 1¼lb. To-day the Oxford Angling Society hold their first fishing competition at Eynsham, and, judging from the preparations made by some of the members, there ought to be a dash of fish in that particular stretch for the next few months.—Cherwell Otter.

### Walton-on-Thames.

There has been a lot of rain here; the punts have been well engaged, and numerous large baskets of fish taken. Upwards of 800 roach have been taken during the week, and about 90 bream, tench, trout, barbel, pike, perch, and gudgeon. Trout are increasing in the Thames. Mr. Robinson, staying at the Swan Hotel, caught seven last week with the fly. Many more trout would be taken if the fly were more used, especially on windy days when there is a good ripple on the water. Large grouse fly and large brown hackle are the likely flies for Thames trout. Walford has had some splendid roach, many over 1lb., and one roach was nearly 2lb. weight. The fish are now biting very freely, the river here is simply alive with fish. A pretty sight was to be seen at the Swan Hotel on Thursday evening: five angling gentlemen staying at the hotel returned at the same time and had their fish displayed on dishes on the long dining-table. About 150 fish of one kind and the other, roach, dace, bream, and perch. Two gentlemen had caught, in about three hours, over six dozen roach of splendid average, many of them over 1lb. weight, and mingled with fresh grass, they presented a fine show.—Golfinch.

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### Ancholme District.

The water is but little affected by the recent rains. I have been from home for some time past amongst the dace and chub of the great Ouse, so have not been able to secure the usual notes.—Thomas Ford Caistor.

### Ballynahinch.

Since last report there is a great improvement in weather and water. The former is mild and showery, the latter has risen about 14 inches. Trout are plentiful, but taken shy, as will be seen by the following takes this week:—Messrs. Eades and Houlgrave, thirty-six trout; Mr. Dudgson, fourteen trout; Col. Biam, two peal and seventeen trout; Mr. Hunt, one salmon, 6lb., and eight trout; and Capt. Warren, two days, one salmon, 7lb., and five trout. Every prospect of good trout fishing soon.—Walter Blackadder.

### The Bure (Norwich).

From this river the reports are just as encouraging as from the Yare. At Wroxham, Horning Ferry, Ranworth, South Walsham, Thurne Mouth, and Acle, anglers have, during the past week, been having some excellent sport, especially at Horning Ferry and Acle; several instances of one rod taking 3st. of fish in the day have been reported to me, whilst catches of from 3st. to 4st. per boat have been almost the general rule all down the stream. Above Wroxham, from Coltishall, I have not heard any particulars, but feel sure that what applies to the lower waters will no doubt apply to the upper reaches. On Wroxham Broad some heavy catches of fine bream have been caught by the gentlemen who spend the night on the water, ground-baiting very late, and commencing as early as possible, say between 2 and 3 a.m. Then they quietly row off at breakfast time, generally with several stone of good bream, whilst those who commence after that time, and fish during the day-time, hardly ever experience any good luck. Visitors to these parts cannot do better than choose either Wroxham, Horning Ferry, or Acle, at all of which, if not already full, they will be sure of excellent sport, and also of first-rate accommodation, with the additional advantage of being, at each place, within easy reach of the sea, if a day's change is required. Prospects very good, weather splendid, rain very partial and light.—Robert Moll.

### Chichester.

Sport has somewhat improved here since the heavy rains, yet fish are not feeding freely. Eleven and a half pounds of bream is the largest take I have heard of. Mr. Leversham, on Saturday evening, landed a brace of handsome tench scaling over 3lb.—the first tench worth notice that has been taken for some few seasons. I have been in one of the most charming spots in England—near the boat-house on the Medway, at Tonbridge—quite an angler's paradise. Reports from Selham have been meagre, but dace are taking fly well. Weather stormy.—George F. Salter.

### The Dee, Feugh, Dye, &c.

Within the past fortnight the fishing has improved somewhat, but not nearly to such an extent as could be wished. In the small streams the trouting has been fairly good. Mr. James Watt, the veteran trout fisher, in company with a few others, went out on the upper reaches of the Feugh and its tributary streams, and secured some splendid baskets. Gordon (of the Deeside Highlanders) also went out; but met with indifferent success. On the Beltie some fine takes with the worm have been reported to us. Mr. Hugh Mackenzie, on the Ebrie, near Arnage, had some pretty successful evenings. On the Don, in the vicinity of Kintore, we learn of good catches with the Palmer and black spider; but, otherwise, we wonder that our correspondents on that river have so utterly neglected us. Good trouting is being had on some parts of the Deveron, especially well up. This river, however, has silted up with shifting sand at its mouth, and grilse and salmon are not getting through. For well-nigh a fortnight it was almost completely choked, and its debouchment into the sea prevented. Flooding, in consequence, took place on the low-lying grounds and haughs; but with the recent heavy rains and the consequent spate, a clearance has been effected—at least, temporarily. The heavy rains of Thursday night and Friday morning raised the rivers more than they have been for the past six months. The Feugh came pouring down tornado-like, and all the crack worm fishers were soon at the pool, and Craven had two grilse and five sea trout; Wm. Dawson, six sea trout; A. Wright, three sea trout; Norman Leslie, two sea trout; Davie Nicoll, two sea trout. On the Invery water General Oliphant had a good basket of fine trout on Saturday. The Dee.—C. Wollaston, Esq., had a fine fresh-run grilse of 4½lb. on Kineskie. David Rae got one of 6lb. on Cairnton. Major Scott had no sport on Durris. And Craven went up the Banchory Lodge section of the Feugh on Saturday and got two fish. Nothing but a fly of Craven's own dressing could stir a fin. Every standard pattern was tried, but without success. The fish were coming short, with the result that out of eight fish that rose only two were banked. For the benefit of Feugh anglers we may state that the water was greatly peat coloured and the day bright. The fly used may be described as follows:—Tag, silver tinsel and yellow silk; tail, small topping; butt, black herl; body, black silk floss; ribbed, silver flatworm, five turns; hackle, cock, dyed yellow, a third way up body; head, black herl; wings, three toppings. On being shown this fly it so took our fancy that we had some run up forthwith. If improvement upon this fly could be made, Craven thinks it might be effected by placing a single Indian crow feather of the proper length below the toppings forming the wing. At Ballater I. Smith, Esq., has had some nice baskets of trout, and the Alt Davarie was said to have been in good ply recently. As yet, we have no record of heavy baskets from that famous stream. Messrs. Mackintosh and Ironside had some very superior takes on the Ugie, near Bracklay, and Col. Fordyce had a few fine Loch Leven trout on the Castle private water. On the Ythan, near Methlick, a few baskets of trout are being got daily, and the Little Water of Gight and Cairnbanno Burn are yielding fair sport. Sea trout are beginning to show in the Bervie, but in the Ythan at Newburgh the catch of these at present is at its lowest ebb. Worm fishing in the upper regions of Strathdon is producing good results. The trout are nice and plump, and quite ready to take. Some very indifferent anglers have had surprising success. The Nochty, Deskry, Spearach, Ernan, Bucket, and Kindie are affording the angler rare enjoyment. The recent rain, though it has improved the trouting, has done little yet toward bettering the salmon fishing all over. We confess we were never more disappointed with the result of any spate in midsummer. The rain we now see has been too long in coming. The great quantity of salmon, grilse, and sea trout that lay along the coast in June, but could not force the river owing to its smallness, shows little now. We, this year, have thus another proof that unless we have copious rain in June, the grilse fishing in our eastern rivers is certain to be poor. For one thing, they invariably move off the Aberdeen and Kincardine coasts after the first week of July. After that time, and until the second week of September, the fishing all over the river is at its lowest point. The autumn fishing, generally very fine, then begins, and continues for six weeks. About Kincardine O'Neil the sport has been inferior. Major Leith-Hay had a salmon of 9lb. from the Ballogie water. Chas. Farquhar Esq., a gilse of 4lb. on the Carlogie water. One or two have been got about Aboyne. David Rae, on Cairnton, had a salmon of 9lb. on Monday; and Wm. Dawson, at Bridge of Feugh, on Tuesday had one splendid sea trout. On Blackhall Castle water—J. T. Hay, Esq.—a grilse of 3½lb. was got on Monday. T. C. Gould, Esq., had one splendid sea trout on the Feugh on Tuesday. In the Tanar some fine baskets of trout have been got by Mr. Brooks' friends and guests, when these were out on that stream. The Culter Burn has been showing but indifferent sport of late. Heavy rain again fell last night, and the rivers and streams are to-day (Tuesday) in flood.—W. M.

In the Rose Pot G. Brenner, fisherman, ran a splendid fish. On the Aboyne waters Col. Keen has had a few grilse. On Glentanar only a grilse or two have been got. Some little sport is being had about Ballater and Braemar. The spate of Wednesday brought the Feugh into order, and some small fish were got. W. Dawson had two grilse, 3lb. and 3½lb. respectively, and five sea trout; J. B. Keith, Esq., had one finnock; and A. Wright, keeper, secured two finnocks and a sea trout. There are now few grilse on the coast to take the river. Our Banchory correspondent reports that, with one or two exceptions, all those got at the Bridge of Feugh have been "back-lying" fish.—W. M.

### Dove.

Our river has been running in improved condition this week, though the water has been by no means highly discoloured. There have been a great number of rods out along the entire course of the stream, but more good has been done on the bottom than on the surface. The maggot and cockspur worm have killed as well as anything. The tiny black gnats are on the water, and, as usual, they are proving very troublesome to fishermen. The caterpillar has been the most destructive lure in the twilight. Taken all round, the trout and grayling dishes have averaged about six brace per rod. Eels have been stirring freely, and the night-line fraternity have captured some heavy samples. The electricity in the atmosphere has no doubt been the cause of the eels moving about so freely. The weather is rather unsettled, and I think we shall have a wet autumn after the long, dry summer.—The Splodger.

### Eden (Carlisle.)

The common greeting amongst anglers just now is: "Are there any whiting astir yet?" The fact is that trout-fishing is about over, the river being much too big for night-work, and anglers are anxiously waiting for these satisfactory little fish, as they fill up the gap till salmon-fishing begins again in September. Whitings or herlings well deserve the epithet satisfactory, for they come up in large numbers; they can get through any net of legal mesh, they are very free takers, and they are delicious eating. We ought to have plenty of them as soon as the river runs down; but they won't run in full waters. Very few sea-trout have been taken with the rod this season. When the main run was on, the river was so low that they were nearly all stopped by the lowest nets. Grilse are showing up in the fishmongers' shops pretty well. River in high flood.—Silver Grey.

### Exe (Exeter).

Last week some fair coarse fishing was had near Exwick Field. 150 roach were taken by Messrs. Calardine, Whitelock, Ellis, Tucker, and Kelley respectively; bait, new bread. A few perch have been captured at Turf, one weighing 1¼lb. Trout have been taken with black palmer, with silver twist, and yellow duns. We have had some welcome rain, but not sufficient to improve the salmon fishing for rods. Yesterday, Mr. Greenslade, and one or two others, took a nice lot of roach with gentles.—J. A. Kelley.

### Lea (Waltham Abbey).

Good news from home at last. Some very good fish and very reasonable takes, late on in the evening, as a rule. Those who can fish the Lea with bran and bread can catch fish if they try. The best takes that I have seen have been 6½lb., after six o'clock in the evening; plenty of 4lb. and 5lb. during the latter end of last week and the beginning of this; and the best fish that I have seen were four over 1lb., the finest, 1lb. 11oz., being taken by Alfred Wheeler, jun., on Wednesday evening, which was sent to Mr. Cooper for preservation.—Bennett.

### Leicester.

We have had a comparatively fine week, causing an increase of the followers of the piscatorial art at the various resorts in this district. A few nice showers have helped to keep the fish well on the feed, and the sport has been really good. Each day lately I have heard of large catches of roach from the local society's preserves. Among a lot of roach caught by Mr. Perkins was an extraordinarily large specimen of this species, weighing 2lb., whilst several other anglers have been taking roach over 1lb. each. The season so far has been one of the most successful that we have had. The following are a few of the anglers who have had large baskets:—Messrs. Bird, Stafford, Hobbs, G. Hardy, and Marvel. Perch fishing has also been of a satisfactory kind, a number of catches, varying from 4lb. to 7lb., having been had, and in several baskets there were fish over 1lb. each. The fresh in the waters has caused the eels to bite, and quantities have been taken from the old river Soar, angling, and plenty of them weighed between 2lb. and 3lb. No large pike have been landed up to the present. The chub have been rising well in the evening at the fly, and Mr. A. J. Lee had a capital lot, the largest being 3¾lb. Sport down the Wreake and at Narborough has been good. Reports to hand show that well-filled baskets of roach and perch have been the reward of those who have tried their luck at these noted waters. The rivers are in excellent condition. At the time of writing (Thursday evening) the weather appears of a settled character, and there is every prospect of anglers having fine weather to pursue their favourite sport for some days to come. Thursday being the usual half-holiday, a great many were at the river side.

### Lodden.

Since my last report we have been abundantly supplied with heavy showers of rain, in so much that the rain-gauge showed nearly an inch for Thursday and Friday; but, strange to say, the river has not risen in the slightest, the water being as clear and bright as if no rain had fallen. But there is a marked change in the movements of the fish. Trout are rising and taking of an evening the brown, grey, and white moth. Several very fine trout have come to grass, and pike and jack have been giving some excellent sport. Chub and other coarse fish have not been so well on the feed. Most of the jack were caught with live gudgeon.—F. Gosden.

### Lugg and Arrow (Leominster).

Both these streams are still in good fly fishing order, still keeping clear but very low. Some slight showers of rain have fell in this part, but have made no difference to the colour of the water; the fish are now rising freely in both streams at the fly. The best flies on the water are the silver-twisted blue, red spinner, and green insect, and some very nice fish have been taken with them. In the Lugg, on Friday, a very good lot of trout were landed by a gentleman with the red spinner. A gentleman fished the Arrow the same day with the wasp grub, and took some very good trout, averaging ½lb. each. Some good trout were taken with the fly in the same stream. The Lugg was fished on Saturday with the green insect and twisted blue, and a very nice dish of fine trout were landed. On the same day the Arrow was visited with the fly, and a good dish of fish were landed. Some very good sport was had in the Arrow, on Monday, by a gentleman who took 4lb. of fine trout with the red spinner. In the Lugg the fish were biting well at the fly, and a gentleman with the green insect took a good dish of fine trout. On Tuesday a good day's sport was had with the red spinner and twisted blue, and some very good-sized fish were landed. A nice lot of trout were taken in the Arrow with the fly. Some very good fish have been taken in the Lugg at Aymestry with the fly this week. Good sport has been had in the Eardisland waters with the red spinner, and some good fish have been landed. In the Monkland district the fishing has been quiet. The Pinsley still keeps in good order for the fly, and the fish are rising freely. A nice dish were taken on Friday and some good trout were taken on Monday with the red spinner.—Gwynne.

### Medway (Tunbridge).

At last the rains have brought the fish well on the feed, and, as a rule, good bags have been made in all parts of the river during the week. Bream have been ravenously at the feed, worm being the killing bait, and with them have been taken a good number of perch, eels, &c., while roach have been feeding ravenously on gentles. Amongst the catches I have heard of, I may mention bream by Mr. J. M. Streeter, taken opposite The Castle; a bag of 18¾lb. taken on a swim-about turn, by Mr. F. Masters, of Maidstone, and a friend, a miscellaneous bag by Mr. Harvey and Mr. Ede, as well as many others. All that is required is a little more rain to make all kinds of fish feed ravenously.—Ye Medway Water Rat.

### Moy and Loch Conn (Ballina).

Since last report there has been no sport to speak of on river or lough. Although the river is full of fish they will not look at anything in the shape of fly or bait. The river is very low. The lough would give sport to the fair angler with rod and line, if it were not so overrun with otter fishing. Two otters to one boat are used, one each side. The men living by the lake side, who gain a good lot of money during the summer months from strangers coming to angle on the lough, use the otter. Some of your London anglers (I don't know what fishing club they belong to) who come out for their holidays, encourage their boatmen to use the otter, while they get the fish to send back to their friends. The beautiful 2 or 3lb. trout when he rises to the fair angler's fly, come short. You just feel that he touched something. The deadly otter, with its two or three dozen of flies, has passed over him more than once. He has been hooked and got off; he remembers the fly that tore part of his jaw away in trying to pull him to the net by the strength of man's arms. No wonder he came short to the fair angler's fly, for six fish hooked on the otter the average is about two killed.—Frank Hearns, Ballina, co. Mayo.

### Ouse (Huntingdon).

The recent rains have made the water in splendid condition, but the bream have been rather slow. The roach are on the feed, taking wheat. On the 15th, I saw some splendid roach taken; they were feeding very freely. Some very nice dace have been taken with red worms. I have no doubt but what the bream will be on the feed very shortly.—H. Rout.

### Severn and Teme (Worcester).

For general angling these streams are in good order, and some good takes have been landed. Some of the brothers of the angle have paid a little attention to pool and lake fishing since I last wrote, and many large baskets of perch, roach, bream, tench, and carp were taken. One of the Birmingham clubs got permission to fish the lake at Westwood Park, the home of one of England's great and good men—the late Lord Hampton. The fish taken were out of count, pike included. An old friend of mine (a member of the St. John's Amateur Anglers) landed one of the best lot of perch and trout last Friday, the total weight being 25lb. 15oz. There were about 70 perch, the largest fish weighing about 10oz., and 3½ brace of trout, the best brace being 1¼lb. There were fifteen members present, and all had a few perch. This was something like olden times, when all fish weighed in were forfeited and sent to those who could not fish. The Worcester Club held their third day's outing last week, and the following were the prizetakers:—1st, Mr. Wall; 2nd, Mr. Ghillam; 3rd, Mr. J. A. Griffin.—J. A. Griffin.

### South Level Cut (Littleport).

I am pleased to be able to tell you that fishing is looking up since last report, as the following will show:—July 12th: Mr. Hailstone, Anglesea Abbey, Bottisham, 23 nice perch; Mr. A. Lemaire, Newmarket, in about four hours, two dozen and eleven nice roach, and three small bream. This is the first take of roach of any consequence that has come under my notice this season, but I have heard, through keeper Benton, that several lots have been taken in the bream swim above the Branch. July 13th: Mr. A. Lemaire, Newmarket, fishing a couple of hours in the early morning, four bream (not large), and a few decent roach; Mr. J. Allen, Littleport, also a few roach. July 15th: Mr. Ward, Littleport, two good bream and a few roach; Mr. J. Cole, St. John's Wood Piscatorials, one bream, 3lb., and a few roach. July 14th: Mr. Hailstone, about one dozen very nice perch, largest 18oz.; and again on 15th, two dozen nice perch. This gentleman has had better sport among these fish than any other angler for years past, and it is a great pleasure to me and other anglers to find they are gathering in this water again, as five years back there was scarcely a perch to be taken. July 16th: My son, Tom, well known among the local anglers, four bream, 4lb., 3½lb., 3lb., and 1½lb; again, to-day, seven bream, 4¾lb., 4½lb., 4¼lb., 4lb., 3½lb., 3¼lb., and 2¾lb.—the finest lot it was ever my luck to see together in one catch. The mischief is they will only bite for an hour or two in the early mornings. I forgot to mention that Mr. Powell, of London, also had some very decent perch fishing.—Charlie South.

### Taw and Tributaries.

Water rose on the morning of the 18th four or five inches, and the peal, which were plentiful in the tidal rivers, have gone, much to the disgust of the driftmen, who are sweeping the rivers as if with small-teeth combs. The men have been averaging 50s. per week, and the takes very plentiful. Salmon and peal have been hawked through the streets at 11d. per lb. The rivers have been very low, so much so that no fishing has been got for six weeks. I see the conservators have consented to allow Sir W. Williams to take as a scientific frontier 200 yards each side of Weir, and stake the boundary, much to the injury of the navigation of the river. This weir has had the reputation of being the deathbeds of many men, besides other other accidents; yet the conservators permit this nuisance to the river Taw, besides being the trap for many tons of salmon and peal per year. I was sorry to see a miller turn out his stream the other day and allow men and boys to destroy many trout from 1in. long. Next week I trust to be able to send some good reports of salmon and peal taken with the minnow, there being no doubt we are on the commencement of a good season for the big fishermen. Any gentlemen who may want a month's salmon fishing would do well to see out his place; and this neighbourhood, unequalled for convenience, accommodation, and for getting necessary requirements, will be the best putting up. Railways abound to different parts, and unlike other places, the rail and the rivers accompany each other. When a rest is required the different watering-places are easily got, and return the same night, giving one up to 9 o'clock at the seaside, where some sea-fishing is to be had.—Rusty Game.

### Teme (Ludlow).

The streams about here are a great deal lower than might be expected, considering the rain that has fallen within the last week, but are still in good fishing order. The rain has caused the fish to bite well, both at maggot and worm, and anglers' fly fishing have met with fair success. The flies most used this week are the Marlow buzz, red spinner, and whirling blue. A gentleman with the latter fly killed, on Monday, in the Leintwardine quarter, 20 fish of various sorts, principally trout. Coming lower down the Teme the next day, he caught 17 nice fish, some of which weighed 2lb. each. A gentleman fishing down Steventon waters on Tuesday, caught a brace of perch with the maggot, upon placing them in the scale they nearly reached 5lb. the two; they were the best perch we have seen for some time in this quarter of the Teme. A fine trout 2½lb. was landed on Saturday in the Burway fields with the whirling blue. A gentleman down Ashford waters to-day caught a very good basket of fish with the red spinner. The Clun is very low, and the water very clear, and fishing in this stream has not been indulged in as much as it usually is at this period of the year. The Ony is low and very fine, the bottom of the stream being visible from the railway train near Onibury Station, still some very nice fish have been landed in this quarter in the deeper portions of the river. A gentleman from Worcester caugh nine very fine trout on Tuesday, near to Bromfield, with the green insect. The Corve is rather low, and to some extent coloured. Some fair sport has been had from the meadows near the Clee Hill Railway this week, one fisherman catching eight fine fish with the worm and maggot. There has been but little doing in the Letwyche waters, and the fish caught are rather small than otherwise.—S. Ludlow.

### Teme (Tenbury).

There have been some very sharp showers of rain had in this district the last few days, but they have made but little difference to the state of the water, which still keeps low, but clear and in good order for the fly. The fish are sporting well at the fly, and the best on at present are the red spinner, green insect, and whirling blue, and some very good lots of fish have been landed. A gentleman from Leeds, who was visiting Tenbury, had some very good sport with the fly, when he took a splendid basket of fine trout, averaging from ½lb. each. A member of the Fishing Club, who was fishing in the club water, at the end of last week, with the red spinner and green insect, took a very fine lot of grayling, all in prime condition. Some good sport was had in the club water on Friday evening with the wasp grub, and a gentleman took a very nice dish of grayling. On Saturday a gentleman took a fine lot of trout with the whirling blue. In the club waters several very nice lots of trout have been taken with the minnow. At the end of last week some good lots of eels were taken with the worm. A gentleman, on Monday, fished the water from Easton Court, and took a very good basket of fine fish with the red spinner and green insect. A very nice dish was landed below the town the same day with the green insect. The fish were biting well at the fly on Tuesday, and some very good dishes of trout were landed. The Kyre, Rea, and Ledwyche are all in good fly-fishing order but low; the fish are rising well at the fly, and some good fish have been landed. In the Rea, on Tuesday, some gentlemen from Ludlow, with the fly, took a splendid lot of fine fish. Some good fish have been taken in the Ledwyche and Kyre with the fly.—Worcester.

### Torridge (Torrington).

River had a nice rise one day this week, and the first peal and some good trout have been taken witb the fly in the free water near the town. Three men, float fishing, took over 100 mullet and a quantity of bass one day this week in the tidal water. There will be some good fishing now the rivers have had a clearing.—Practical Angler.

### Trent (Newark).

I quite expected last week, considering the quantity of rain that fell in this district, that we should have a heavy flood, but we did not get above three feet of extra water; and in two days it had cleared down nearly as low as ever. The parched and thirsty earth must have drunk it in with avidity; anyhow, let that be as it may, I fully expected a bank full of water, and I was disappointed; but still, we must be thankful for small mercies, for the change was very welcome, it has taken a lot of the flannel weed away, although there is plenty of it left yet. Before this extra water came down the bream, &c., were biting very nicely, but the sudden change seemed to knock them off the feed. At the time of writing (Thursday) the water is again very low and clear, and sport does not seem to be of a very brilliant character, although a few anglers have not done amiss among the bream, eels, flounders, &c., the worm seeming to be the most successful bait; and as far as I can judge, according to the present circumstances, the worm will be the best bait for this next week, but the bill of fare might be varied by gentles and a few wasp grubs, if the latter is obtainable. I hope to be at the Welsh Harp next Saturday, the 26th, and that there will be a successful meeting is the wish of the—Trent Otter.

### Trent (Lower).

There is a considerable improvement in angling in the lower reaches of the Trent, and capital sport has been had at more than one point. At Torksey there have been some really good catches, and, as an example, I may say a visitor from Sheffield caught 22¼lb. of eels, perch, roach, and bream at a sitting. Flounders, as well as eels, continue to give rare sport for those who like a little lively work, and there have been several barbel taken. The fresh that has come down the river has done a great deal towards enlivening the almost torpid fish. The worm will be found the best bait, I fancy, for these waters; but the maggot will take roach freely now that the thunder has moved away.—Trace.

### Trent (Alrewas).

During the past week some very good bags of roach and grayling have been taken with the gentle, one roach scaling 1¼lb. On Saturday some fine eels, chub, perch, and one barbel were taken with the tail end of a lobworm. Water in fine angling condition.

### Trent (Nottingham).

The river, so far as this district is concerned, is very low and fine, and barbel are still very backward in condition. Numerous swims have been baited with worms, but the fish do not appear to take at all kindly to them. Dr. Smith, of this town, has caught four very fine perch, the two largest weighing 2½lb. and 2¼lb. respectively. They have been forwarded to Mr. J. Stanley, taxidermist, Trent-street, for preservation. Twelve perch were killed at Trent Lock on Tuesday afternoon. Above the bridge, at Wilford, the barbel-would-be anglers have been doing a considerable amount of "snatching," and it is quite time that the Trent Conservancy Board took notice of it. At Burton-on-Trent and Willington the river has been practically depopulated of fish through the bursting of some tanks, alleged to be connected with the gasworks. Tons of fish were, in fact, destroyed, and amongst Nottingham anglers it is a well-known fact that no larger roach and dace exist than between Willington and Newton Solney.—The Man at the Clubs.

### Tweed and Teviot.

Both Tweed and Teviot have been more or less flooded since our last report, and have therefore been in good order for the angler. Many baskets of trout have been got with worm, minnow, and fly. On Friday last W. Reid had 8lb., and on the following day 8½lb., in the Tweed, with worm. On Saturday, on the same river, S. Wright had 7lb.; A. Hope, 5½lb.; and J. Cummings, 7lb.—the latter basket being got with fly, while six in this basket weighed 3lb. We believe that one large trout, about 3½lb., was killed in Jack's Plumb on Thursday. On Saturday Geo. Fairbairn had about 8lb., while good baskets were also got by Peter Jack, Jas. Chisholm, and others. A capital creel was obtained in the Kale by Mr. Bone, Edenside-road, the trout being in excellent order. The takes in Bowmont have been both numerous and excellent. On Friday Mr. George Weir, Cliftoncote, had 9lb.; on Monday Mr. W. Fleming, Wetholm, killed over 12lb.; while one of several other baskets is reported to have scaled 15lb. On Tuesday night on the Tweed, with fly, David Brown killed 6lb. In the Selkirk district R. Jack had 10lb.; David Hill, 8lb.; T. Mitchell, 7½lb.; W. Reid, 5lb.; J. Robertson, 5lb.; H. Kemp, 4lb. In the Wooler district Mr. John Bell had 15½lb., got with worm; Mr. Hindmarsh, 14lb.; and Mr. Maling, 13lb. Coldstream District.—With the heavy fall of rain all Sunday, the river was, both in regard to size and colour, in good condition for net fishing on Monday morning. The various stations here were fished nearly all day, and the following are some of the results:—Cornhill water, ten grilse and twelve trout; Lennel Haugh, two salmon, ten trout, seven grilse; the English waters, fifteen fish. Twizel boathouse had also a few salmon and a number of trout. Fishing at Twizel Mill has again been very successfully prosecuted, as the fish at this season take the till very freely. The takes here on Monday were heavy. The spate has also proved advantageous to anglers, some good baskets having been got with both worm and minnow. Tweed Net Salmon Fishings.—Consequent on the late flood, these fishings have greatly improved, and some large salmon have been got on the different waters. It is remarkable, however, that the best catches still come from the sea coast. The improvement is noticeable in salmon trout and grilse, but principally the latter. Prices are: Salmon, 11d.; grilse and trout 10d. per lb. At the corresponding period last year they were: Salmon, 11d.; trout and grilse, 9d.—Maxwheel, Kelso.

### Usk.

Frequent falls of rain have occurred during the last fortnight; but the soil being so dry absorbed all the moisture, and no perceptible rise took place in the river until Wednesday morning last, when the river rose between two and three feet. At an early hour, the Association keepers commenced to net the river; but after taking seven large salmon, were obliged to abandon their work on account of the rise of the water. On Thursday morning, the water fell about six inches, and being a good colour, the fishermen sallied forth. and at the time of writing have not returned. Since the rise yesterday a great many fish have been observed making their way up the river, and if more rain falls, which appears probable, some good angling may be obtained.—Argus.

### The Waveney (Norwich).

The vice-president of the Norwich Angling Club (Mr. C. J. Greene) and the president of the Norwich Piscatorial Society (Mr. Charles Daniels) on Tuesday tried their luck at Somerleyton, and, after patiently waiting for the flood, succeeded in landing (ledgering) some very fine bream, the largest weighing 4¾lb., whilst the remainder were all good fish—several between 3lb. and 4lb. Pity this spot is so difficult to get at, and boats so scarce; otherwise many Norwich anglers would pay it a visit. Prospects on this stream, I am told, are very good.—Robert Moll.

### Witham.

Angling in the Witham is now very good, and at many of the riverside stations there have been during the week plenty of visitors. Bardney, Dogdyke, Kirkstead, and other places have been favoured with anglers from Sheffield, Manchester, and other places at a distance, and from what have been reported they have done well. One angler from Sheffield took up 20lb. of roach alone. On Monday, at Kirkstead, the Fen drains have also had a lot of visitors upon them, and, in particular, the Cowbridge, near to Boston. Several anglers made up baskets running to 20lb., and some contained some excellent bream as well as roach, and in some cases tench. One man was noticed with a nice tench of just over 3lb. A great many anglers have had down there the maggot, wasp grub, and like baits; but worm has taken the most fish. The local paste has done a good deal of execution. The water is now in excellent condition, and now that the air is pretty well cleared of its electricity, there ought to be some good work done.—Yellow Belly.

The angling has been fairly good here during the past week, our old friend E. Cowley, of Sheffield, being amongst the most fortunate ones. He succeeded in landing 84 dace, four bream, from 2lb. to 3lb. each in weight, one tench weighing 2½lb., also one fine trout ½lb. weight, which is the first that has been caught in the Witham at Dogdyke to our knowledge.—Packet Hotel, Dogdyke.

### Wye and Derwent.

The bottom fishers, all up and down the Derwent, had excellent baskets of fish, both on Friday and Saturday last—viz., trout, grayling, roach, dace, and chub, some trout being 1½lb. each. The fish were killed mostly with wasp grubs and maggots for baits, and baskets, up to 14 brace per angler was made. Mr. D. P. Pearson, of the Wheatsheaf Hotel, Snainton, Nottingham, has been down here for a little fishing; he has had by far the largest baskets, besides killing the largest grayling that has been taken out of the Derwent for the past ten years; he killed it last Saturday and it weighed 1lb. 10oz. and was a most splendid well-fed male fish. This gentleman is about the most promising angler I ever saw for making a first-class fisherman all round; in fact we have very few local hands that can compete with him at either fly or minnow fishing. The fly-fishers have done well the whole of the week, and baskets of good-sized fish, both trout and grayling, up to 8 brace per angler, have been made. The killing flies have been yellow dun, light dun, bumbles, black gnat, and sand flies; and the first thing in the morning and the last thing at night are the best feeding times. There are a great many fishermen out on both the Wye and the Derwent just now. There have been some heavy trout killed by dibbing with the natural bluebottle flies, under the bushes and trees, on different parts of the Derwent. The trollers have killed some nice samples of trout on the Derwent, during the week with the artificial "Derby trout killer." Sport on the ponds, with both fly and bottom, has been first class. I heard of the small green drake killing a lot of good trout lately. Weather looks very wild, and more rain threatening,—George James Eaton.

### The Yare (Norwich).

Since my last report, day by day sport seem to have been improving. From Brundall, Buckenham, and Cantley the same news reaches me, that nearly every party of anglers have been successful; the heaviest catch I have heard of is 8 stone, composed of bream, roach, and perch; these were caught at Cantley, and the largest bream scaled about 4lb. and the largest perch 2lb., the size of the majority of the fish must, however, have been small, as I understand the number was large; in several instances 5 and 6 stone of bream have been taken at the same station, mostly, I believe, below Cantley, in the Hardley Reach, but I consider the Langley Reach would be just as likely to yield equal sport. Buckenham

Ferry is likely now to have a harvest, as several of the chief clubs in the city have arranged to hold their annual matches there this year. This is sure to cause many individuals to visit these waters previously, as some have a notion that it requires practice and knowledge of the different likely spots. Sport is equally good as Brundall, both above Flower's Fishing Station, and below down beyond Coldham Hall (Host Brown) to Rockland Dyke, all of which water may be said to be, either for roach or bream, some of the best on the stream. The low water and hot weather have had the effect of killing some large number of fish near Norwich. Prospects were never better than at present, as all circumstances favour the angler. —Robert Moll.

## CLUB REPORTS.

### AMICABLE BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

Mr. Partrick, roach 4lb. 4oz., dace 6½oz. ; Mr. Say, roach 5lb. 8½oz., bream 9oz. ; Mr. Moir, from Dagenham, bream 1lb, 14½oz., roach 1lb. 9oz. ; Mr. Wicks, roach 1lb. ; and Mr. Carrington, perch from the Lea. The members are requested to attend the club on Wednesday, July 23rd, to arrange the prizes for the pegged-down match at Dagenham.—J. Worledge, sec.

### A NEW ANGLING SOCIETY AT GREAT YARMOUTH.

On Thursday evening, the 10th inst., a meeting was held at the Duke's Head Hotel, for the purpose of establishing another angling society for Yarmouth and the eastern counties. Dr. Mitchell occupied the chair, and E. J. Bonfellow, Esq., the vice-chair. Several gentlemen wel l known for their angling proclivities were present. The following business was transacted :—It was proposed by Mr. Turner, seconded by Mr. Freeman, and unanimously agreed to, "That a society should be formed to be called 'The Eastern Counties Angling Society.'" Proposed by Dr. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Lowne, and carried, "That the subscription be 2s. 6d. for the first twelve months." Proposed by Mr. Archard, seconded by Mr. Turner, "That the fact of the society having been formed be announced in the public papers, and that a meeting be advertised for Thursday, the 24th inst., for the purpose of enrolling members and electing officers." Proposed by Mr. Archard, and seconded by Mr. Bonfellow, "That Mr. B. Seaman be appointed honorary secretary pro tem."

### BERMONDSEY BROTHERS ANGLING CLUB.

The club house having changed hands at last, the members propose to hold, on July 24th, a complimentary visit, to give our new landlord an insight of what the anglers are. Hoping as many anglers and friends as can make it convenient will attend, we shall take it as a great favour and return it in the future. Several of our members were out fishing on the 13th inst., Mr. R. Gafney, with 6lb. roach and bream ; Mr. Benningfield, 4lb. ; Mr. Dotson, 6lb. ; and several other members weighing in.—J. C., sec.

### BROMPTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

Very poor shows on the 13th inst. Messrs. Burbidge and Dutton, bream and roach ; Mr. E. Saunders, carp. Several of our members fished the Welsh Harp, and returned with blanks. They would like to know if the great takes of bream have been seen by any club members, as reported in the *Sporting Life*—namely, Mr. Hillier and friend, 65 bream weighing 196lb. It was given to me on good authority that the takes were : Mr. Hillier, 15lb. ; friend, 12½lb. ; 27½lb. in all. How they grew to the above weight I should like to know. Perhaps Mr. Hillier or friend would kindly let us know the particulars ; they would confer a favour on others as well as —W. Dutton, sec.

### BOSTONIAN ANGLING SOCIETY.

Our show of fish on the 6th was rather a poor one, the best take being had by Mr. Jennings, with 4½lb., from Amberley. Messrs. Constable, Elton, Brothers, and Jamieson weighed fish from Amberley. On the 13th our trays were well filled. Mr. Goodge weighed some good bream from Amberley, averaging 2lb. each ; Mr. Jennings, roach and bream. Mr. Brothers had a good show of bream from Dagenham Lake.—J. J.

### CITY OF BRISTOL ANGLING SOCIETY.

On Monday, June 30th, a special general meeting of this association was held for the purpose of electing the officers and committee for the years 1884 and 1885, and to hear the balance-sheet read for the year ending June 30th, 1884. The president, Mr. Henry Meller, presided over a large attendance of members. The chairman, after making a few remarks in opening the meeting, called upon the secretary to read the annual statement, which showed that the number of members on the books was 59, and that the income for the year was £8 2s. 6d., and the expenditure for the same time was £4 12s. 8d. ; total worth of the society was £5 9s. 4d., which was considered very satisfactory and was adopted. A vote of thanks was passed to the secretary, officers, and committee for their services. The election then commenced, when the following officers and committee, which was reduced to five instead of nine, were elected :—President, H. Meller ; vice-president, Mr. A. Sheppard ; treasurer, Mr. H. G. Lewis ; hon. secretary, F. H. Stantial ; committee-men, Messrs. F. H. Champion, H. Iles, W. Davis, J. Parrot, W. Beacham. A long discussion then took place on a minute passed some time ago, September 5th, 1883, which read "That the committee did not wish to do away with Sunday fishing, but that, on and after this date, no Sunday contest be allowed in connection with this association." The meeting upheld the decision of the committee and ordered that it be inserted in the new rules. A committee meeting was held on Wednesday week, July 9, when it was arranged for a contest to take place in the canal at Bradford, on Bank holiday next, August 4th, when prizes to the value of about £4 will be given. No member who has not taken out his new tablet is to contest. The secretary is pleased to say that there were 10 new members made at this meeting, and that more old members have taken out their tablets than any previous annual meeting. The committee then passed a vote of thanks to the Editor of the Fishing Gazette for his kindness in inserting our reports in that paper.—J. H. Stantial, hon. sec.

### CITY OF LONDON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The following weighed in on the 13th inst. : Mr. Castell, bream from Dagenham ; and Messrs. G. Blackwell and Chambers, roach, dace, perch, and gudgeons from the Thames at Wraysbury. Several visited Amberley, but returned with blanks.—Cas.

### CLAPTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The ordinary weekly meeting of this society was held on Wednesday last, Mr. Colls in the chair, when a considerable number of members attended. The minutes of the last meeting were signed. The secretary reported that he had attended the public meeting called to protest against the continued pollution of the Lea. He gave an account of the proceedings, and the action proposed to be taken by a committee formed (upon which he had been elected), and he hoped and believed that their efforts would have the desired effect of preventing further pollution at a very early date. The secretary brought under the notice of the members the Fishing Gazette Tournament, which would take place at the Welsh Harp, Hendon, on Saturday, the 26th inst., for the benefit of the Anglers' Benevolent Fund. He expressed a hope that the members of the Clapton would attend in numbers : from practical knowledge, he said he could promise them a capital afternoon's instructive amusement. Mr. Chillingworth had a splendid show of roach from the Yare, a dozen of which scaled nearly a pound apiece. Mr. Graham Bennett also showed roach and dace from the Lea. Mr. H. Short reported that a friend of his had been "well in" amongst the barbel, at Staines ; he himself had been "broken away," but only got a few small fish "in the well." Several members reported unimportant catches. Three new members were elected. A cordial vote of thanks was awarded to the chairman. Mr. Winterbottom, in his usual able style, officiated at the pianoforte, and some capital singing brought a very pleasant evening to a close.—Henry Howse, hon. sec.

### CLAPHAM JUNCTION ANGLING SOCIETY.

The result of our first roving match was—Mr. Wellman, 1st, with carp ; Mr. Starsmere, 2nd, bream ; Mr. Thomas, 3rd, bream. Takes were small. Total weight of winners, 5lb. 8oz. On Thursday last our worthy host, Mr. Speed, weighed in a nice show of barbel and dace from Stains, 9lb. 15oz. Our trays were well filled on the 13th inst., by the following members : Messrs. Starsmere, carp and bream, 7lb. 7½oz. ; F. Gomm, 2lb. 6½oz. ; W. Maslin, bream, 2lb. 12oz. ; E. Wilson, 1lb. 12oz., roach ; Thomas, 12oz., bream ; Moore, rudd and dace. A grand show of carp and eels was shown by Mr. Boisseau, about 20lb. in all.—Wm. Maslin, sec.

### CROWN PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

A very important meeting of the above society was held on Thursday evening last, at the Crown Tavern, Clerkenwell-green, Mr. Mason in the chair ; the minutes of the last meeting having been read and confirmed, the question respecting the society's welfare was brought on for discussion, which several of the members took part in, and the following resolutions were proposed and carried unanimously :—"That this society change its quarters, and that the secretary be empowered to give the landlord a month's notice to that effect." As there are so many angling societies in the neighbourhood, it was proposed "That this society amalgamate with the Buckland Angling Society, at the Middlesex Arms, Clerkenwell-green." This, I am happy to say, was carried by the members of both clubs unanimously. "That the managing committee of this society be empowered to negotiate on the conditions of the amalgamation with the managing committee of the Buckland, on Wednesday, July 23rd, at 9 o'clock, for the purpose of electing officers and framing a code of rules." P.S.—On and after July 31st all communications to be addressed to the secretary, Middlesex Arms, Clerkenwell-green.—W. H. Burwash, jun., sec.

### GREAT NORTHERN BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

The following members weighed in on the 13th inst. :—Mr. Hockham, 1 roach, 1lb. 7oz. ; Mr. G. Watling, 6lb. 9oz. ; Mr. Hewitt, 4lb. 11oz. ; Mr. J. Cowper, 3lb. ; Mr. Stammer, 4lb. 7oz. ; Mr. Seeley, 2lb. 1oz. Messrs. Theobold, Graves, C. Watling, R. Hill, Baker, and King also had roach and bream. Mr. Graves took a fine roach on Saturday weighing 1lb. 10oz. Our annual excursion to Dagenham takes place on the 20th inst., starting at midnight on the 19th from the club-house. We have a few seats vacant.—J. Fitch.

### GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

The ordinary weekly meeting of the above society was held at the Mason's Hall Tavern, Mason's-avenue, Basinghall-street, on Tuesday evening ; Mr. Bentley in the chair. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The secretary read letters from Mr. Elliott, of Blunham, inquiring whether the society had come to a decision with reference to his offer of a piece of water ; from the Second Surrey Angling Society, with an invitation to the Central return visit to be paid to their rooms on the 21st inst. ; and from the Editor of the Fishing Gazette, expressing the hope that the society would assist the Anglers' Benevolent Fund by giving a prize at the forthcoming tournament at the Welsh Harp. The consideration of Mr. Elliott's letter was referred to the committee, and Mr. Marston's circular was ordered to be brought before the next meeting. The chairman announced that he was in communication with some friends relative to the renting of a piece of water on the Ouse, and about which he hoped very soon to be able to make a proposal to the society. The chair was occupied during the later portion of the meeting by Mr. White, and votes of thanks to that gentleman and his predecessor, Mr. Bentley, concluded the business of the evening.—H.

### HIGHBURY ANGLING SOCIETY.

Our trays were well furnished on the 13th inst. with some capital barbel, roach, dace, and bream from the Thames and elsewhere, by Mr. Lewis, Mr. Highley, Mr. Shipley, Mr. S. Howell, and others.—James Edward Wheatley, sec.

### HOUNSFIELDS OTTERS, EDMONTON.

Our members were out on the 13th inst., bringing home a good show of roach and a very fine brace of bream ; also on Tuesday, from the Lea, bringing a good show of roach.—Otter.

### INDEPENDENT BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

Most of our members who went out this week had some very nice shows of fish, which well filled our trays, and which make us think that there are some still left in the waters to go out for. Mr. T. Leader had bream, roach, and dace, including one good specimen of bream. Mr. R. Clark had bream and roach, also one good specimen of bream ; G. Coomes, dace ; and H. Moore, a nice show of roach ; other members also weighed in. We are open to receive a few more gentlemen as members.—H. Moore, sec.

### IZAAK WALTON ANGLING ASSOCIATION, STAFFORD.

You, sir, will be pleased to hear of the successful formation of our club in the old county town, and the hearty responses to our circular inviting ordinary and honorary members. I inclose a copy of our rules, which, you will observe, are based upon those you so kindly sent to us. We have purchased the rights of angling in some excellent water at Norton Bridge and Shallowford, the same water that has in years gone by been angled by Izaak Walton (his house still stands in close proximity to our water). It is a strange coincidence that the club should at the very commencement obtain the water so much connected with the history of Izaak Walton, after whom we have named the club. During the week, several fine grayling and trout, also large dace and silver eels, have been taken, and there promises to be some rare good sport for lovers of the piscatorial art. We shall be happy to let you know occasionally how we are progressing. Hon. president, Mr. H. H. Gardiner ; hon. treasurer, John Gibson ; hon. secretary, B. Downing.—B. Downing, hon. sec.

### NORTH-WESTERN ANGLING SOCIETY.

On the 13th three members furnished the trays with good displays of fish. Mr. Marshall, 1 jack and a proper show of bream, weighing 39lb. Mr. Cross had a pretty take of tench and a brace of jack weighing 19lb. ; Mr. Alde, roach and tench—the heaviest tench 3lb. 6oz. Mr. Culpitt, on Tuesday, got a brace of jack, the heaviest weighing 7lb. 10½oz.—W. Hellier, sec.

### ORIGINAL CLERKENWELL PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

On the 13th we had a fair show, only four members weighing in : Mr. Craffard, roach and dace, 10lb. 11oz. ; Mr. Kent, roach and dace, 6lb. 3oz. ; Mr. Roberts, roach and dace, 2lb. 3oz. ; Mr. Laundy also weighed in. Notice : On and after Wednesday, July 23, theabove society remove from their present address to the Three Kings, opposite St. James's Church, Clerkenwell-close, where all correspondence should be addressed to the secretary.—J. Obbard, sec.

### THE PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The usual weekly meeting of this society was held at Ashley's Hotel, Covent-garden, on Monday evening last. There was a large attendance of members. Mr. Thomas Huggett was voted to the chair. The previous meeting being the half-yearly one, no minutes were in order for reading on the present occasion. The first business of the evening was from the chairman, who called the attention of the members present to the date of the summer dinner, and that the tickets were ready, hoping that early and numerous applications might be made for same, so that the dinner on this, as on previous occasions, might be a great success. As previously announced, it will take place at The Ray Mead Hotel, Maidenhead Bridge, on Wednesday, 23rd inst. Members and their friends can leave Paddington as late as 3.45 on that day, and yet be in time to join us. Mr. Foreman hoped to see some show of fish on the day of the dinner, and that members would get up a prize for the occasion. Mr. Booker very generously made a present of twelve volumes of works in connection with the Fisheries Exhibition. The chairman, in the name of the society, thanked Mr. Booker for the very valuable and beautiful present, and moved that a vote of thanks be cordially given to the donor, the same to be recorded in the minutes of the society; Mr. Sachs seconded, and it was carried unanimously. Mr. Booker was very pleased that the books had been so well accepted, and could only say that he was always pleased when he could do anything for the benefit of the Piscatorial Society. Messrs. Harden and H. B. Brown have been fishing at Tempsford for chub, but they did rather badly, the water being so low and bright. They caught several, but our minimum limit being 1lb., and those taken not being up to this standard, were duly returned. Mr. Sachs (as one of the stewards) called the attention of the members to the dinner of the Thames Angling Preservation Society at the Star and Garter, Richmond-hill, on July 16th. Tickets, £1 1s. each. He regretted that the gentlemen did not carry out the good old German custom of having ladies present, which, in his opinion, would add to the grace and charm of the banquet. Mr. Goodger proposed "The Health of Mr. Huggett," as the successful angler, there being a show of chub on the table. Mr. Huggett replied, thanking the members present for the kind expressions, and also said that on this, as on many previous occasions, he had remarked that where you find large chub you do not as a rule find small ones, and *vice versâ*. Mr. Adlington also was of the same opinion. Mr. Sachs recommended the tail of crayfish as the best known bait for chub, and dainties for barbel. Dr. Brunton has gone to Scotland; he hopes to get one day on Loch Leven, and if he gets a fair, take to show the fish on the tables of this society. It was announced that Mr. E. Walker would read a paper on that style of angling called "Tight Corking" on Monday next. A personal friend of Mr. Lander (the hon. sec.) presented some interesting angling plates, which were much admired, and will be placed in our noted album. "The Continued Success of The Piscatorial Society," and "The Health of the Chairman," proposed by the Rev. G. Sumner, brought the business to a close.—T. H.

### PECKHAM BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

Several of the members of this club were out on the 13th, but the shows of fish were very small. James Stidolph, however, succeeded in capturing another carp on Tuesday, in the lake at Wimbledon; the fish, 14 hours after capture, weighing 5lb. A match for the President Cup will be fished for at Amberley on the 27th. Full particulars at the club house. Special meeting on the 22nd; chair taken at 8.30, sharp.—GADFLY.

### PHŒNIX ANGLING SOCIETY.

Messrs. Grist, Reed, Packer, Elbourn, Milton, Bartrip, Keen, Slater, Margetts, and the Brothers Ashley weighed in about 35lb. of roach, rudd, perch, and bream on the 13th. Members' Notice.—Rally up on Tuesday next for Bank Holiday prizes.—W. E., sec.

### PORTSMOUTH WALTONIAN ANGLING SOCIETY.

At the meeting of the above club on Thursday last, Mr. A. L. Emanuel in the chair, it was proposed and carried unanimously—"That Mr. Francis Francis, who is on a visit in the locality for the benefit of his health, should be made an hon. member for six months, so that he may at any time be able to fish any of the club waters." Messrs. Buck and Long had been at Durford the same day, and in spite of the drenching weather they managed to bag some very fine dace, scaling over 12oz. and 13oz.; also a brace of sizeable trout. Mr. Redward also during the week weighed in several bass, one 8lb. 6oz. from Portsmouth Harbour. The evening contest in the harbour, the first for the season, on Wednesday week, did not turn out a very successful affair. Although three boats went out, numbering over 22, the catch was very small; Mr. Hills taking first prize with whiting pout, and Mr. Brooks second, also pout. Mr. Mortimer, on Saturday morning, caught two very fair-sized carp at Baffins, a pond the club has stocked especially for the use of the members.—DAGGERWOOD.

### RICHMOND PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

Mr. Powell took the chair and Mr. W. Abbott the vice-chair at the weekly meeting of this society, held at Station Hotel, on Wednesday. Several large dace were weighed in by F. Little, taken with the fly, and some fine bream taken by Mr. Dickinson, and Mr. C. H. Smith had a handsome take of barbel, chub, &c. Mr. J. C. Murray, the honorary president of the Central Association of London Angling Clubs, thanked the members for joining his association for the purpose of obtaining railway privileges. Later in the evening the chairman of the society, Mr. A. J. Little, attended the meeting, accompanied by the Mayor of Kingston (A. Nuthall, Esq.), Messrs. Senior, Sachs, R. B. Marston, H. B. Eyre, Wheeldon, Temple, Hatfield, Crumplen, Noyle, Huggett, and others, who had been to the dinner, at the Star and Garter, of the Thames Angling Preservation Society. Mr. Marston referred to the forthcoming Tournament, and hoped to see members competing at the Welsh Harp, and assist the cause of the Anglers' Benevolent Society. Mr. Powell offered to contribute to a prize, and the Mayor of Kingston giving two guineas, Messrs. Eyre, Little, and Smith soon made up a sum of five guineas. It was decided to expend the money in a cup to be won by the competitor making the greatest number of marks in either the Thames or Nottingham style for accuracy and distance, the cup to be called the Richmond Piscatorial Cup. Mr. Sachs also offered, through the society, three volumes (I think, called "Silver Trout"), by the late Frank Buckland, as a prize for the Tournament. Mr. Crumplen, in some lengthy remarks, criticised the management, and thought it was a great pity that the Tournament did not produce more funds to the Anglers' Benevolent Society, the persons benefiting most being those who competed for the valuable prizes, and he would like to see some scheme devised whereby a larger sum could be raised. Mr. Marston replied, and said the former tournaments had been unfortunate in the weather, and many gave prizes for specific objects, with the idea of attracting the public; but any suggestion to increase the funds of the Anglers' Benevolent would receive due attention. The Mayor of Kingston at once contributed a guinea towards the funds of the Anglers' Benevolent, and it was decided that the entrance fee for the cup should be 2s. 6d. for the same purpose.—G. H. HESTER, hon. sec.

### RODNEY PISCATORIALS.

On the 13th inst., Messrs. Smith, Grant, and Chantry visited Amberley; they managed to get a nice lot of bream and roach. Messrs. Pyne and Dodd had some fish, but did not reach headquarters in time to weigh in. At the meeting held on the 16th it was decided that all competitors for the competition on the 20th meet at "Plummer's" by 10.15 a.m. the same morning. Conditions of competition the same as that which took place on the 22nd of June last.—PIXIE.

### ROYAL GEORGE ANGLING SOCIETY.

A bigger display of big fish appeared on our try on the 13th inst. than we have had the pleasure of witnessing for some considerable time. The slaughterers of these big fish were Messrs. Palmer, Holden, Hughes, and Sinclair. Mr. Henderson had some fine dace and a large eel from the Thames. On the 20th inst., nearly the whole of the members are going out to fish a sweepstakes. There is also a silver cup to be fished for, presented by one of our honorary members.—W. H. RIDER.

### SOUTH-EASTERN ANGLING SOCIETY.

A nice show of barbel on 9th by Mr. Jas. Harris. On Tuesday, the 15th, at our regular meeting, about a dozen members were present. After the business was settled and the communications read, three extra prizes were added to the already goodly number—two by Mr. Thos. Keeble, and one by Mr. Jas. Smith, sen., for specimen perch, roach, and dace of the season respectively, and were received with thanks, after which the long-standing prizes of last season were distributed in order. Mr. Smith, sen., first prize, gross; Mr. Smith, jun., second prize, gross; Mr. Smith, sen., specimen trout; Mr. Smith, jun., gross for August; Mr. F. Allard, gross for February; Mr. J. Harris, gross for October; Mr. F. Allard, first prize, gross for 13th inst.; Mr. Smith, jun., second prize, gross for 13th inst. After a few remarks from the recipients, the meeting adjourned.—THOS. H. H. WESTON, sec.

### STOKE-UPON-TRENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

Messrs. Lee and Taylor, fishing on the evening of 10th ult., had a very nice catch of perch and roach, bagging altogether 72 fish in one hour and a half. Not much has yet been done by the members generally, as the club water is very low and fine. A fresh in the river would be very beneficial, as the weeds are getting very strong. A few bream, perch, and roach were taken last Saturday, and the veteran, Mr. H. Evans, succeeded in capturing a brace of very fine chub. The above society, having removed from the Pike Hotel, now holds its meetings at the Roebuck Hotel, where all communications may be addressed.—J. HOLLINS, hon. sec.

### TRAFALGAR ANGLING SOCIETY.

Members of this society are requested to attend on Wednesday night next, when business of much importance will be transacted.—R. GAZE, hon. sec.

### WALWORTH PISCATORIALS.

The members of this society had the third outing of the season on Thursday, July 10th, the competition being for three prizes. Although the weather and water were both against angling, the substantial weight of 23lb. odd was shown as the result of five competitors' pleasure; the first prize falling to the lot of Mr. S. J. Weatherhead, the second and third each being taken by Messrs. Delhaye, jun., and Beckett, the latter gentleman being run very close by Messrs. Gilbert and La Feuillade. The report of the conference of Fishery Boards, Angling Societies, &c., was read, and gave rise to an animated discussion, in which several of the members joined; the general result of this discussion being that, if coarse fish anglers desire to retain those privileges they have, or obtain more, their representation on the Freshwater Fishery Boards will be very essential. The report here spoken of was ordered to be entered on the minute book of the society for future reference.—J. BOALCH, sec.

### WESTBOURNE PARK PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

Several members of this society fished a Thames competition on the 13th inst., resulting in the following prizes being won:—1st, Mr. T. Oatley; 2nd, Mr. H. Thompson; 3rd, Mr. G. Evans. Barbel in each instance were the fish weighed. Mr. Yarham had some good dace from the Colne, several going ½lb. each. Mr. H. C. Blatley also had a heavy bag of bream during the week from the Welsh Harp, two fish weighing nearly 4lb. each.

A FINE trout was taken in a net by Mr. Wright in the water rented by Mr. Gawthorn at the head of the Town Mill, Salisbury, on Thursday. It weighed 14lb. 2½oz., and was 30½in. long.

"HEATH'S FERN PORTFOLIO."—Unexpected, but unavoidable, delay has occurred in producing the continuing series of Mr. Francis George Heath's "Fern Portfolio." This has arisen in consequence of the elaborated nature of the work, and of the unusual size of the stones employed in the colour printing. Part VI., therefore, which should have appeared in July, cannot be ready until August. Meanwhile, the publishers, Messrs. Sampson Low, Marston, and Co., are issuing, bound, the first section of "The Fern Portfolio," including the five numbers already published.

FISHING IN THE RIVER CAMEL.—A QUESTION OF RIGHT.—At the Washaway Petty Sessions on Monday, Henry Hicks, of Nanstallon, was summoned for illegally fishing in the Camel on the 28th ultimo. Defendant pleaded guilty to being in possession of five peel, but not of catching them.—The chairman said the magistrates were determined to put down the illegal fishing in the Camel. Nothing previous was known against the defendant either by the water bailiff or the police, and he was ordered to pay a fine of 5s. and costs, together £1 9s. 6d.—George Phillips and Thomas Martin, both of Bodmin, were also summoned for illegally fishing in the Camel. This is the test case whether certain rights belong to the public or to the landowners, Flamanks estate and Molesworth estate.—Mr. R. Edyvean appeared for the Flamanks estate, and Mr. Venning (Devonport) for the Molesworth estate. It was ultimately decided that on Friday, the 17th, at 11 a.m., the magistrates would sit specially for the purpose of trying this case only.

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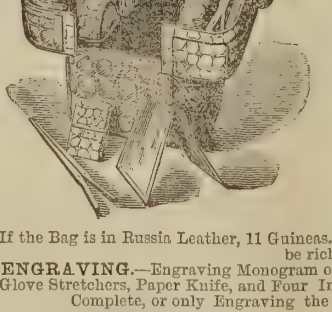

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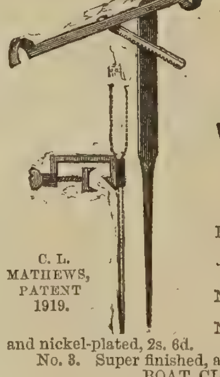

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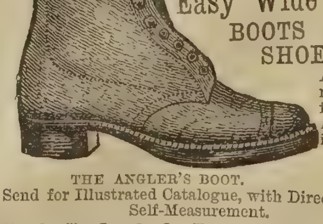

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Communications relating to the Literary Department, Fishing Tackle for Notice, Books for Review, &c., must be addressed to the Editor of the FISHING GAZETTE, No. 12, Fetter Lane, London, E.C.

Contributions are solicited, but the Editor will not undertake to return rejected MSS. unless accompanied with a stamped addressed envelope.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only, and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith. Unless this rule be adhered to, no notice will be taken of such communications.

THE FISHING GAZETTE is published every Saturday, and can be obtained at Messrs. W. H. Smith and Son's Railway Bookstalls, and of the principal Newsagents and Fishing Tackle Dealers in London and the Provinces.

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The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, JULY 26, 1884.

# PROGRAMME OF THE FOURTH ANNUAL "FISHING GAZETTE" TOURNAMENT.

## IN AID OF THE ANGLERS' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

THE Tournament will be held at Mr. Warner's, Welsh Harp Fishery, to-day (Saturday), July 26, at two o'clock, and continue until dusk. The price of admission is sixpence. Tickets can be taken for the Welsh Harp or Hendon Stations from St. Pancras, and from the Metropolitan Underground Railway Stations—King's Cross, Snow Hill, Aldgate, &c. We advise anglers to make sure of the train times, and also to note that more trains stop at Hendon than at the Welsh Harp Station, and Hendon is only a few minutes' longer walk. The ground is close to the Welsh Harp Station. As there is a long programme to get through, competitors are requested to pay the entrance fees, and give in their names and addresses at the judge's tent, before 1.30.

The following Officers (who, of course, give their services gratuitously) have been selected by the Committee of the Anglers' Benevolent Society :—

General arrangements under the direction of Mr. R. B. Marston, assisted by the Committee.

The Salmon and Trout Fly-casting Competitions.—Judges: Mr. Geo. M. Kelson and Mr. J. C. Murray.

Thames and Nottingham Style Bait-casting Competitions.—Judges: Mr. Philip Geen and Mr. A. J. Little.

The "Go-as-you-please" Roach Anglers' Race, the Getting Ready for Fishing Competition, and the Two Hours' Peg-down Fishing Match under the direction of Messrs. R. Murphy and E. Chambers. Referee: Mr. J. Woodward (champion roach angler).

The following gentlemen have kindly consented to act as money-takers and gatekeepers, or in any other capacity that may be required :—Messrs. M. Dymond, J. Fitch, C. Watling, jun., J. Hotham, E. Tibbatts, and J. Jennings.

Clerks: Messrs. Field and Ghurney, who will be at the table in the tent to take the entrance fees for the Competitions and enter competitors' names.

### RULES FOR THE FLY-CASTING.

I.—Each competitor to be in readiness and to proceed when called upon by Mr. Kelson to do so.

II.—Five minutes will be allowed for each competitor to make his cast; the judges, however, may give further time if they consider it necessary for repairs.

III.—Each competitor must have some treble and single gut attached to his line.

IV.—Each competitor to use one of the flies which will be provided.

V.—Any competitor entering for Prize No. 2 who shall make a longer cast than any one of those competing for Prize No. 1 shall be entitled to his choice of any one of these prizes in exchange.

VI.—Gentlemen will be allowed to enter in assumed names, and an entrance fee of 5s. to be paid by all competitors.

### RULES FOR THE THAMES AND NOTTINGHAM BAIT-CASTING, &c.

The Committee have decided on the following Rules :—

I.—Competitors are at liberty to use their own rods, lines, and winches, except where otherwise specified, and subject to the undermentioned regulations.

II.—No rod shall exceed the following lengths :—

| | ft. | in. |
|---|---|---|
| Single-handed fly competitions ... ... | 12 | 6 |
| Double-handed „ „ ... ... | 16 | 0 |
| Salmon „ „ ... ... | 20 | 0 |
| Thames style bait „ „ ... ... | 14 | 0 |
| Nottingham style bait „ ... ... | 14 | 0 |

III.—No allowance in points (or distance) shall be made for difference in lengths of rods. The term rod shall be understood to mean a *bonâ fide* fishing rod.

IV.—Each competitor shall use the artificial baits and flies for casting provided by the management.

V.—Competitors shall draw lots to determine the order in which they shall cast, and must be ready to commence when called upon by the time-keeper.

VI.—In each competition five minutes will be allowed for casting; the judges, however, may allow further time, if they consider it necessary, for repairs.

VII.—The fly competitions will take place on the water, and each competitor will be required to cast from the same position, either from a punt on the lake, or from the bank (according to the wind), as may be decided by the judges.

VIII.—The bait castings will take place on the grass, and each competitor will be required to stand on the selected ground, which will represent as far as possible the floor of a punt.

IX.—In no case will three prizes be awarded in any competition unless there are at least four competitors.

X.—In the "Go-as-you-please" Roach Anglers' Race, also in the Getting Ready for Fishing Competition, and in the Peg-down Match, the competitors must submit their boxes, rods, tackle, &c., to the judges. The ordinary recognised roach angling rod, box, &c., will be used as in bank angling.

XI.—On discovery of any unfair act or attempt, the judges to disqualify the competitor at once.

XII.—The decision of the judges to be final in all cases.

### ORDER OF THE COMPETITIONS AND PRIZES FOR THE SAME.

#### FIRST COMPETITION.

AMATEUR FLY-CASTING COMPETITION WITH SINGLE-HANDED FLY-ROD.

Three Prizes. Entrance fee, 5s.

#### SECOND COMPETITION.

AMATEUR COMPETITION, WITH SINGLE-HANDED FLY-ROD, IN THROWING FLY WITH GREATEST ACCURACY AND LIGHTNESS UNDER BUSHES.

Two Prizes. Entrance fee, 5s.

#### THIRD COMPETITION.

AMATEUR FLY-CASTING COMPETITION WITH DOUBLE-HANDED TROUT FLY-ROD.

Two Prizes. Entrance fee, 5s.

#### SPECIAL COMPETITION.

Entrance fee, 5s.

Open to United Kingdom only. Fly-casting with single-handed, split-cane fly-rod, sent for the purpose by Mr. F. L. Andrews, of Uppingham. The prize to be a similar rod, 11ft.

#### FOURTH COMPETITION.

AMATEUR OVERHAND FLY-CASTING WITH SALMON ROD NOT EXCEEDING 16FT. IN LENGTH. Two Prizes. 1st Prize, Silver Egg Cup. Entrance fee, 5s.

#### FIFTH COMPETITION.

AMATEUR OVERHAND FLY-CASTING WITH SALMON ROD NOT EXCEEDING 18FT. IN LENGTH. Two Prizes. 1st, a Gold Egg Cup. Entrance fee, 5s.

#### SPECIAL COMPETITION.

AMATEUR SWITCH FLY-CASTING WITH ANY SALMON ROD. 6ft. only allowed behind the competitor for the rod or line to extend. Entrance fee, 2s. 6d. Two prizes.

#### SIXTH COMPETITION.

AMATEUR COMPETITION IN CASTING IN THE THAMES STYLE.

Three Prizes. Entrance fee, 2s. 6d.

#### SEVENTH COMPETITION.

AMATEUR COMPETITION IN CASTING FROM REEL IN NOTTINGHAM STYLE.

Three Prizes. Entrance fee, 2s. 6d.

#### EIGHTH COMPETITION.

AMATEUR COMPETITION (open to Thames and Nottingham style) in casting towards a fixed mark. The angler casting the bait nearest to the mark to take first prize; the next best cast made by another angler the second; and the third best cast by another angler to get the third prize.

Three Prizes. Entrance fee, 2s. 6d.

#### NINTH COMPETITION.

PROFESSIONAL COMPETITION IN CASTING IN THE THAMES STYLE.

Two Prizes. No entrance fee.

#### TENTH COMPETITION.

PROFESSIONAL COMPETITION IN CASTING FROM REEL IN NOTTINGHAM STYLE.

Two Prizes. No entrance fee.

#### ELEVENTH COMPETITION.

AMATEUR COMPETITION in casting in the Thames style, each competitor to use the same rod, line, winch, and weight, which, in this instance, will be 3oz.

Three Prizes. Entrance fee, 2s. 6d.

1st Prize—Handsome Pike Rod (Mr. Pugh, Friendly Anglers).

#### TWELFTH COMPETITION.

LEDGER BAIT CASTING TOWARDS A FIXED MARK.

Three Prizes. Entrance fee, 2s. 6d.

First and second prizes given by Mr. Hobden.

#### THIRTEENTH COMPETITION.

COMPETITION IN THROWING THE BAIT WITH FORKED STICK IN THE WELSH HARP STYLE.

Three Prizes. Entrance fee, 1s.

### SPECIAL COMPETITIONS.

1.—A "GO AS YOU PLEASE" Roach Anglers' Race. Entrance fee, 1s. Prizes will be given for the best time made over a given course by fully-equipped Roach Anglers with Rod in Bag and Roach Basket or Box.

2.—A "GETTING READY FOR FISHING" COMPETITION. Entrance fee, 1s. Prizes will be given for those who prove most expert in unpacking, putting rods and lines together, and plumbing depth.

3.—A TWO HOURS' FISHING MATCH (Peg-down), for which Prizes will be given. Entrance fee, 1s.

The prizes range in value from £5 5s. to 10s., and consist chiefly of gold, silver, and plated cups, first-class rods of all kinds, reels, lines, &c., &c.

We have to acknowledge more this week, and we propose to give a complete list of them with notices when we describe their presentation, and the names of the winners, probably next week.

In conclusion, we again remind our readers that the Tournament is to be held in aid of a most deserving Society—the Anglers' Benevolent Society—the object of which is to give help to cases of real distress amongst its members and their families. The small payment of one shilling per year confers membership in this Society on any club angler, and we confidently hope that a principal result of the Tournament will be a large accession of new members.

## ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

R. S. M.—We think Messrs. Gillett and Co., of 40, Fetter-lane, can supply what you want if you explain to them.

Rod and Line, Eccles.—We see (in answer to your query) from the "Anglers' Diary" that there is both trout and coarse fishing to be had at Trowbridge in three miles of the Avon at 6d. per day, or 1s. 6d. per week for tickets, to be got at the railway station. The water is preserved by the Bradford-on-Avon Angling Association.

Lancashire Noll.—If you consult previous volumes of the Gazette, you will find information about fishing near Liverpool has already been often given.

# CORRESPONDENCE.

[*We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.*]

## EYED-HOOKS: THEIR EARLY AND SUBSEQUENT HISTORY.

Sir,—As you were one of the first to recognise the advantages of the eyed-hook for trout flies, and have so often recommended them and referred to them in the Gazette, I feel sure you will be anxious that your paper should be scrupulously correct in all its allusions to these hooks. I hope, therefore, that I may be allowed to reply to a letter of Mr. Bankart's on May 31st, in which there were some astonishing inaccuracies, while other statements, not absolutely incorrect in themselves, were so put as to be quite misleading. When that letter appeared, I at once wrote to Mr. Bankart, and pointed out what parts of his letter I held (and still hold) to be a misrepresentation of the case. I felt so sure of my facts that I was convinced that Mr. Bankart had written through inadvertence, and that on receipt of my letter he would immediately correct the false impression he must have created. But instead of this, it has led to a long and tedious correspondence, and no concession from Mr. Bankart other than that given on June 21st, which I consider most unsatisfactory and inadequate.

For reasons which need not be mentioned here (and, indeed, I could not divulge them without committing a breach of confidence in more quarters than one), it is particularly necessary just now that no uncertain and misleading account of the eyed hooks should be put forward in the angling papers. Hence, as Mr. Bankart declines to retract or alter his letter of May 31st, I am compelled—much as I regret the necessity of such a step—to give my own account in opposition to his.

I have been in the habit of writing from time to time about eyed-hooks and fly-tying on them both in the *Field* and Fishing Gazette during the last four years, or more. Many of my letters and articles have been in response to a definite request, and all have been suggested mainly by the wish to enlighten the angling community as to experiments and further developments of the eyed-hook as carried out by myself and friends. These miscellaneous letters have been scribbled off very hurriedly, with no intention of being sufficiently complete or consecutive to form a connected history; but I claim to have written quite truthfully and consistently throughout, without egotism or self-laudation. Now, if anglers accept Mr. Bankart's letter of May 31st, they must accuse me of systematically ignoring him altogether, and of putting myself forward in a manner quite unjustifiable. But the fact is, that since 1880 I have acted almost entirely independently of Mr. Bankart. All the correspondence and expense has been mine, and if Mr. Bankart has been in communication with the hookmakers, it has been to supply his own occasional wants, and little else; so that, as I wrote a long letter in the *Field* of July 3rd, 1880, to explain our joint work up that time, and as later in the same month I wrote a special letter to the Gazette to bring Mr. Bankart's name forward, and to give him his due mead of praise, and, further, as I still have Mr. Bankart's letter expressing approval of what I had done, where he said "I think you stated the case very well indeed,"—it is plain that anything to the contrary he may now say cannot, at this distance of time, be considered of much weight. If, therefore, in July, 1880, Mr. Bankart writes to me and says my published account of facts relating to our joint work up to that time has his approval, if he raised no question as to the accuracy of my statement, it is useless to do so now. This brings me to the consideration of his letter of May 31st, nearly all of which refers to a time prior to 1880, as I shall presently show. For convenience of reference, I quote in full four paragraphs, to each of which I shall refer by number.

1. "Eyed-hooks are not novelties, though they may be so to most trout anglers, and are undoubtedly so in the small sizes used for river trout-fishing.

2. "When we were first studying the question, and looking round for someone to undertake to make them, I first of all obtained from Messrs. Kelly and Son, of Dublin, patterns of Irish-made eyed-hooks; but they were all of large sizes, suitable for small salmon flies, or at smallest for sea trout flies—about No. 6 or 7 of the present make. The eyes were all formed straight with the shank, some placed horizontally, and some vertically to the bend of the hook.

3. "We were at that time both in frequent correspondence with Mr. Aldam on angling matters, and, on mentioning our ideas to him, he very kindly offered to get some made for us by a professional hook maker, and went to very considerable trouble to do so, for which he has our sincere thanks. Who the maker was I do not know, but the hooks did not turn out satisfactory, and we abandoned their use; and, eventually, I wrote to Messrs. P. Hutchinson and Son, of Kendal, with whom I had previously dealt in such matters, and persuaded them to meet our views, and make us a few gross of various sizes. How well they have done it those who regularly use these hooks know, and I hope that the notoriety they have now acquired will bring the firm their reward in a commercial sense for their trouble and courtesy to us.

4. "But it was only after considerable perseverance and correspondence that the hooks were got to be as correct as they are now made; and as the largest share of this subsequent correspondence was conducted by Mr. Hall, and the alteration in the bend (from the 'Sneck Bend,' or the flat 'Limerick,' to the present combination of the 'Limerick' bend with 'Sneck' side-twist, which Mr. Hall called the 'Snecky Limerick') was his idea, the hooks have properly been christened with his name, and he has probably ordered for himself, and friends to whom they were introduced, as many gross as I have used single hooks."

With regard to paragraph 1, I may mention that four years ago, Mr. Francis Francis stated in the *Field*, that "eyed-hooks, even with the eye turned up, have been made as long as hooks have," while my friend Mr. Marryat used eyed hooks, such as they were, before I knew him. Again, I was once told at Farlow's some years ago that eyed-hooks had been in use twenty years, so that we (Mr. Bankart and I) were not inventors or originators in any sense. That eyed-hooks have been long used in some form or other for trout flies is certain, but it is only during the last few years that their manufacture has been sufficiently delicate and elaborately refined to admit of their use in the smallest flies in vogue among chalk-stream fishers. This is the real secret of their present popularity and widespread reputation.

Before alluding to Mr. Bankart's other paragraphs, I give my own account of our joint work, and I glean my facts chiefly from Mr. Bankart's own letters.

We both simultaneously got into correspondence with Mr. Aldam in the spring of 1877, the idea of eyed-hooks being suggested by the drake-hooks in his "Quaint Treatise." On May 31st, 1878, Mr. Aldam supplied us with the first instalment of eyed-hooks; they were japanned Limericks, down to No. 17 of the Redditch scale. It happened that I had no opportunity of trying them myself before August, but I was very keen about trying their merits for dry-fly fishing, so I tied a few flies on No. 17 hooks (yellow duns and jenny-spinners), and sent them to "South-West," a well-known contributor to the columns of the *Field*, and an angler of much experience on the Test. This gentleman was quite unknown to me at the time; but his first trial was so favourable, and he was so delighted with the flies I sent, that it led to a most interesting correspondence, and subsequently to a pleasant acquaintance. I have several letters before me now for reference, and in one dated July 21st, 1878, I have a description of "South-West's" first experience on "a most unlikely evening, wind N.E. and down-stream, river very low, consequently plenty of weeds above water." "The first fish had it directly it went over him, but got off after a hard run." The next fish was safely landed and weighed 2lb. 7oz. Further on I find, "It seems almost impossible to whip off the eyed-hook, and I gave it the most severe trial a hook could have, to say nothing of being hung up several times in bushes behind. I may try this same fly to-morrow evening, but before doing so shall tie it to the gut afresh; it is not the least damaged." "I should like to refer to these flies in the *Field;* I am sure if anglers knew of them they would use no others." I mention this to show that *from the very first* I was desirous of working out the new idea on dry-fly principles, and spared no pains to get suggestions from those best qualified to advise, and that, whatever Mr. Bankart's views were, I was even thus early experimenting on the smallest sizes which have since become so valuable under repeated improvements.

In August of the same year I gave the hooks a good trial myself on both Itchen and Test, and although I experienced some convenience and comfort in their use, they were generally too heavy for floating flies, and on representing this to Mr. Aldam, he kindly offered to get some made of finer wire. Mr. Bankart and I were at this time in frequent communication, exchanging our views on this and other angling matters. In November, 1878, Mr. Aldam's second batch came, but they all proved untrustworthy for fish over half-a-pound, and as we were unwilling to trespass on his kindness any further, we resolved to do the thing ourselves.

A series of letters followed, and on November 13th, 1878, I said, "Don't write to Hutchinson yet, as I have long been thinking of doing so myself." One reason why I wanted to do it myself was because Mr. Bankart had little or no experience in the requirements of dry-fly fishing, and I wished to get the hooks made suitable for this style, and to attend to all the minutiæ myself. There was also another very cogent reason, which I need not mention here. On December 29th, 1878, I first proposed the alteration of bend (sneck had been thought of) to Limerick, with skewed out points. It was now definitely settled that Hutchinson was to be our maker.

On January 6th, 1879, Mr. Bankart wrote to me, seriously proposing that No. 1 should be the smallest size made "for the smallest duns, iron blue, olives, &c." In the next sentence he offers his suggestions for the "preliminary trial with Hutchinson's"; this is a point of importance, as showing that our choice of a maker was settled even in Mr. Bankart's own mind. It was a long letter, and six pages further on it referred to samples from Kelly and Son. Of these he says, "Quite unexpectedly they have sent me the enclosed patterns of eyed-hooks." The only thing which resulted from this Kelly incident was a long and tedious discussion (started by Mr. Bankart) as to how the eyes were to be placed, whether perpendicular to the plane of the hook or not. These Kelly samples were a mere accident, a private affair of Mr. Bankart's, which really had no influence on the question at issue. Mr. Bankart now attaches considerable importance to it; I attach none. Anyhow, *it is a significant fact that we were not induced to alter the position of the eyes in consequence of Kelly's patterns.*

On Feb. 7th, 1879, I got the first samples from Hutchinson; these were eyed snecks, and I at once gave an order for six gross. These came in March, and Mr. Bankart and I used them on the Usk in April. While there we agreed to have the eyes turned up in future; and the next order I gave was for eight gross of Limericks with skewed out points, and, in spite of Mr. Bankart's prejudice against small hooks, these ranged from 00 upwards. They came in June, 1879, and on July 10th Mr. Bankart wrote and asked for two dozen of each size. In the same letter he speaks of some large hooks he has ordered for loch fishing, which he is expecting in a few days, and here he first proposed the bronze colour, which improvement was most certainly due to him. I once wrote to the Gazette on purpose to say so, as people appeared to be giving me the credit due to another. Nevertheless, I may remark that opinions are divided as to the most suitable colour. Some of the best Hampshire fishermen still insist on having their hooks blue, and on the whole I rather incline to the blue myself, though I use both—it is purely a matter of choice and fancy.

From this point there is little more to be said, as far as our early joint work is concerned. In August, 1879, the eyed-hooks were fairly started by me in Hampshire, and the new patterns answered very well, far better than the old lot of the previous season. From that time to the present the whole of the eyed-hook question has been worked out on dry-fly principles, and all the correspondence I have had with Mr. Bankart is as nothing in comparison with what I have had with others whose constant experience among big trout on chalk streams has been most suggestive and valuable. Many improvements in shape and size have been made during the last three or four years, and I have discussed the details again and again, both verbally and by letter, with Mr. Francis, Major Turle, Mr. Marryat, Mr. Collins (of the Hungerford Club), and many others well known by name and reputation in Hampshire, but there has been little or no help and advice from Mr. Bankart in the later development of the hooks. As for the early history, I proceed now to discuss the account as given by Mr. Bankart on May 31st.

Paragraph 2 I have shown to be incorrect. We were not "looking round for some one to undertake to make them": we had fixed on Messrs. Hutchinson. It was not correct of Mr. Bankart to say, "I first of all," for the whole of this episode took place after Mr. Aldam's hooks were abandoned. Paragraph 2 is, therefore, not only incorrect, but out of place.

With regard to paragraph 3, Mr. Bankart has offered a correction on June 21st, where he credits me with having ordered the *first* lot, as if he still wished it to be understood that this was all I had done, and that the rest had been carried out by himself. Even with the correction, I still maintain that the whole paragraph is put in the most misleading language. For instance, take the sentence, "Eventually I wrote and persuaded them to meet our views." I don't know when Mr. Bankart wrote to Messrs. Hutchinson about our *joint* work, but it was very seldom, and certainly not until they had carried out the first two orders, amounting to fourteen gross. Again, "With whom I had previously dealt in such matters" leaves on the mind of the reader an impression quite at variance with facts.

Paragraph 4. Here, for the first time, I am alluded to as an active agent in the concern. After having set the ship afloat himself, Mr. Bankart allows me the largest share in "subsequent correspondence," as if I had never had any active share in the early transactions. Whereas I maintain that I had long before this done a great deal to advance the cause of the eyed-hooks by my correspondence with "South-West," Major Turle, Mr. Marryat, and others. As I sent a good many of these letters to Mr. Bankart, he could not have been wholly ignorant of what I had done, though it is probable that I have since had correspondence with a dozen or more of whom Mr. Bankart has never heard. As to the bends he mentions, he is again incorrect. We never had any "flat Limericks" from first to last, and I have already shown that I proposed the twisted Limerick before the original snecks were ordered. In Mr. Bankart's correction of June 21st, he again repeats the mistake about the flat Limerick.

With respect to the "considerable perseverance and correspondence" mentioned in paragraph 4, I may remark that one chapter of the history was practically closed with my letter in the *Field* of July 3rd, 1880, when the hooks were first fairly put before the angling public. The account there given is substantially the same as the one now offered by me, and it satisfied Mr. Bankart, for he wrote and told me so, and I have his letter still. From that time to the present Mr. Bankart has certainly been a sleeping partner, and though I fully and readily concede to him his due share in the original joint work, I claim to have done a little more in the early transactions than the account of May 31st gives me credit for. Nevertheless, it is only during the last three or four years that, by dint of "considerable perseverance and correspondence," eyed hooks have been brought to their present perfection, and in this part of the work my coadjutors have been my Hampshire friends, and not Mr. Bankart. We have not only had to refine and elaborate the hooks, but we have had, in some measure, to educate the fly dressers to the proper and neat use of them, and the consequence is, that whereas in 1880 eyed hooks were used by a very limited few, they are now sold by tens of thousands every year, and on some rivers their use is almost universal. One need only read "South-West's" Hampshire notes in the *Field* of June 21st, and "Red Spinner's" article in to-day's issue, to see that chalk stream fishing has been revolutionised since eyed-hooks came into use. "South-West" even went so far as to say, "Having once used them, to go back to ordinary gut hooks would be as bad as having to return to muzzle-loading after breech-loaders." However, in the North of England and in Scotland eyed-hooks are not much used, and I think it must be plain to every impartial person that it is the delicate small sizes used as dry flies that have made the whole system so widely popular. If Mr. Bankart thinks his account of May 31st fairly represents the early history, let me remind him of his own words on Jan. 6th, 1879, "My opinion is that smaller hooks than No. 1 are no use in holding a fish." And then let me refer him to the present ever-increasing number of devotees of dry-fly fishing, and see what they say. Let me ask them where their delicate duns and spinners would have been now if the whole thing had been left in Mr. Bankart's hands at first; if, in fact, I had been the sleeping partner as represented in Mr. Bankart's letter?

For every No. 1 hook used there are a hundred used of Nos. 0 and 00, and there is a smaller size still, known as 000, which, during the last two seasons, has been almost as popular and widely used as any size sold. Anyhow, I had upwards of 40 gross of this one size alone pass through my hands in the first three months of last year, and as for their not holding fish, it is simply absurd. Many and many a two-pounder has met his death on a 000, and I know of one case where a brace weighing upwards of 6lb. succumbed in one day to one of these tiny hooks.

However, enough has been said. It is of no importance whatever who gets the credit of the present eyed-hooks; but, as already stated, besides one's ordinary regard for truth and accuracy, there is a special reason why no erroneous notions about this question should be allowed to stand uncontradicted in the angling press. I hope readers of the Gazette will not mistake me. I don't care a button whether I get my share of credit or not; but anyone who accepts the inaccurate account of May 31st must begin to think that all my scattered writings during the last few years are singularly one-sided, egotistic, and unfair to Mr. Bankart, and this is a stigma I cannot accept in silence, for I maintain that I have been strictly truthful and consistent from beginning to end.

If the Fishing Gazette is to preserve a history of the eyed-hooks—and no paper has shown more interest in their introduction and development—it should, at all events, fairly represent the facts, and not mislead its readers. Such an account I have endeavoured to give, and I really don't see how Mr. Bankart is going to upset it until he repudiates his own letters now in my possession.—I am, &c.,

June 28th. H. S. Hall.

[We must say we quite agree with Mr. Hall as to the desirability of strict accuracy in the question now under discussion. Knowing, as we do, what Mr. Hall has done and written during the last few years, we were not a little surprised at the description given by Mr. Bankart on May 31st, especially as that part which Mr. Hall has now criticised seemed to be a somewhat aimless digression, and hardly relevant to the main purpose of the letter.

We have been specially interested in the eyed-hooks from the very first, and have done all in our power to make them known and popular. We have noted and appreciated Mr. Hall's frequent communications to our columns, and we can assure him that we have no charge of inconsistency to bring against him. Whatever Mr. Bankart's share may have been, we are certain that Mr. Hall's work has been neither light nor unimportant. As he has been in the habit of catering for several of the most celebrated anglers of the day, the trouble and correspondence he has undertaken on behalf of friends alone must at times have been very heavy, to say nothing of the letters from all parts of the kingdom, which are frequently being forwarded to him through the Gazette Office.

[We regret that through pressure on our space the appearance of this letter has been delayed.—Ed.]

## FISHING IN THE BLACK FOREST.

Sir,—Another good trout stream is the "Ens," that runs through Wildbad, Wurttemberg. It is a rapid, rushing stream, and contains fine trout. I did not fish myself in it, but saw others. Permission may be obtained, I believe, from Mr. Klumpp, of Hotel Klumpp, Wildbad, the best hotel in the place. Mr. Klumpp, I am sure, would give any other information on the subject.

The scenery is beautiful, mountain walks abundant, and the fishing really good. I should think that any flies, dressed on hooks No. 9 or 10, would do. Wading is in some places requisite, and a fly rod 10 to 12ft. long will answer admirably. Mr. Klumpp's hotel is very comfortable, and some English anglers are to be met on the Ens.—I am, &c., A Russian Angling Enthusiast.

St. Petersburgh, July 16.

## AN UNFORTUNATE DOSE OF CASTOR OIL.

Sir,—In reply to Major Turle, I should be inclined, were the boots mine, to try the following experiment:—

Fill them with well-dried sawdust or bran, saturate the outside with petroleum, and place them before a fire at a safe distance to prevent burning. The petroleum will dissolve the oil in the pores of the leather, the fire will drive it through, and the sawdust will absorb it; afterwards dress with a waterproofing that can be depended on.

If Major Turle does not know of one, I shall be happy to tell him where it may be obtained.—I am, &c., Bittern.

Cardiff.

## HOW TO KEEP LIVE-BAITS ALIVE.

Sir,—I have a tank for keeping baits in, but, although I give them fresh water often, I am unable to keep them alive more than six or eight hours. Can you kindly explain the reason?—I am, &c., Thos. C. Neath.

Nuneaton, 19th July.

[This question of keeping live-baits is an important one. Mr. W. B. Adlington, of 6, Weymouth-street, Portland-place, exhibited at the Fisheries a very simple invention of his, which he found answered admirably when every other dodge he tried failed. Of course, in hot weather it is almost impossible to save *all* the fish—especially dace, which are a race of wanderers and impatient of confinement. Mr. Adlington will, we are sure, give any particulars we have overlooked; but, as far as we remember, his tank can be constructed in about five minutes by punching two holes 1in. in diameter on the same level about two-thirds up (*i.e.*, one-third from top edge) of a large tin footbath or wooden wash-tub. The water must run in gently, but continuously, and flow out through the holes. The top should be covered. Mr. Adlington has had a bait reservoir of this kind constructed of zinc with double perforated hinged lids.—Ed.]

## FIELD'S AERATING BAIT CAN.

Sir,—In reply to Mr. Bentley's letter in your issue of the 19th July, I hasten to say I make no claim to be the inventor of the principle of the inside perforated can. Its application as an auxiliary bubble distributor in combination with its other uses is, however, new.

I first saw the principle applied to the minnow compartment of a punt well forty years ago. Shortly afterwards I saw it applied to a bait can, a ladies' work basket serving as an inner chamber.

In another instance, the inner chamber was made of net extended on a wire frame—a cheap and useful makeshift which I can recommend to your readers.

I myself made an internal can out of a biscuit tin twenty-eight years ago, and cut my hand badly to wit with the edge while boring the holes.

I have no doubt Mr. Alfred first introduced the idea in the trade, but I should imagine the invention was nearly as old as live-bait fishing itself.—I am, &c.,

Basil Field.

P.S.—I have not yet received either of the Diplomas awarded to me. I do not know whether this is the case with other successful exhibitors. If so, I am sure you will raise your voice in our behalf.

[We cannot get our own Diploma! Only promises that it is "coming"—so is Christmas. The excuse given for this absurd delay is that the affair is simply "too-too," and to hurry it will spoil it.—Ed.]

## HEIGHAM SOUNDS FISHING CASE.

Sir,—We should like to make a few remarks upon the paragraph which appeared in your paper of last week relative to the above case, and to the case itself, so as to inform the public of the exact position of the case, as your paragraph appears to us somewhat misleading.

After Mr. Simms Reeve (who defended Mr. Crowther before the magistrates) applied for a case, we wrote the clerk to the Smallburgh magistrates and asked him to allow us the privilege of drawing our own case, and we also informed him *that no statement of the case would enable us to get a decision on its merits unless a copy of the evidence given at the hearing was appended to the case.* We further offered to furnish him with a copy of our shorthand writer's notes to append to the case, and we may also add that the shorthand writer was employed by us to take down the evidence adduced before the magistrates expressly for that purpose.

Our request to the magistrates' clerk was not acceded to. The magistrates drew their own case.

The case as sent to us by the magistrates was set down for argument in due course, but had unfortunately to be sent back to them for a further statement.

The magistrates upon this added a statement which on technical grounds had the effect of entirely preventing the question of right and the real merits of the case being discussed or decided in the proceedings as they stood in their altered form.

Under these circumstances, the appellant was strongly advised by counsel (who was very emphatic on the point) that the case, if proceeded with, could only end adversely to him; that it would leave the real question in dispute entirely undecided; that while thus really deciding nothing, it would probably prejudice the rights of the public when again asserted before a legal tribunal; and that therefore it would be better not to proceed with it, but to take an early opportunity of again opening the matter, and that in a form in which it would be impossible to evade a decision upon the question of right which the Piscatorial Society and its friends so anxiously desire to vindicate.—We are, &c., Harmer and Ruddock.

Sir,—Having seen your remarks on the question of Heigham Sounds, I thank you for your expression of confidence still in me, as no doubt readers of your Gazette (seeing that Dr. Mitchell, our president and treasurer, had resigned the day after this case was given against us with costs) might have some misgivings as to the prominent part I took, especially with London supporters, as to what has become of their subscriptions, and how it is that the case so suddenly collapsed, more especially when you consider that I received assistance from some who were going to use their money for pleasure but handed it to me on my representations; and it is to the members of the Silver Trout Society and to Prixe's twelve Rodneys, as well as to those of higher grades in society, that I say duty compels me to give some little explanation independent of what other course might be pursued by other members. In the first place, my presence in London was because I had stated (which proved correct) that we could get substantial assistance; but, on our solicitor applying (to one amalgamated society in particular), no encouragement was held out. Therefore, as a last resource, I left business and home to personally ask; and I am confident that neither you, sir, nor any other anglers' friendwho has seen me go from City house to City house, society to society, almost without introduction, can have but one idea, viz., that I did believe I was pleading a good cause, and I believe so still.

Well, I received your money, paid it to our treasurer, and received more than once the vote of thanks from all for so doing. Believing all would end well, I gave promises that all who gave to the fund would have a voice, and even if we gained and had costs, what would be done with the surplus. All recommendations I faithfully laid before this society. Well, the case came on for trial, and I was there, and heard all, with many London subscribers. What was neglected there I am not responsible for. But I do say this: that myself and many others had no idea but that the case could have been won. I send you copy of my report made on 29th April, and I send you copy of minutes granted me at our last meeting from the minute book of the society, and whoever is to blame must plead their own case. Our accounts are now being audited, and when the report is in you will say that those gentlemen forming this society now are not to blame. It may be the judges were wrong, the magistrates wrong. One I know must have been wrong—myself, not to spend time, money, &c., in a more profitable way. I do not even now regret it.

The copy of minutes bearing upon the points at issue I inclose, which you, sir, as a member, are entitled to use at your discretion, and all subscribers are entitled to a copy who doubt any act of mine.

I shall now most patiently wait and see what anyone else has to say before I really conclude for good. I wish those who were so very strong in urging on law cases would be compelled to spend time, money, let alone worry, as I have done; if they were they would not, when a case like this was muddled away, want to start another, but leave it alone. Another secretary can take a lesson if he chooses; if he does not, I fancy subscribers will. I trust I have not trespassed too far on your space; but you pleaded for us, Mr. Marston, at Ashley's Hotel, and I have an Englishman's right to show you and those who followed you that I did not deceive you, if I was deceived—more shame for the deceiver. I never yet have seen the letter you once called attention to in the *Norwich Argus* when I was in London in January, or the end of December. The author of that letter must have known more than I do, or many of my members either; if what has been told me since was really the contents, there must be some meaning in all this. Let those that know explain. I was once insulted for telling the truth in my own dwelling in respect of this case, therefore I am in no mood for trifling with now. As far as in my power I will clear up every point to satisfy my friends, with your sanction.—I am, &c.,

James Lark, Secretary Great Yarmouth Piscatorial Society.

Great Yarmouth.

[It is quite clear to us from the minutes, and from what we have seen of the matter, that Mr. Lark has acted in a perfectly straightforward manner throughout; after employing legal advice it can be no fault of the club or Mr. Lark if the case is lost through some legal quibble or blunder. The solicitors to the club, Messrs. Harmer and Ruddock, appear to cast the blame on the local magistrates, though one would hardly have thought gentlemen in their position would do anything but aid in gettingthe matter definitely settled, for it is still debatable whether the water in question is free or private, tidal or non-tidal. We are glad to see that Mr. Lark is heartily supported by his club, who recognise how hard he has worked for anglers greatly to his own loss in both time and money.—Ed.]

## FISHING AT SCARBOROUGH.

Sir,—I should feel obliged if some of your numerous readers would oblige a brother angler with some information as to the river fishing—coarse fishing for roach and dace—in the neighbourhood of Scarborough, and how and where it is to be obtained, whether by payment or special privilege?—I am, &c.,

Birmingham, July 22. H. Barber.

## FISHING NEAR KINGSBRIDGE, S. DEVON.

SIR,—In answer to Alfred Brewer, if he intends going direct to Kingsbridge from the South Devon line, Foales' coach from the King's Arms, Kingsbridge, meets the train at Kingsbridge-road station, a distance of about nine miles. It will pass through Loddiswell at the foot of the hill about two miles from Kingsbridge, will cross the river Avon, in which there were, 25 years since, plenty of good trout. The river has been preserved ever since. It should contain plenty of good trout now. Tickets can be had at Kingsbridge, or of the keepers on the river.

Salcombe is about five miles from Kingsbridge. Good bass in season about Saltstone Rock, pollock of Tosmynose Point, smelt at the new bridge—all in the estuary. The stream that runs under the new bridge has some good trout above the mills. Good sea-fishing outside Salcombe Bar for bream. Drop anchor in a line with Jones's wall.

There is no difficulty in getting accommodation anywhere in the neighbourhood.

I should like to go with him; then could show him all the corners. Or, half an hour's conversation would explain things much better.—I am, &c.,

W. H. THOMAS.

58, Brunswick-road, West Green-road, Tottenham, July 22.

## LIVERPOOL ANGLERS AND THE FENCE MONTHS.

SIR,—In your last issue I notice a letter signed "Isaak," in which he makes a most unwarranted attack upon the Liverpool Central Angling Association, and accuses them of fishing for small sweepstakes in the close season, which I beg to deny; and he also accuses a member of taking a creel full of "baby" roach in close time, and says that this member is looked upon as a *hero* to this day. I may say that the first time I heard about this was when my attention was called to his letter.

I allow that a few of our members were out several times during close season, myself included, but not for the purpose of taking "baby" roach, but for taking fish and stocking fresh ponds; and on every occasion that I was out I heard of members of the Liverpool Angling Association being out, and their catches consisted chiefly of "baby" roach; and one day, upon coming to the station, I met three anglers—two of them members of the Liverpool Angling Association—and they were cursing their luck in no measured terms that they had not caught more than a dozen "baby" roach, while their companion had some one hundred and fifty, which I understood they bought of him. And he further on calls the Central Angling Association a "pigmy"! Now, I think this too bad, considering that this Association has made more progress than the Liverpool Angling Association ever did in the same time, and we have more good working anglers on our books than they have, so I don't see why he should call us a "pigmy," when compared with his Association; and if his Association was the only one in the city, I would go and do my bit of fishing by myself rather than associate with "Isaak" and the other members who instigated him to write the letter.

Now, away from this sort of talk of "baby" roach, &c., let us see what is the object of "Isaak" in making these charges against the Liverpool Central Angling Association. It is this: In a report of a supper which we had on the opening day of the season, attention was called to the fact that this Association was the only one in Liverpool that observed the close season. It has taken "Isaak" four weeks to reap up all the bad about this Association they could find, and *a precious lot they have found.*

I am heartily glad to see that the members of the Liverpool Angling Association are not content to rest under the stigma cast upon them, and I trust that this correspondence will attain its object—namely, the proper observation of the close season by the other clubs in Liverpool.

Hoping that I have not intruded too much upon your space,—I am, &c.,

QUILL FLOAT.

SIR,—In reply to the letter of "Isaak" in your issue of the 19th inst., I should like to say a few words on the same. He accuses the Liverpool Central Angling Association of fishing for small sweepstakes in close season. The Association has done no such thing, and you, Mr. Editor, or anyone else, are at liberty to examine our books, and will find no record of any such thing; whilst another association in the district fished a match recognised by the club, and that in the only river of any note in the district which is open to fishermen, whilst "Baby Roach" was fishing in waters which do not come under the Act.

Talking of our members going out Sunday after Sunday, I feel sorry to have to mention that members of other associations in the city do likewise, and are not satisfied with angling for "baby" roach, but poach waters which the majority of our members hold season tickets for. "Forty Winks" should not manufacture bullets for another person to fire.—I am, &c.,

PISCATOR.

SIR,—I see in the GAZETTE of the 19th inst. a letter signed "Isaak," which I think is not quite correct.

If members of the Central Angling Association fish in the close time, they do so in private water (which does not come under the Act, and also not with the consent or recognition of the Association), and not in the only decent river in the vicinity—viz., the Verniew, in which a local "giant" Association fished a recognised match in the close time. Why, the very members who supplied "Isaak" with his information trespass on land which is preserved for ticket holders, on purpose to fish for *baby* roach and perch which, nevertheless, they are unable to catch. The member of *our* Association who had the baby roach gave up a good day's sport in private water (on account of the close season) to fish in a place which is notoriously overstocked with *old*, *small*, and degenerate roach, and would be all the better for being thinned out. On the very same day that the small roach were brought away, the member met three other members of another Association (one of whom, in all probability, supplied "Isaak" with his "stones"), who had been out and caught three or four small rudd.—I am, &c.,

BABY ROACH.

## THE PERFORATED HOLDER IN BAIT CAN.

SIR,—Noticing the correspondence in last week's FISHING GAZETTE, it may be interesting to you and your readers to know the first live-bait can made to draw up or out in any form was made twenty-five years ago by the late Mr. F. T. Williams, F.S.T.A.S. It was made to carry on the shoulder. It was purchased of Mr. Williams by the late F. W. Shervill, Esq., of Lincoln's Inn-fields, I believe I have it in my possession at the present time.—I am, &c.,

SELINA WILLIAMS.

10, Great Queen-street, W.C.

[Mr. Alfred, of Moorgate-street, informed us that his late father invented the principle of this bait can; now Mrs. Williams claims it for her late husband. We fear as it is no patent both would experience difficulty in proving their claims, and we advise them not to try, either in a court of law or in a newspaper.—ED.]

## THE RESCUE AT STAINES.

SIR,—No doubt some of your readers will remember a gallant rescue, by Mr. John George Sames, of the Beresford Angling Society, of an angler from drowning on the 19th August last year at Staines, where Mr. Sames was fishing. He had to jump out of his punt and swim half-way across the river to the rescue of the young man who had fallen from the bank into deep water, and sank to the bottom, from which Mr. Sames brought bim by diving for him, and after great difficulty succeeded in getting him ashore. This was the second occasion on which Mr. Sames had been fortunate enough to save the life of a brother angler, and his bravery was recognised by the Royal Humane Society awarding him, after the first occasion, in 1879, their bronze medal, and, after the second occasion, a testimonial on vellum. These awards were publicly presented to Mr. Sames at our club-house, and were duly reported in your columns at the time. After the last rescue a few friends, members of various angling societies, suggested that Mr. Sames deserved some mark of esteem from those who appreciated his gallant conduct, but Mr. Sames was very averse that anything should be done in the matter; but I am happy to say, thanks to the efforts of Mr. James Gafney, late of the Anglers' Pride, but now of the Peckham Brothers, a fund was raised which the committee invested in a handsome gold watch, made by Benson, of Ludgate-hill, and this testimonial was on Monday last presented by our friend, Mr. Beckett, of the Good Intent, to Mr. Sames, at our club-house, in the presence of a company of anglers and friends assembled for the occasion.—I am, &c.,

E. G. ELLIS,

Camberwell Grove. Chairman of the Beresford Angling Society.

[It is not often a testimonial is presented in recognition of a braver act than this.—ED.]

## BARBEL SNATCHING IN THE TRENT.

SIR,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your GAZETTE of last week. With reference to "Barbel Snatching at Nottingham," the Conservators are only too well aware of it, and have a case in hand. If only anglers would *first* report to the Board, and *then* to the paper, we could have an inspector on the spot in a few hours.—I am, &c.,

42, Lowndes-street, London, S.W., July 23. ALAN BAGOT, R.S.A.

## JOE HEATH'S WATER AT WRAYSBURY.

SIR,—A Mr. Hawkins used to rent a piece of water close to my station known as "Old Joe Heath's." Mr. Hawkins' time was up in June last, and that fact was known to dozens of people, no doubt.

Some few weeks before the lease was up, someone, so it is stated, put an advertisement in your paper to the effect that the water was to let; the consequence of that was, the water being so well known, many persons bid for, and Mr. Hawkins lost it.

Mr. Hawkins accuses me of having caused this advertisement to appear in your paper, and has told everybody he comes in contact with that such is the case.

Now, Sir, will you kindly insert this in your next issue?

You can vouch for the truth of my statement to Mr. Hawkins that I did not put, cause to be put (or know at the time who did), the advertisement in your paper. I know now who it was. Mr. Hawkins had the misfortune to insult one or two gentlemen, and they did the amiable, while I have received the credit.—I am, &c.,

J. HOOLE.

[We can vouch for the truth of Mr. Hoole's statement.]—ED.

## NECESSITY OF JUDICIOUS GROUND-BAITING.

SIR,—You are quite right about tench taking paste or boiled potatoes (provided they have been fed with them beforehand); but the feeding is the secret! For instance, a few years ago, a friend asked me to fish his trout preserve, where he had scarcely ever before allowed any one to fish. I tried with my spinner, and in two hours had 11 trout, none under 2lb.; but he told me there was one that never would take minnow or worm—he was lying at the back of the premises where the garbage was thrown. I asked the cook what she gave him; she said she often threw him out bread. I cut a piece of bread, and threw it in, and he took it in a minute—near 6lb.

I also know of a case at Newbury, where a splendid trout fed, and no one could entice him to take their bait; but at the last, the cook said that whatever was thrown out—cabbage or potatoes—he took it. My friend took a small potato, boiled, and with a large hook nailed him—11lb.—I am, &c.,

Devizes, July 19. R. HOWSE.

## THERE ARE STILL GOOD FISH IN OPEN WATERS.

SIR,—A friend of mine, Mr. F. Malcom, caught, last Saturday, a roach; it turned the scale of 2lb. when taken, and measured 16½in., or exactly 15in. from eye to fork. —I am, &c.,

J. F. H. BAKER.

Clapham.

## TENCH.

SIR,—There is a pond in this neighbourhood near Erle Stoke Park, where there are an immense lot of tench, beautiful fish, but no scales. Have you ever seen anything of the kind?—I am, &c.,

R. HOWSE.

Devizes, July 22.

[The scales are minute, and the slime, as it were, varnishes them over, as in the scales on the eel.—ED.]

## FAILURE IN FISHING PONDS.

SIR,—R. Howse, Esq., will also find that baiting a pond 24 hours before fishing where there are *bream* is a good plan.

Depend upon it, going down to a pond late one evening and throwing in 800 or 1,000 worms, and then going to fish early next morning is a mistake, and only too often ends in failure. The fish are gorged to repletion. I have often asked anglers how they got on when they have obtained permission to fish in such-and-such a private water, and the answer has been, "Oh! there were plenty of fish, but they would not bite: *they were off the feed.*"

Can you wonder at it?

Many years ago, old Bentley, of Newark, asked me to bait a place in Monspool. I went down with a friend the night before, and we threw in over 1,000 worms, and the result of that baiting was a few small rudd.

Two days after I, myself, had a splendid take of bream out of the same place; and R. Howse, Esq., truly says "the secret of all bottom fishing is to feed the fish, *and then fish with the same bait.*" Sound advice which should not be lost sight of. —I am, &c.,

MARK ANTONY.

**THAMES FISHERY CONVICTIONS.**—George Stapely, of Isleworth, was brought before the Brentford Bench on Saturday last, on the charge of laying a fixed line in the River Thames at Isleworth. The case was proved by head river-keeper Alfred Thompson. Mr. W. H. Brougham prosecuted on behalf of the Thames Angling Preservation Society, and asked the magistrates to impose only a nominal fine as an example. Fined 5s., including costs.—Richard Lee was convicted by the Richmond Bench on Wednesday last for laying a fixed line containing a number of baited hooks in the river near to Richmond Bridge, upon the evidence of head river-keeper Alfred Thompson. Mr. W. H. Brougham prosecuted on behalf of the Thames Angling Preservation Society, and the defendant was fined the sum of £1, including costs.

**ANOTHER COMMITTAL FOR FISH POISONING IN WARWICKSHIRE.**—At the last Petty Sessions, at Coleshill, near Birmingham, before R. E. J. Croxall, Esq. (Chairman) and a full bench of county magistrates, William Wilson, of Stockinford, was brought up on a warrant, charged by Mr. E. H. Rawlings, of Hockly Hill, Birmingham, jeweller, with putting a certain noxious thing into Arley Brook with intent to kill and destroy the fish therein. Prisoner, who had absconded, was in company with another man named Timms, who was sentenced last Quarter Sessions, at Warwick, to eight months' hard labour for the offence. Evidence was given of the prisoner being in possession of the fish, and of the quantity of fish found dead and poisoned. Prisoner admitted to the sergeant of police that he met Timms and Hall, and went with them to the brook, but with no intention of poisoning the fish; he got into the water with Timms. Several times during the hearing he was about to make statements, but was cautioned by the bench against criminating himself by so doing. On his own confession he was committed for trial at the next Quarter Sessions for the County of Warwick.

## ON THE DESCRIPTION OF SALMON FLIES.

BY MR. GEO. M. KELSON.

MAJOR TRAHERNE'S PATTERNS *(Continued)*.

### No. 7.—THE "NEPENTHIAN."

"FOR if it wobbles the least atom there will be no recognition." These words have reminded me of a promise (Feb. 2nd), and I now propose to deal with that subject as we advance. I hope I have already said all that is necessary for the student to be able to make a good selection of hackles, and I suppose he is sufficiently skilful to be able to double them. He should endeavour to arrange his work for the tinsel to guard the feather ; so the former should be fixed first, and the latter follow alongside it on the head end of the hook. Unless the hackle is tightly wound, it will cause the fly to wriggle; and if very loose, not only will it wobble, but skirt the water.

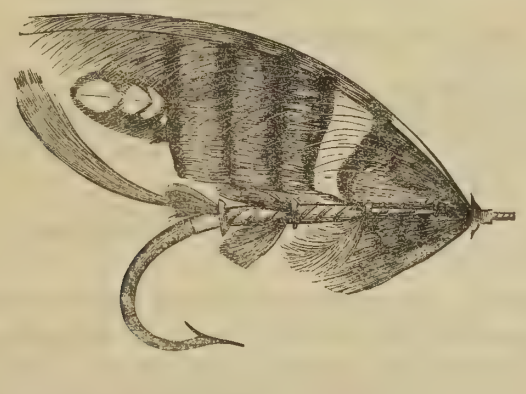
Again, if the shaft of the feather—the elastic part which contains a whitish, dry pith—is very stout, the last turn at the throat will create a shoulder, and this must be cured by forming a taper from it with the tying silk.

It is a common error to reverse the fibres ; not that it signifies much; but they soften and blend with the silk or seal's fur, and play better when pointed to the barb.

I need scarcely say that all the downy, flocculent strands should be stripped from the quill end, otherwise they would cling to, torment, and "purse up" the good ones.

With an exhibition specimen, the hackles and body may be protected during the afterwork by a length of swan's quill used as a tube, which can easily be displaced by cutting a slit lengthways with a sharp penknife down the *opposite* side of the body to that intended to be shown, because if a single point be cut off the hackle, it could be detected at once under the magnifying glass. Let the hackle be fastened at the head *under* the hook, then it will not interfere with the "set" of the wings ; and after two turns of the tying silk, taper the rest of it with the knife.

Neither should treble gut be used on hooks three-quarters of an inch long and under. With it, especially if the angler loops his fly to the single gut cast, the most careful manipulation is required in mounting to secure regularity and balance in the water. In preparing the single gut for this purpose, choose the very best and roundest strands, cut off the length required, and keep it in your mouth to get it thoroughly soaked, as hot water injures it. It should be tied perfectly straight under the hook, with one of its ends a trifle in advance, both having already been pared to a fine point, and *not* applied to a candle to make an excrescence or protrusion.



When the gut is thus made soft, the silk, in addition to the following safeguard, will furrow its way.

Use gossamer silk double (I find claret-coloured the best), and wind it as closely, evenly, and tightly as possible ; do not allow the silk to twist, for every ridge, however diminutive, is an obstruction. Begin with four or five turns of it spirally along the bare hook, the gut having been dented with the teeth, say every one-sixteenth. Leave the hook bare at present for the wings and head, and also about as much exposed space on the body side of the butt ; a touch of shellac varnish over one half hitch will be all that is required.

Gossamer silk, as I have said before, is superior to any other for fly-dressers. There is a proper hook attached at will to the cabinet, which will be described in a future issue ; saddle the silk twice over it, hold the four pieces at the end to prevent them untwisting, and the process of waxing will be an easy one. Use cobblers' wax, which should be fresh. While the gut is still soft, shape the projecting loop by pushing a stiletto, sold by Wilcox and Gibbs, through it from the under side, pinching the gut with the nails of the thumb and forefinger of the left-hand at the extremity of the iron. As well as for other obvious reasons, this will bring the gut close and straight at that end of the hook under the wing, where each piece would struggle to get when in use to the detriment of the upper work if neglected now. Salmon fishermen will find this particular probe very serviceable not only for this, but for other requisites, and particularly useful while fishing.

Turning to this week's illustration, we have another gorgeous and magnificent pattern from our accomplished autocrat, and one well worthy of its scientific denomination.

Nepenthe, from the Greek νη, not, and πενθος, pain, is, I believe, used as a figurative and poetical expression for something that affords consolation to the mind ; so I take it a Nepenthian is not only to neutralise the sting of daily disappointments to which all salmon anglers are exposed, but to compensate them, as well as to soothe their misfortunes.

Happily they are not born without feelings, and, with due respect to the honoured opinion of Wellington—an opinion which might touch into sympathy even the coldest nature—to them victory is *not* the saddest of all things after defeat. Who was it that wrote, "A victory is doubled if the achiever brings home full numbers"? Surely it is a triumph for a gentleman to set out late one afternoon, and catch in well-thrashed pools more salmon than one man could carry home. This fortune, followed by the misfortune of losing the fly in the fifth fish, was an adventure last week of Col. Richardson's on the Tweed, and one, with his permission, well worth recording. "I shall never forget the famous Nepenthian," he writes : "Do please make me another, &c."

These two pools had been worked by well-known anglers ; but in the whirligig of Time, is it not curious how the see-saw of Fashion is strikingly illustrated—coaxed into swing by the winning, wheedling ways of one or another of our tiptop and meritorious members to picture the beauty and the outcome of experience ?

The Colonel's memory of the Nepenthian now is uncommonly like moonlight,—only reflected rays from a light no longer seen ; however, it is pleasant sometimes to rake up the past, and carry one's thoughts back ; for remembrance, unlike expectation so often defeated, is the only Paradise out of which we cannot be driven away.

As we have the illustration I can describe the fly.

Tag : Gold twist and gold silk (same shade as toppings).

Tail : Topping and two red crows, as placed.

Butt : White ostrich herl, dyed the same colour as dark blue chatterer.

Body : In three equal sections. The first light blue silk, same shade as light blue chatterer, with four dark chatterer feathers, as illustrated, back to back, and butted with the same coloured herl as before. The middle division, light orange silk, the same shade as the toucan above and below, and butted similarly. The rest, red orange silk, resembling in tint of the three red crow's feathers situated on either side as engraved, from under the throat.

Throat : Red macaw.

Ribbed : Oval gold tinsel.

Wings : Six tippets, back to back, with two jungle projecting.

Cheeks : Summer duck extended, and blue chatterer, two strips golden pheasant tail above, with topping over.

Horns : Red macaw.

Head : Blue herl, as above mentioned.

## THE PISCATORIAL SOCIETY'S SUMMER DINNER.

THIS annual event took place, as previously announced, at the Ray Mead Hotel, Maidenhead, on Wednesday last. Several of the members and their friends arrived at Maidenhead early in the day, and enjoyed themselves either in boating, fishing, or attending a regatta which was taking place there on that day. The sound of the dinner bell about six o'clock gave general satisfaction, and the company took their places at the tables. The chair was occupied by Mr. T. R. Sachs, and the vice-chair by Mr. H. B. Brown. The dinner was served up in most excellent style by Host Deacon, and ample justice done to it by those present. The Chairman, having filled his glass from a magnum of Boll's extra "sec," challenged the company to take wine with him, which was accordingly done. The Chairman proposed the first toast, "The Queen, Prince and Princess of Wales, and rest of the Royal Family," which was right royally responded to. He next gave the toast of the evening, "The Piscatorial Society." In the course of an amusing speech he said that as a society we were all thoroughly sociable, and we increase and multiply. (Cheers and laughter.) He would not say more, as they knew all about it. (Loud laughter). Mr. Huggett proposed "The Thames Angling Preservation Society," and said that no society could be more interested than our own in the really good work done by the T.A.P.S., that had, no doubt, in a quiet and unobtrusive manner done great work in keeping up the stock of fish, and at last had succeeded in that portion of the river under their charge. Brougham's babies used to be laughed at ; but they were no longer babies—they were splendid trout, many of which had been captured this season. It was to be hoped the re-stocking process might still continue. The name of Mr. Brougham was coupled with this toast. Mr. Brougham replied, and said they not only stocked the Thames, they prosecuted successfully all unfair anglers or poachers. He had been connected with that and the Piscatorial Society for 25 years, and hoped so to continue for many years to come. Dr. Coates, M.D., gave "The Press," and pointed out what an important position it had taken throughout the world. He coupled the toast with the name of Mr. Wheeldon. Mr. Wheeldon, in reply, said he was proud to have his name coupled with the toast of the press. He had reported a good deal for the angling press, and hoped to do so in the future. The Chairman next proposed "The Kindred Preservation Societies," and called upon Mr. Lemann to reply. Mr. Lemann, in his usual kindly manner, replied, and thought all those who fished the Thames, no matter in what position of life, should each subscribe at least 5s. per annum, and there would be a large and sufficient fund for all purposes. The Vice-Chairman proposed "The Health of the Chairman," Mr. Sachs, who briefly replied with his best thanks. Mr. Andrew proposed "The Vice-Chairman," and Mr. H. B. Brown duly replied. "The Visitors" were proposed by Mr. Foreman, who said that enjoyable as those meetings always were, they were rendered more so by the presence of one's personal friends, and thanked those gentlemen for attending. Mr. Kent, on behalf of the visitors, gracefully replied. "The Host' was proposed, and Mr. Deacon returned thanks. The utmost cordiality and good will prevailed, and after dinner the gentlemen adjourned to the large tent to enjoy the fragrant weed and some harmony.

## AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS, 1884.

THE Great Eastern Railway Company announce Cheap Excursions for three or six days on Saturday, 2nd August, from London (Liverpool-street) by their new line, *viâ* the cathedral cities of Ely and Lincoln, to Sheffield, Huddersfield, Oldham, Ashton, Manchester, Warrington, Liverpool, &c. A special booking office will be opened at the Liverpool-street Station from the 28th July to 2nd August for the issue of ordinary tickets, and of Tourist, Fortnightly, and Friday to Tuesday tickets to the Seaside for use on forward dates. Tickets may also be obtained at the Company's West End booking office, 44, Regent-street, and at the City booking offices, as under :—Blossoms-inn, Lawrence-lane, Cheapside ; 48, Lime-street, City ; Spread Eagle, 3, Whittington-avenue, Leadenhall-market ; Swan with Two Necks, Gresham-street ; Messrs. Cook and Son, Ludgate-circus, Fleet-street ; Messrs. Cook and Son, First Avenue Hotel ; Messrs. Gaze and Sons, 142, Strand ; 16, Holborn ; Golden Cross, Charing-cross ; 70, St. Martin's-lane ; 28, Regent-circus, Piccadilly ; Spread Eagle, Piccadilly-circus ; 34, Albert-gate, Knightsbridge ; 33, High-street, Kensington ; Mr. Whiteley, Westbourne-grove ; 241, Oxford-street. Additional trains will be run on Friday and Saturday to Colchester, Ipswich, Norwich, Clacton, Walton-on-the-Naze, Yarmouth, Lowestoft, Cambridge, Lynn, and other principal towns on the Great Eastern district ; and on Bank Holiday a Special Excursion will leave Liverpool-street for Clacton, Walton, and Harwich. Excursion tickets will also be issued by all trains to Epping Forest, Broxbourne, and Rye House. A special service of trains will run from Liverpool-street every ten minutes to Chingford, every half-hour to Loughton and to Woolwich, and at frequent intervals to Broxbourne and Rye House. There will also be a special half-hourly service of trains from Fenchurch-street to Chingford and Loughton.

GEORGE JAMES EATON, of Starkholmes, Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required, from gentlemen who can fish, to prove whether they may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices : Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen ; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—(ADVT.)

SALMON & TROUT-FISHING.

**CHAS. FARLOW & Co.,**
**191, STRAND, London, W.C.,**
MANUFACTURERS OF FIRST-CLASS RODS AND TACKLE, SALMON AND TROUT FLIES, SUITABLE FOR ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD.
**Mahseer Tackle in Great Variety.**
**Makers of Split Cane Rods.**
**Improved Folding Trout Landing Nets**
(Very Light).
**New Patent Lever Salmon Winch**
(Can be regulated to any stiffness at will).
**Brown's Phantom Minnows.**

CATALOGUES GRATIS. PRIZE MEDALS. IMPORTERS OF SILKWORM GUT.

JAMES OGDEN,
28, WINCHCOMB STREET, CHELTENHAM,
PRACTICAL ANGLER, FLY DRESSER, AND MANUFACTURER OF EVERY DESCRIPTION OF FISHING TACKLE.
James Ogden's Newly-Invented Premier Spinner,
Regd. Nov. 13th, 1883. This Bait is constructed upon an entirely new and improved principle. Salmon, 6s. 6d. ; Trout, 5s. ; smaller do., 3s. 6d.
SILVER OR GILT.
Also coloured, similar to the Devon Baits, &c.
JAMES OGDEN'S
**MULTUM IN PARVO FLY RODS,**
PRICE 21s.,

The enormous and increasing demand for which is a sufficient guarantee for the high estimation in which they are held by the leading anglers of the day.

All Standard Flies ordered, or dressed correct to pattern, will be despatched by return of post.

N.B.—NO CONNECTION WITH ANY OTHER PERSONS ASSUMING THE SAME NAME.

**A NEW PERFECT FLY AND SPINNING LINE.**

"It's Simply Perfection." Such is the unanimous report of all who have used the new line for both fly and mid-water fishing.

All the advantages of the original Acme are present in the improved and perfected make, together with well-nigh everlasting durability.

INCREASED CASTING FACILITIES ; FREEDOM FROM IRRITATING ENTANGLEMENTS ; and GENERAL ENHANCED COMFORT OF FISHING.

Are these things to be lightly passed by ? Every follower of the art deemed Gentle will admit the value of such attainments.

"As a Casting Medium the Acme Lines are unsurpassed."—Vide the entire British Sporting Press.

Emil Weeger, in a leader on the Acme Line, appearing in the Austrian Sporting Times, says :—"I find the Acme more valuable than all others."

Samples of the Improved Metal Centred Line may be tested prior to purchasing.

Lengths returned within twelve months from date of purchase, as not meriting entire satisfaction, will be exchanged for cash originally paid for them.

This unprecedented condition of purchase is proof of the confidence of the proprietors, whose habitual patrons have largely used the new improved Line this and last season.

See the Line and test it. Samples, Post Free, 2 Stamps.

**D. and W. A. FOSTER,**
SOLE MANUFACTURERS AND INVENTORS,
**ASHBOURNE.**
None are genuine without the word PATENT affixed to label.

SPIERS AND POND'S
**GAIETY RESTAURANT,**
**STRAND.**

THE HOME DINNER DAILY at 5.30 till 8 p.m.
Consisting of Soup, Fish, Joint, Vegetables, Bread and Cheese, *ad. lib.*
**2s. 6d.**
GRILL ROOM for Suppers open till Midnight.
SPIERS and POND, Limited.

PAINTINGS OF FISH,

By T. G. TARGETT, Wilton-road, Salisbury, now hanging in the Aquarium at the Health Exhibition, are offered to any members of the various Angling Societies at 25 per cent. off the undermentioned marked prices :—Specimen Trout, 7gs. ; ditto Pike, 7gs. ; ditto Grayling, 7gs. ; Group of Devon Trout, 10gs. ; a Fine Group of Trout, 12gs. ; a Brace of Trout, 12gs. ; a Brace of Grayling, 12gs. ; a Group of Perch, 15gs. ; Salmon Trout, 15gs. ; Putting on the Brake, 10gs.

Schweppe's
These Waters are supplied
To the Queen.
Table Waters

"Art, empire, earth itself, *to change* are doomed."—The Hermit.

# EXCHANGE.

## Things Wanted—to BUY, to SELL, or to EXCHANGE.

:o:

N.B.—We take no responsibility whatever in connection with advertisements inserted in this or other parts of this paper ; but beg our readers to expose any case of imposition. The prices for inserting advertisements in this "EXCHANGE" Column are 6d. per line for one, or 4d. per line for more than one insertion.—Address, Manager, Fishing Gazette, 12 and 13, Fetter Lane, London, and send stamps with the order, or the advertisement cannot be inserted.

WANTED.—Particulars and Prices of Second-hand Books on Angling and Fish Culture. Must be in good condition.—Address Editor, Fishing Gazette, 12 and 13, Fetter-lane, London, E.C.

A Walnut Oblong Centre TABLE, 60 by 40 inches, with moulded shaped edge, supported on the tails of four beautifully carved dolphins ; wanting room will take 6 guineas ; worth double.—T. G. Targett, Piscatorial Artist, Wilton-road, Salisbury.

For Sale.—18ft. BAMBOO LEE ROD, with winch fittings, only used once ; cost at Civil Service Stores, £1 2s. 6d. ; price 15s. Also Landing Net and Handle, 2s. 6d. Will be sent to any address on receipt of P.O.—Apply, F. R. Ohlson, 44, Westminster-bridge-road, London, S.E.

For Sale.—Some young BLUE COCKS, different colours, price 5s. each.—J. Rowy, Barnstaple.

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## ADDITIONAL PRIZES FOR THE TOURNAMENT.

Several additional prizes have been promised. They will be duly acknowledged and noticed. In the mean time we beg to ask all those who have sent or promised prizes, but who have not indicated their value, to kindly do so at once. All prizes not yet sent in should be sent at once to the Editor of the Fishing Gazette, 12, Fetter-lane.

## THE INDEX FOR VOL. VIII. OF "FISHING GAZETTE," JANUARY 1 TO JUNE 30, 1884.

With each copy of last week's Fishing Gazette was given a four-page index to the above volume. Covers for binding can be had of the Publisher, 12, Fetter-lane ; price, 2s. 6d. This volume contains Mr. Kelson's illustrated articles on the various salmon casts, &c. Only a few copies remain on hand, price 6s. 6d., bound in handsome cover.

# RIVER REPORTS.

### TIME OF HIGH WATER IN THE THAMES.

To find the time of high water in the Thames at any of the following places, to the time of high water at London Bridge (given below).

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Add | 30 | minutes for | Chelsea. |
| | 40 | „ | Putney. |
| | 45 | „ | Hammersmith. |
| | 50 | „ | Barnes. |
| | 55 | „ | Kew. |
| | 75 | „ | Richmond. |
| | 80 | „ | Twickenham. |
| | 85 | „ | Teddington. |

Example :—If it is high water at 2 o'clock at London Bridge, it will be high water at Teddington about 3.25, or eighty-five minutes later ; but it must be remembered that a strong wind accelerates or retards the tide very much.

For Times of High Water at London Bridge.

| | | Morning. | Afternoon. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Saturday, | July 26 | 4.20 | 4.40 |
| Sunday, | „ 27 | 5.1 | 5.19 |
| Monday, | „ 28 | 5.39 | 5.38 |
| Tuesday, | „ 29 | 6.19 | 6.40 |
| Wednesday, | „ 30 | 7.3 | 7.25 |
| Thursday, | „ 31 | 7.51 | 8.18 |
| Friday, | August 1 | 8.51 | 9.29 |

Note.—August 4, Bank Holiday.

### THE LOWER THAMES.

General Remarks.

The river does not appear to derive any strength from the occasional storms, but the angling in the tidal waters is considerably on the improvement, and the anglers are getting some of the old-fashioned takes of twenty dozen of fish in the day. One of the fishermen, remarking on the quantity of fish in the river, said "It was just like an aquarium." As the angling has become improved for the punt anglers, it has somewhat degenerated amongst those who fish from the banks. The enormous stock of fish in the Thames has tempted some of the bank anglers to violate the by-laws against the use of fixed lines, but it is hoped the examples that have been made will prevent any further attempts at such unsportsmanlike and illegal practices.

### Angling Results.

**Richmond.**—Christopher Brown, in six days, fourteen barbel and forty-two dozen of dace; F. Brown, in two days, fourteen dozen of dace; Henry Wheeler, in three days, 50lb. of dace; Menry Mansell, in one day, with Mr. T. H. Boulton, of Turnham-green, twenty-four dozen of good roach, and a few dace—another day, with Mr. Mahern, of Twickenham, twenty dozen of roach and dace, two barbel, and one carp; in three other days, seventy-two dozen of roach and dace, and in half a day, with Mr. Fleming, six dozen of roach and dace, and one barbel; Henry Howard, in one day, with Mr. Liffen, sixteen dozen of roach and dace; and another day, with Mr. Liffen, a similar quantity; and in five other days, fifty-two dozen of roach and dace, and six barbel; Job Brain, in six days, 128lb. of good roach and dace, and thirteen barbel; and in one other day, with Mr. John Wotton, eleven dozen of good dace, and three barbel.

**Twickenham.**—Henry Spiers, in four half-days, eighteen dozen of dace, and one barbel; Charles Miles, in a day and a half, nine dozen of dace; Pert Hammerton, in one day, with Messrs Walker and Johnson, seven dozen of roach and dace, and a bream of 4½lb., and another day 14lb. of dace and one barbel; Joe Debbin, in two aad a half days, twenty-eight dozen of dace, and one barbel; George Coxen, in three days, twenty-two dozen of dace and roach, and one perch; R. Coxen, in one day, six dozen of roach and dace; John Coxen, jun., five dozen; John Coxen, in three days, twenty-three dozen of roach and dace; another day with Mr. Steinhart and lady, 24lb. of dace; and another day with Mr. Harwood, seven dozen of dace; Samuel Cole, in two days, with Mr. Francis, fifteen dozen of dace and seven barbel, and the remainder of the week, thirty dozen of roach and dace, and six barbel; Edward Finch, during the week, twenty dozen of dace and one barbel. The anglers in the Deep one day got a jack of 4lb., and another of 3½lb., and a chub of 2lb. 7oz.

**Teddington.**—Joseph Baldwin, in four days, twenty dozen of roach and dace, one bream and seven barbel; Charles Baldwin, in the same time, sixteen dozen of roach and dace, and three barbel; John Stevens, in addition to some good takes of roach during the week, has taken five chub.

**Kingston.**—John Johnson, sen., writes, "I have been getting some nice quantities of roach up to 1lb. each, and some good dace, one of the latter 10in. in length, and a few nice bream up to 4½lb. My best day was ten dozen and four fine bream. John Johnson, jun., has got nineteen barbel in one day, a brace of perch, and a dace over 11in. There has been a great quantity of fish taken at the Sewers, some fine roach. A fair lot of eels have been taken from the bank up to 1½lb. each. I saw two good chub taken at the Bridge by a private boat. A few barbel have been taken here and there on the bank, and a few good perch trailing by private boats. Mr. Bond, of the Sun Hotel, in one day, got seventeen barbel; Mr. H. Dickinson, in one day, 20lb. of roach and dace.

**Hampton Court.**—Charles Stone, in one day, three and a half dozen of roach and dace; John Smith, in four days, twelve barbel, one dozen of chub, six perch, and three dozen of dace; Thomas Davis, in the same time, eleven barbel and twenty-three dozen of roach and dace; Charles Davis, in two days, sixteen dozen of roach and dace, and three chub; W. Milbourne, in three days, fifteen dozen of roach and dace, and five barbel; Thomas Milbourne, in the same time, fifteen dozen of roach and dace, and six barbel, the largest 6lb.; Thomas Wheeler, eighteen dozen of roach and dace, and two barbel. The anglers on "Tagg's Island Fishery" have taken during the week twelve dozen of roach and dace, in addition to some good bream, roach, and chub.

**Sunbury.**—Messrs. Edward Clark and Son, during a period of six days, have caught twenty-four dozen of gudgeon, seven barbel, the largest 5lb., sixty dozen of roach and dace. and three chub. The bank anglers have done good business amongst the roach, dace, gudgeon, barbel, bream, perch, and chub.

**Walton.**—George Hone, one day, with Mr. Cababe, six dozen of roach—another day, a similar quantity and three bream—another day, ten dozen and one bream, and another day, with Mr. Mackrill, eight dozen of roach, one barbel, and one bream. D. Watford and George Hone, jun., have had similar takes.

**Halliford.**—E. D. Rosewell, in one day, five dozen of roach and dace, and one brace of jack, and another day, four dozen and three jack.

**Weybridge.**—Herbert Curr, one day with Mr. Boyton, nine dozen of good roach, and dace—another day with Mr. Christian, in three hours, two dozen of roach and dace—another day with Mr. Barrow, in two hours, three dozen; and in two other days with Mr. Spalding and Brother, twenty-eight dozen of roach and dace, two bream, and one barbel.

**Shepperton.**—David Hackett, in four hours, five dozen of gudgeon and three perch. F. Pandue, in one day, ten dozen of gudgeon, two dozen of roach and dace, and four perch; and another day, twelve dozen of gudgeon and five perch. W. Rogerson, in four hours, six dozen of gudgeon and five dozen of roach and dace; and another day, five barbel, a brace of tench weighing 4½lb., seven eels, and three dozen of roach. James Haslett, in two days, five barbel, one bream, and three perch. James Hastlett, jun., one barbel, two perch, and four dozen of gudgeons.

**Chertsey.**—J. Poulter, one day, with Mr. L. Buckland and Mr. R. G. Thurston, staying at the Woburn Park Hotel, four bream, four chub, two barbel, two brace of perch, and some dace; another day with Mr. L. Buckland and Mr. C. O. Thurston, 50lb. of bream and one chub; and another day with Mr. S. H. Thurston and his brother, eight bream, one brace of perch; the largest bream 4¾lb.

**Staines.**—E. Keene, in one day, five dozen of roach and dace. John Keene, one day, 24lb. of barbel; another day, 18lb., the largest 5lb.; another day, 14lb. of roach and dace, and two barbel! and another day, four dozen of roach and dace, and three chub. John Keene, Jun, in one day, with Mr. Bartlett and Mr. W. Jones, 42lb. weight of barbel, chub, and roach. G. Osman, one day, three dozen of roach and dace, one barbel, one perch, and one eel; and another day, six barbel and one chub. Charles Hone, in one day, seven dozen of roach and dace; and another day with Mr. Pugh and Mr. Mason, nine barbel, six bream and twelve chub, weighing altogether 45lb., the largest bream 5lb.

## UPPER THAMES.

The river is now in first-class summer trim, although perhaps a little too bright for roach and chub. I have had some four days' hard work on the river this week with various friends, and have found my old method the best one—viz., sticking to one swim, even for the whole day. This remark, of course, more particularly applies to roach. At Sonning and Henley some excellent takes of chub and perch have been had, the best bag being had by Mr. Foster, a bank angler, 10½lb., consisting chiefly of roach and perch, all being had from one eddy with tail of lob. At Hurley, Messrs. Parry, Sheffield, and White, fishing from the East Arms (which, by the way, is an excellent swim) on Friday and Saturday last in a bright water, caught some three dozen roach, two dozen perch, a chub or so, and a pope thrown in to make up a respectable basket. Mr. Detmar, at Hurley, has had some three dozen roach and perch in one day's doing, and another angler belonging to a house boat has been training the chub to feed. At. Marlow, Mr. Huish has had a trout of exactly 6lb., and Mr. C. Angler (happy name) tells me that in the Marlow waters J. Rockell has had some good trout, "and that all-round fishing is excellent, chub, jack, and perch being taken freely." Thursday evening: river in fair order for good all-round work.—Marlow Buzz.

### Dockett Point.

Two days' fishing, five barbel, two bream, three chub, three perch, roach and dace, ledgering—two chub and perch back. Wednesday, with Mr. P. Geen, nice lot of fish, all put back but one barbel about 6lb.; J. Haslett, jun., one barbel, roach, and dace, ledgering, four dozen of gudgeon, two perch.—James Haslett.

Thursday. The water is very low. We have had some heavy thunderstorms to-day; very little doing. J. Hoare has been among the barbel, but am not able to learn the exact amount of his catches. My best day this week has been with the dace, 14 dozen and three chub, 2lb. each. G. Keene, one, jack and two more runs. By the way, this is the first time this season anyone jack fishing has come to my notice. With respect to the barbel, we live in hopes.—G. Lumsden.

### Thames (Goring).

Water in good order for all-round fishing, perch and jack coming on better. Two best days, five jack and four dozen of perch, and a good lot of gudgeons. Prospects good for the next few days.—J. Rush.

### Thames (Oxford).

Throughout the week there has been an uninterrupted run of good sport. Sufficient rain has fallen, varied to-night by a heavy thunderstorm, to keep the water in good order and the fish well on the feed. In the affluents the takes have been equally good, and for a summer's season even the most cavilling disciple of "old pater Izaak" could not find cause to complain. Several very large bags of chub have been made about Oxford since Saturday, notably one of 50lb., which was taken by Mr. Payne in two days at Radcot Bridge. On Monday a gentleman with the fly landed 28lb. above Medley Lock. My informant says the work of unhooking the fish at length became so monotonous that he was compelled to desist from sheer weariness. The best fish weighed nearly 5lb. The preceding day also showed good results. Mr. Osmond, by Black Jack's, brought to land about 15lb.; and yesterday (Wednesday) Mr. Brightlock grassed another 26lb. of chub and perch. On Thursday the Oxford Angling Society held their first competion of this season at Eynsham. Several prizes were offered by the Society for jack, roach, perch, and chub. For the jack Mr. Munday, jun., showed four fish, which came in top-weight. The roach competition was won by Mr. Quarterman with 17¾lb., Messrs. English and Vincent following closely with 13¼lb. and 12½lb. respectively. The largest fish weighed 1lb. 2oz., and several went from ½ and ¾ to 1lb. In the Cherwell, at Tackley, Mr. Turner, of Tart-street, captured a brace of jack, going 7½lb. and 4½lb. Mr. Barney, in the vicinity of Gibraltar (not that shop in the Mediterranean) had 11lb. of roach on Monday week. On Tuesday Mr. Fell, who refused to tell me the locality, showed me a fine barbel, a trifle over 4lb. I must certainly say I have seldom seen one with finer points, either for shape, size, or colour; its contour in every respect was perfect. On Wednesday, Mr. Knowles, fishing for perch in the Evenlode, landed two beauties, of 1¼lb. and 1½lb. During the last week Mr. Kelson, at Lechlade in Gloucestershire, caught 50lb. of roach, and in the month his average takes have been from 12lb. to 15lb. per diem, the best fish amongst the lot being two trout, 2½lb. and 1½lb., and a perch of 2¾lb. The police have effected a grand coup; by their own unaided efforts, they made a seizure of some crayfish nets.—Chirwell Otter.

### Walton-on-Thames.

Fishing this week not equal to last week, although a fair quantity of fish have been taken and a few large barbels. Bream have been quiet, but roach very plentiful. D. Watford, one day, 15lb. roach, 8 bream, 1 barbel 3lb.; D. Watford, four other days, average 6 dozen roach, few bream; J. Hone, in three days, 16 dozen roach and 12 bream; G. Hone, jun., one day, 6 dozen roach and some very fine dace; G. Hone, sen., in 3 days, 30 dozen roach. There appears to have been some disappointment here about the fishermen engaging themselves to two persons on the same day; but from enquiry on the spot, I find that it was a misunderstanding, and the fishermen not altogether to blame. The proprietor of the Swan Hotel, Walton, has kindly undertaken to see that the wishes of gentlemen coming to Walton are properly carried out, if they write to him naming the man they want and what they wish done; this will save any misunderstanding in future, as the proprietor is always on the spot, and he is an expert angler and takes much interest in the sport.—Goldfinch.

### Thames (Wraysbury, Bucks.).

Water too low and bright for fishing. Nothing doing that I can ascertain. The Old Fleet is, apparently, as full of barbel as ever. Talking of barbel, here's a chance for Ye Clever Piscatorial. The Waste Gate Hole of the Mill, just outside this station, contains no end of big barbel. I guess I know how to fish a little, but I cannot entice these fellows to bite steel. I have tried almost every bait I know, and have failed to capture one, although I can see the bait is close to their noses. I know you have a few clever piscators amongst your readers; let them give this hole a good ground-baiting and try it. I will bet, if they can only get them to feed, they will bag a fine lot, and few under 4lb. If there is any doubt as to these fish being there, ask the man in charge of the mill, his boys, or the station-master.—Roach.

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### Ballynahinch.

Since last report weather has improved greatly for fishing, as will be seen by the following takes:—Colonel Biden, in six days, five salmon, 33lb., and 35 sea trout; Messrs. Eades and Houlgrave, in five days, 57 trout; Mr. Dudgeon, in three days, 18 trout; Mr. Wardle, in five days, three salmon, 25lb., and 15 trout; Mr. Shaw, in four days, 31 trout; Mr. Bailward, in two days, nine trout; Mr. J. C. Mecreedy, one salmon, 8lb.; Mr. McNeil, in four days, 65 trout; Mr. Morris, in four days, 32 trout; Mr. Chapman, in three days, 20 trout; Mr. G. Sutherland, in three days, one salmon, 13lb., and five trout; Mr. Nevill, in two days, nine trout. Total for the week, five salmon, 71lb., and 296 sea trout. Every prospect of trout fishing improving.—Walter Blackadder.

### The Bure (Norwich).

I have not heard anything extraordinary from any of the stations on this river, but from what I can gather from independent sources, sport has been fairly good all down from Cottishall to Acle. Some who have visited Wroxham, and also Horning Ferry, describe the outing as being everything an angler could desire, bites plentiful, fish (mostly middle size and small), occasionally good size, but the scenery is worth a visit from the most distant parts of the kingdom. I should still urge any anglers who are visiting our watering places, to visit our famous rivers and try their luck (if they want any particular information with regard to any favoured spot, write to R. Moll, Norwich), as I am sure the sport will repay their trouble and enhance the fame of Norfolk rivers. Prospects are excellent on this river, as the storm waters do little to disturb this stream. I fully expect to hear of heavy catches of bream, &c., during the ensuing week.—Robert Moll.

### Chichester.

During the past week some fair takes of fish have been recorded. A London angler, fishing with Mr. S. Young, on the 20th, landed a handsome tench of 2¼lb. between Hunston and Dorrington. Messrs. Cardy and Son had good sport among the bream, landing 60 fish, Mr. Cardy, sen., taking the majority. Mr. Spink, of Brighton, also had good sport. For the numerous visitors to the Canal during the Goodwood week, I may remark that between Hunston and Donnington will be found the most remunerative fishing, and gentles the best bait.—George F. Salter.

### Dee (Aberdeenshire).

Last week few fish, especially grilse, sought up the river, and few fell to the angler's rod. The blue charm and silver doctor secured most. George Branner had a grilse 3½lb. and a sea trout 4½lb. on Kineskie; D. Rae, a salmon 10lb. and a grilse 5½lb. on Cairnton; Mr. Dawson, of Minonie, had a grilse on Tuesday at Bridge of Feugh, and a grilse of 2lb. was got up the stream; A. Muirhead Aitken, Esq., has been having good takes on the Don at Parkhill, getting baskets of trout, 20 or thereby a day, averaging a pound in weight. On the waters attached to the hotels at Alford the sport is continuing.—W. M.

### Dove.

We have had a favourable fishing week as regards the weather, but we should have been better suited if there had been a deeper shade of colour in the water. Sunshine and shower have alternated at intervals daily, but the rain has been by no means heavy enough to seriously affect the condition of the river. Until we get a really good rise on, I don't think coarse fishing prospects will greatly improve. There is any quantity of natural food in the stream just now, and the fish look very shy upon the artificial, no matter how deftly it is placed before them. The black gnats continue very troublesome. The little chap is still the best fly to use when they are on. I hear of several nice brace of trout having been killed in the Manifold by means of the Derby killer. Coarse fish have been biting moderately well, and that only. Roach and dace are taking the maggot the most freely, though I hear that in the lower parts of the river creed wheat and malt have been found quite as effectual. Perch, eels, bream, chub, and barbel are best on at the cockspur and lobworm. The wasp-grub is now fast coming into use, and this will kill roach, dace, and chub better than anything else up to the end of September.—The Splodger.

### The Dove (Derby).

Anglers visiting this neighbourhood will be glad to learn that Mr. Dennis Whitney has become the piscatorial host of the old and respectable inn called The Old English Gentleman, in Grove-street, and as he is a good fisherman and well known on the Trent, Derwent, and other rivers, he can give them the right information. Mr. Whitney has been for some years traffic canvasser on the Midland Railway, and an old piscatorial friend of mine who is personally acquainted with him, says, "the anglers will find at his hostelry all they can wish for."—B.

### The Exe (Tiverton).

Showers have been frequent, and to-day the water is slightly coloured, and risen only a little, and if no more rain it will soon drop back as low as before. During the past week fish have sported very well in the evening for a short time, six and eight brace falling to a rod.—Wm. Mudford.

### Exe (Exeter).

The fishing has not shown much improvement since my last report, the river still being very foul, and the mill heat having been let out at Exwich lately, when numbers of large trout were caught wholesale, and all small fry slaughtered indiscriminately by men and hoys armed with pieces of hoop-iron, &c. (I inclose full particulars from *Exeter Gazette* of July 22), and think ticketholders and anglers generally have great cause to complain, the stream being spoilt for some time. A testimonial is also to be got up by the ratepayers and others to the Home Secretary, referring to the salmon dying between Trews Weir and Salmon Pool, and asking for netting to be allowed. Mr. Blackburn, of Trews Weir, has written all he can to get matters improved for the salmon rod fishermen, and has our united and warmest thanks; but to no purpose, and if they are not treated better I fail to see the use of their procuring tickets and licences.—J. A. Kelly.

### Exe and Barle (Dulverton).

The continuous rain of Wednesday rose our rivers nearly one foot, and so fouled it as to almost line the banks in places with worm-fishers. The water is now in good minnow-fishing condition, and to-morrow will probably be in good order for the fly; but sport is not so easily obtained now as in the spring months. Mr. Collier, with his otter hounds, will probably hunt these rivers within a fortnight, when good sport may be expected, the quarry known to be plentiful; it is, however, a mistake to suppose that otters live largely on trout. Mr. Collier has assured me (and he is an ardent and most successful trout fisher) that eels are the principal food of the otter, and it is only as a last resource that trout are eaten, and as eels do more to destroy trout spawn than any other fish, the otter is really a protector of the trout.—C. W. Nelder.

### Eden (Weldon Bridge).

Last Friday the following gentlemen visited Weldon Bridge:—E. A. Mailing, Esq., creel full, with woems; T. W. Kirk, Esq., eight trout, two 1½lb.; Collin Smart, Esq., one dozen, with fly. I saw two salmon off the Bridge on Saturday night last. Water in good trim.—F. Brown.

### Ilfracombe.

Sea fishing still continues very slack. Parties fishing from their boats have been very unsuccessful, for after fishing their tide they return with only a few lbs. of bream and whiting. Mr. Turner on Monday caught a crab 6½lb. and several lobsters. The fishing from the pier head and jetty with rod and line has been good, Mr. Mengo on Thursday evening, caught several pout and codling, and Mr. Gratte a ling weighing 18½lb., others had similar catches. Weather, at present, squally.—E. Comer.

### Lakes of Killarney.

Since the last report there has been a good deal of peal and salmon come into the lake. The Glena net got about sixty salmon last week; Cahamane, 50 salmon. The weather is not fit for angling at present. The lake is going down fast; it will be down to low-water mark in a few days more. On the 18th, Tim M'Carthy, four salmon, 41lb., with a gentleman named Mr. Coldsman, of St. Francisco; Daniel Hayse, one salmon, 13lb.; Tim Cournane, one peal, 5lb. On the 22nd, Mr. John Noonan, three salmon, 33lb.; John Robert, one salmon, 10lb.; Mr. J. D. Curtayne, 2½ dozen trout; Eugene Cournane, one salmon, 10lb. Several dozen trout have been taken with small flies—namely, the silver hair, coch-bondy, small alder with black hackle; green with black hackle is good also. There will not be much fishing until the dog days are over, about the 20th of August, as the fish are gathering the roe, and don't care for flies.—Tim M'Carthy.

### Lark and Cam.

Roach feeding well, Weeds gone away nicely. One gentleman from London fishing at Mildwhall, took on Thursday and Friday last 43 fine roach, several of them close on 2lb. each. Mr. Howlett, of Newmarket, has also been amongst the bream in the Cam. They are not well on feeding—better near Littleport, the water being more suitable there for them. Some gentlemen fishing at Upware on Saturday, took four dozen splendid dace fly fishing. Mr. Howlett and A. Antony are going to-night to try for bream in the Ouse, near Ely.—H. M.

### Lea (Waltham Abbey).

The roach have been feeding "all over the shop," and some very fine takes at this time of the year—10lb. and 12lb. of fish every evening. During the week Alfred Wheeler, Mr. Thompson, Mr. Walter Kay, and Mr. B. Smith have shown some very fine trays of roach—two fine trays of roach from 12lb. to 14lb., sent to the Good Intent Society, and very much admired by the members. The lot taken on Tuesday, after five o'clock; 14lb. on Wednesday, 12lb. after five o'clock. Both takes by Alfred Wheeler, jun.—Pencil.

### Leicester.

The weather lately has undergone frequent changes, and a considerable quantity of rain has fallen during the past four or five days, but not enough to materially change angling prospects. Sport in the waters adjacent to Leicester has been, on the whole, of a fair character, and in several instances takes of roach have been heavy. It has generally been noted that the roach taken this season have been very fine, and in most baskets there have been fish of this species weighing from 1 to 1½lb. The waters at Aylestone are also in excellent condition for angling, and takes of both roach and chub have been satisfactory. Some nice perch have also been had by the bottom fishermen. In these waters the roach have begun to take the wheat freely. From the Wreake and Barrow-on-Soar reports are of a most encouraging kind. Some capital takes of bream have been had at the last-mentioned place, whilst a large contingent of Leicester rodsters daily visit the Wreake, and invariably return with good baskets. On Wednesday rain fell incessantly throughout the day, and Thursday was showery, one heavy shower being accompanied by hail. The waters hereabouts are in good condition.—Alert.

### Lugg and Arrow (Leominster).

These streams still keep in splendid order for the angler, being clear but low. There has been plenty of visitors to these streams this week, and some very good baskets have been taken, as the water is in prime order for fly fishing. The fish are sporting well at the fly, and the best killing flies on at present are the whirling blue, black gnat, and coachman. Some very good sport was had in the Arrow on Friday, as the fish were rising well; one gentleman, with the black gnat and coachman, landed a good dish of fine trout. The Lugg was tried the same day, and some very good trout were taken with the whirling blue. On Saturday the Lugg was tried with the fly, and a gentleman took a very good dish of fine fish, and when landed some scaling ¾lb. each. In the Arrow some very good fishing was had with the coachman and whirling blue, when a gentleman took a very good basket, weighing 5lb. the lot. The fish were sporting freely at the fly on Monday in the Arrow. A gentleman tried it with the whirling blue and black gnat, and took a splendid lot of fine grayling. A very nice lot of trout were taken with the wasp grub the same day. In the Lugg, a gentleman, with the fly, took a good basket of fine trout. The Lugg was tried on Tuesday, and some capital fish were taken with the coachman. Some very good trout were landed with the fly in the Arrow the same day. The Pinsley is still in good fishing order, but low; the fish are biting well at the fly. On Saturday a very good lot of trout were taken with the black gnat, and another nice dish was taken on Tuesday with the fly. Some capital sport has been had in the Bodenham waters, and some very good fish have been landed with the fly. There have been some good fish taken in the Ivington water with the fly. Some few trout have been taken in the Lugg at Aymestry.—Gwynne.

### Ouse (Huntingdon).

The bream and roach are being brought to land very freely. Since my last report several fine takes have been made. On the 21st inst. I took 32½lb. bream and 5lb. roach, making a total of 37½lb. Another take has been made of near 3st. One gentleman with me from London, took on the 22nd inst., 13lb. of bream and about 5lb. of fine roach. Several takes have been made, but the weight I have not heard. The water is in very good condition; I don't think it can be any better than it is now. The roach are well on the wheat, and great takes may be made during the season.—H. Rout.

### Perthshire Rivers.

The rivers in Perthshire are all in splendid condition. Numbers of large fish are running and are taking pretty freely. Last week Mr. Robertson killed two fish on Cargill, 17lb. and 13lb. Mr. McIntosh killed two fish on Stobhall on Monday. The nets on Tuesday had 70 fish at one shot—one 50lb. Two fish were got in the nets last week over 50lb. each. *The Tay.*—Sir W. Eliott, Bart., and Mr. P. D. Malloch fished Stobhall water, and killed two fish, 33lb. and 21lb. Mr. Robertson killed one, 28lb., on Cargill, and lost two others. *Loch Tay.*—Trout-fishing on this loch has been exceedingly good this season. Mr. D. G. Howat, of Glasgow, from Killin Hotel, was out on Friday and Saturday last, taking on Friday 18 trout, which weighed 11lb.; and on Saturday, 21 trout, weighing 15lb. Mr. Johnstone and friend, from Edinburgh, had one day 2½ dozen fine fish, which weighed 18lb.; and the following day, a basket of 17, which scaled 10lb. Other gentlemen had fair baskets. The river and loch is now in fine ply, and trout are very plentiful, affording excellent sport.

### Pickering.

Although we have had a few nice showers this last ten days, streams are all very low in this district. The dry and parched ground has swallowed all that has fallen, and hardly a drop got into any of the streams; consequently, the fish have never yet got thoroughly waked up. Nevertheless there is a decided improvement in their humour, and a few good fish, both trout and grayling, have been got. Of the former a trout of 1lb. 10oz. is the best we have seen taken by a red tag after refusing five or six other flies. Of grayling 2lb. 1oz. is the best fish we have seen taken lately. Weather dull—very like rain, and a great absence of flies for the last four five days. We hear that a few grilse and sea trout have got over the lower dam on the Yorkshire Esk; but, so far, none have been taken by rod. There was a large take by the sea nets last week, and we know of some havirg been retailed at 9d. per pound.—North-East.

### Severn (Kidderminster).

There is not much angling news to report round about our part of the Severn. Although there has been a good quantity of rain, it has come only in such showers that the soil has absorbed it as it fell, so that the rivers have been affected but very little by the fall: let us hope on—our turn will come some time. One of ours—The United Brothers—E. Hartiwell, had 5lb. of roach and dace from the Severn; Mr. Redding, president, had two eels, 5¼lb.; Mr. Yeomans, 6lb. including a bream 2½lb; Mr. Cooper, hon. member, a trout 1¼lb. amongst his catch; Mr. Titley, hon. member, 5lb. roach from a pool. This includes the best catches for the past week. I have done nothing myself on account of the low state of the river. To be the least successful, the rod must be used at early morn or late in the evening. I spent last week at Burton: it is the first time I ever saw the Trent. The anglers on that river ought to be proud of such a water to wet their lines. I never saw a river better adapted for fish culture, nor am I surprised at the good takes of fish that occasionally fall to a rod. How the anglers will fare now it will be hard to say, seeing the mishap that has befallen the waters belonging to the Burton Club, an account of which I have sent you, taken out of the *Burton Chronicle*, while I was there. On leaving the station—Burton—and before going up the steps that leads into the town, I happened to turn myself to look about there, I saw hung up against the end of station, the telegraph end I think, a case of flies belonging to Mr. Howarth, of Station-street; I thought most of them were made quill bodies. I had not time to give them the inspection they deserved, but anglers of the fly fraternity cannot do wrong in making Mr. Howarth their confidant.—E. Carp, hon. sec.

### The Suir and Tributaries.

The peal and salmon are swarming up the river, and although the water remains low, notwithstanding the late and still continuing showers, considerable sport has been had on the waters below Clonmel. On the upper waters the case is very different, for the fish cannot pass the weirs while the river remains so low. However, one day's heavy flood will do a good deal, for the mill streams and other resting places are simply boiling with rising fish; any evening you could count a hundred in as many yards, all only waiting for water enough to enable them to travel. Some sport has been had with these; the *few* rod men on the lower waters seldom return empty-handed. I say *few*, for—over twelve miles of the best angling waters of the Suir has been licensed to "snap nets," and that, too, in the fresh-water portion of the river—these "snap nets," not satisfied with their legitimate fishing, sweep the mill races and other places reserved for rod fishers, night after night with impunity, and thus what fish they fail to catch are so disturbed by the nets that they will not look at a fly the next day. This ought to be put a stop to. The net-men, who only pay a license of, say, on an average, six shillings per man per annum, whereas the rod-man pays £1, and his take during the whole year would not nearly equal one month of the net-man's. The Fishing Commissioners ought surely to look to this, and try to protect men who pay such a comparatively exorbitant sum from the misdeeds of men who pay only a trifle, and, not satisfied with that, want to have all the monopoly to themselves, on a fishing where they are only by sufferance of the riparian owners, and if the law were rightly enforced should not be allowed at all. A rod-man's rights should be respected, and on no rivers more than the Irish (especially the Suir), for many a poor man who has lived all his life by the product of his rod, and who now has only a few yards to depend on, where formerly he had as many miles, now he has to pay a pound license, when formerly he had to pay none. Is it not hard on such a man when he depends on a few hundred yards for his chance of killing a solitary fish for his and family's daily sustenance, to see all his hopes destroyed by a lot of avaricious poachers, who, not satisfied with a free, or almost free, *netting* of ten or twelve miles, grudge a poor man (or a rich man who would fish there for sport) his couple of hundred yards, which, by law, are strictly reserved to him. "Dudley's" generally yields a fish or two per day per rod, but then it is not quarter fished. The "Bridge stream," if properly worked, would give a fabulous amount of sport—for instance, Mr. John Gillies, on Thursday, killed a 7lb. peal. Next morning he killed two salmon and another peal before breakfast, and in the evening still another peal. Same day Mr. G. Quinton killed his first fish in "Dudley's," and Ned Farrel a 6lb. peal in the "Bridge stream." There is good trout fishing every evening at nightfall, at which time there is a very taking rise for about an hour.—RICHD. BRADFORD.

### Teme (Ludlow).

This stream and its tributaries are in good order, though the water continues low. The occasional showers we have had lately have put the fish upon the feed, and anglers have generally met with fair success. The flies that have been the most killing this week are the black gnat, the silver-twisted blue, the coachman, the whirling blue, and the Marlow buzz. A gentleman, on Saturday, fishing in the Teme in the Trippleton waters, caught thirty-two fish with the coachman and the whirling blue. Twenty-one of the fish were trout, and when weighed all together averaged nearly 1½lb. each. A fisherman named Nash landed three trout and one eel up the Park waters on the same day. A gentleman fishing on the Ludford side of the stream on Monday, with the black gnat, caught seven trout, two perch, and about half-a-dozen roach. On Tuesday, two gentlemen from Birmingham were fishing down the Ashford waters, and had a very successful day; one gentleman (Mr. Parkes) caught 18 fish, including nine good trout; the other gentleman (Mr. Judd) landed fourteen fish of various sorts; the flies used were the silver-twisted blue and Marlow buzz. There has not been much fishing in the Clun, the water being too low at present, and very clear. One gentleman, on Tuesday, caught about a dozen fish in the upper part of the stream; but they were not large ones. The Onibury waters have been netted lately; but the trout and grayling were all returned to the water; large quantities of "rough" fish were taken. A fisherman near Bromfield-bridge caught some nice trout on Saturday. Up the Corve some good catches have been had, though the water is low at present. The Marlow buzz has been used several evenings towards dusk up this stream, and was taken freely.—S. LUDLOW.

### Teme (Tenbury).

This stream is still in good order for fly fishing, still remaining clear and low; the fish in all parts of the river are rising well at the fly, which are on the water in good numbers. The best killing flies on the water at present are the coachman, whirling blue, black gnat, and the silver twisted blue, and some very good lots of fine trout have been taken with them. On Friday the fish were sporting well. A gentleman landed a good basket of fine trout with the whirling blue and coachman, in the water below the bridge. The water near Little Hereford was tried the same day, and a splendid lot of fine fish were taken with the silver twisted blue. Some very good sport was had on the water above the bridge, where a gentleman took a splendid lot of trout and grayling with the fly. There were some very fine fish taken in the water below the town, with the coachman. Good fishing was had on Monday in the water below the Little Hereford bridge with the fly, and one gentleman landed a nice basket of grayling, weighing 4lb. the lot. Some very good trout was landed in the water above the bridge, with the wasp grub, averaging ½lb. each. On Tuesday a gentleman, fishing the water above the town with the fly, took a splendid dish of grayling and trout. A very good lot of trout have been landed with the worm this week. Some very good dishes of trout have been taken with the fly in the Association waters this week. The Ledwych is in good fishing order, and the fish are rising well at the fly; some very nice trout having been landed. The Kyre and Rea are both in fishing order, being clear and very low; the fish are sporting well, and some very good dishes have been taken. In the Kyre, on Saturday, a gentleman took a splendid lot of trout with the fly. The Rea was tried on Friday, and a nice dish of fish were landed. On Tuesday a very good lot of trout was landed with the whirling blue.—WORCESTER.

### Trent (Lower).

The sport on the Trent is improving. The recent rains have done a vast deal of good to the water, and made the fish move about freely and stirred up the supplies of food. Eels and flounders are especially plentiful, and some anglers have had many bream. There have been many visitors at Cottam, Torksey, Laneham, Dunham, &c., and to all appearances many have done well. Among the best records I have to hand is that of Mr. Trickett, staying at Cottam, who made up a basket of 34lb. odd, including a nice jack of nearly 3lb. The take was made up of flounders and eels chiefly. Worms are considered the most taking baits at the present time, but these may be well supplemented by maggots and wasp grubs. Barbel are not so easy to be obtained, still several have been reported as killed.—TRACE.

### The Trent (Nottingham).

There was a rise of a few inches in the Trent in this district on Thursday, and prospects of sport seem, at length, more hopeful. During the week anglers have been busy not only in the lower lengths, but at Sawley, Shardlow, Weston, and Willington. At the first-named place, on Wednesday, one of the subscribers caught in a very few hours upwards of 30lb. of bream; and more of these fish than usual have been secured at Weston—one turning the scales at 5¾lb. A very fine tench of 4lb. was also bagged by Mr. H. Benson, of this town. Tench are seldom caught in the Trent, and the fish in question came in the light of a surprise to the piscator. Considerable activity has prevailed in the Holme Pierrepont water amongst the barbel, and on Saturday a take of five large fish was followed on Monday by one of three. Since the bursting of the tanks at Burton-on-Trent, as already reported, scores of dead fish have been taken out of the river at Swarkestone, Weston, and as low down as at Shardlow. Whilst perch fishing, on Tuesday, in Trent Lake (permission for which may easily be obtained from Mr. J. H. Widdowson, the proprietor), Mr. A. Bull, fishing tackle maker, Sussex-street, Nottingham, succeeded in capturing two really magnificent fish, weighing within a few ounces of 5lb. Many very large perch have already been taken out of the lake, which is situated within ten minutes' walk of Trent Station on the Midland Railway.—THE MAN AT THE CLUBS.

### Trent (Newark).

Sport has not been at all amiss this week. The bream have been on the feed very nicely, and several very nice bags of those fish have been made. The Corporation Fishery at Winthorp has been productive of several good specimens of the "bellows fish," the two biggest weighing 4lb. 11oz. and 4lb. 7oz. respectively—four anglers, on the 20th inst., getting about 4st. among them from there. From what I have heard from different localities up and down the river, sport has been equally good at several of the well-known bream holes. Tail end of lobworm, with the hookpoint just garnished with a lively wriggling cockspur, has been the most successful bait. Eels and flounders have also been taken in very fair quantities; also roach and dace, with an occasional barbel and chub. Water very low and clear, and, as an old and well-known angler said to me the other day, "While the water stops as it is, the bream will still keep on the bite: but we have had some very heavy thunderstorms this last day or two, so probably we shall have a disturbance in the water by the end of the week. Mr. J. Corah, of this town, has been very lucky this last week, getting on the 19th, 20th, and 21st, some very good bream, and a nice few of them—and finishing up on the 21st by spinning a small roach, and nobbling a jack weighing 11lb., and had the misfortune to lose another of about 6 or 7lb. Prospects on the whole look very favourable for the angler next week, unless the very heavy rains of this week cause the river to rise high and thick.—THE TRENT OTTER.

### Trent (Alrewas).

The river is now in grand condition. Few fisherman have, however, been down; but these have been rewarded with good baskets of roach and dace, and some fair perch, a few of the latter over 1lb. each. Some good grayling have also been taken with the maggot, but at the present they are not rising freely at the fly. The recent rain has brought more water into the river, and has slightly coloured it, which will improve the prospects of anglers. July 24th.—To-day and yesterday's rain ought to put the fish well on the move.

### Taw (N. Devon).

Water thick and peal plentiful, but not much doing. On Saturday we shall have good time with minnow.—RUSTY GAME.

### Tweed (Berwick).

The river is now much more clear of weed. The catches of the salmon net fishers, though improved, is still far from what it should be at this time of year. Though the price is moderate, ranging from 1s. 2d. to 10d. per pound, it is not owing to any abundant catch on the Tweed. At Marshall Meadows and Goswick they are doing better. There is abundance of salmon in the sea; but until there is a fresh they seem shy of entering the stream. There is not much angling going on just now. Berwick salmon ought to be cooked *Berwick fashion*—viz., salt the water to be used for boiling the fish until it will float an egg; notch the fish to the bone, at distances of about 3in. apart, give one minute to each pound weight, reckoning from time of commencement to boil—a trifle more if not quite fresh—preserve some of the water or gravy to be served up with the fish. This is, I am told, the ancient Roman way of cooking salmon, and is the only right way, so they say here.—JOSEPH JOHN HILLS.

### Upper Medway (Tunbridge).

During the week some good sport has been had amongst bream and roach, where swims have been judiciously baited; but where not, takes have been very small. Above the town, Mr. J. M. Streeter has caught some very fair-sized roach, while Mr. G. Payne, fishing with a friend, in one day secured no less than 64 fish—bream, roach, perch, and eels. On Wednesday there were some good takes of roach, boiled wheat and gentles being the taking lure. To-day (Thursday), we have had a nice thunderstorm, which certainly should make things look up. I forgot to mention that last week we put in 3,000 fish of various sizes into the river from a stream some distance off which was being mudded.—YE MEDWAY WATER RAT.

### Usk.

The water has been very low during the week until to-day (Thursday), when the heavy rains of yesterday caused it to rise about 18in., consequently the anglers have not met with much success. On Friday last the Rev. C. Mogg landed five fish, two of which were 15 pounders, and Mr. Cole took two. On Saturday Mr. Cole and Mr. Pride took one each; on Monday Mr. Pride landed two; on Tuesday, Mr. Browne two; Wednesday, Major Bowyer Lane, two. The river was netted on Tuesday, and 74 fish were caught, the largest weighing 18lb. On Wednesday the water was again netted, and 37 were caught, the largest weighing 24lb. Some heavy storms have fell to-day, which may cause a further rise.—ARGUS.

### Waveney (Beccles).

The weather has been very favourable for anglers during last few days, and some good catches (of roach especially) have been made. The recent rains have had a good effect, and the water is now a nice colour. Jack have been feeding well during this week, and yesterday (Wednesday), during the competition which took place with members of the Waveney Angling Club, the general complaint was that as soon as they had collected the fish together in the swim the pike put in an appearance and scattered them in all directions, consequently no large catches were made. I hope now to see some strange anglers trying their luck on the Waveney, and can hold out to them hopes of good catches of fish. But they must take care and get the deep waters—that is, anywhere beyond the Swing Bridge. Wind S.W., and weather looks very fishy. N.B.—The friendly return competition between members of Caxton and Waveney Clubs takes place next Saturday, results of which will be sent you.—A WAVENEY ANGLER.

### Witham.

Angling in the Witham is now first class. Almost everywhere anglers are doing well, and some prime bags have been made up. At Dogdyke, Tattershall, and Kirkstead, especially, have they done well, and many takes have run up to 35lb. to 40lb. per angler. At the first-named place a splendid lot of dace have been taken. One fisherman, Mr. Stevens, of Sheffield, had altogether about 40½lb., made up chiefly of this fish, along with roach, perch, bream, &c., and F. Watkin had 20lb., chiefly dace, with a few roach and bream at the same place. At Tattershall some fine bream were taken, one angler named Lee having a lot, six of which ran from 2lb. to 3lb. each, the total, including a few roach only in addition, weighed 37½lb.; and a Sheffield fisherman, at the same place, got about 21lb. of fish of the same sort. At Kirkstead, also, some very fine bream were taken. The bag of Harry Bell, of Sheffield, contained three, scaling 8lb. 12oz., besides about 7lb. of good roach. Another angler had a bream of 3lb. 10oz., along with a lot of smaller, and roach, perch, &c., to the gross weight of 30lb. Other anglers whose bags were weighed scaled 28lb., 24lb., 28lb., 20lb., &c. Most of these contained good bream. A nice pike, 8½lb., was taken between Kirkstead and Tattershall, along with a lot of other fish. At the end of the Sleaford Canal, near to Dogdyke, there was a match between two known anglers, John W. Tomlinson and John Rotherham, of Sheffield, for £10 each, and though it was raining most of the time they caught many fish. Tomlinson in the three hours took 84 fish, scaling exactly 8lb., whilst Rotherham had 78 fish, weighing 7lb. 13oz. On the drains near Boston anglers have done well also, and, among other fish, there seemed to be plenty of very capital bream. From the Cowbridge drain, a Mr. Eaves took a fine bream which turned the scale at 2lb. 13oz. This was part of a take, including also perch and roach to a total of 24lb. Several other takes were equally good, but few presented more special features than a good weight. The fishing all over the Fen district of Lincolnshire has been improved by the recent rains, and those who desire to go afar may make sure of plenty of sport. Large numbers of people continue to come into the district weekly, inasmuch as the railway companies are offering the facilities of special trains every Monday, with the privilege of starting on the Saturday and returning on the Wednesday. Almost anything by way of bait will now take.—YELLOW BELLY.

Angling has been very good of late here, plenty of fish and well on the feed—some very good baskets have been made. One Sheffield gentleman caught 2st. of fish of all kinds; one other gentleman caught two bream weighing 3lb. each, also some very nice roach; Mr. Thomas Morton, of Sheffield, had the good fortune to hook a very fine jack weighing 8¼lb, and bream from 1¼lb. to 2lb. each. On the 21st, our old friend, Mr. Robert Spells, of Sheffield, brought two friends down to fish for £5 aside—time allowed for fishing, 3 hours. When time was called and the fish weighed, one gentleman had caught 84oz., the other 81oz.; so the 84oz. won the £10.

### Wye and Derwent.

Both the above rivers are very low at the present time, consequently only small baskets of fish are the order of the day; in fact, we have had thunder and rain on most days, but not enough of it as to disturb the rivers. I have not heard of a good basket of fish being killed anywhere this week, with either bottom or fly-fishing. Fish never feed well on any of the Derbyshire rivers while thunder is hanging about. We want a regular good downpour on these rivers before fishing is good. I heard that the Darley Dale water, between Matlock Bridge and Darley, has been netted by the poachers lately, and that they killed a good lot of both trout and grayling. Several eels have been killed on night lines lately, baited with lob-worms for baits, the fish running a good size, some of them over 3lb. each. The following flies have all killed fish:—Bumble, dotterel, yellow dun, orange dun, black gnat, and sand flies.—GEO. JAS. EATON.

### The Yare (Norwich).

The fishing on this river during the past week has been marked by its uncertainty; some have had good luck, and others have had almost a blank. I was speaking just now to a friend who has been down to Brundall to-day (Thursday), and he says that there were several boats out, but nobody did anything worth record. Most of them caught a good number of small roach, but nothing of any size. From another source I hear that a member of the Champion Angling Club was at Cantley on Tuesday, and was successful, as he landed (he and his partner) 5st. of bream. This looks very much as if Cantley is the station to visit for bream. From Buckenham Ferry encouraging reports arrive every day. The roach are now well on feed; the late rains have had the effect of freshing the water, and no doubt if the downpour is not overdone excellent sport will be had at Buckenham on Tuesday next, when the Champion Angling Club hold their annual match. I hope the noted *Jumbo* steamer will not spoil sport. Prospects not so good, as very heavy rains, accompanied by thunder, have prevailed to-day.—Robert Mole.

## CLUB REPORTS.

### AMICABLE BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

On the 20th inst., Mr. Moir, roach from Dagenham; Mr. Wicks, roach from the the Lea; Mr. Say, roach and bream, 5lb. 14½oz.; Mr. Partrick, roach, perch, bream, and dace, 5lb. 2½oz.; Mr. Dwelly, perch and roach, 1lb. 1oz. The members will fish a pegged-down match at Dagenham, on August 10th, to start from the club-house at 12 p.m. on August 9th.—J. Worledge, sec.

### ALEXANDRA SOCIETY OF ANGLERS.

The members of the above society were out on the 20th, and had a very good show of fish. Mr. E. Wicks had some very handsome roach from the Lea; Mr. Tom Gripton, bream from Dagenham; Mr. Flanse, perch; Mr. Dabbs, perch; Mr. Luciorie, perch. Being too late last week for publication, I wish to state that Mr. Wells had a good show of roach and perch; Mr. Wilson, 11lb. 10oz. of bream and 4¼lb. of roach from Dagenham.—F. Wagner.

### ANCHOR AND HOPE ANGLING SOCIETY.

We have had very poor shows of fish since our last report, the following being the only members weighing in: Mr. Shakel, roach 2lb.; Mr. Clark, sen., roach and carp 4lb. 3oz. (one carp scaling 2lb. 12¼oz.); Mr. T. Bowling, bream.—D. Davis, sec.

### THE ANGLERS' ASSOCIATION, FORESTERS' HALL, CLERKENWELL-ROAD.

The committee will meet as above, until further notice, on the *first Monday* in each month (Bank Holiday excepted), and the general delegates meeting on the third Monday in each month, at nine o'clock. N.B.—The new instruction cards and lists of angling clubs will be completed immediately after the next delegate meeting.—R. Ghurney, sec.

### THE BERESFORD ANGLING SOCIETY.

On the 21st, far from the excitement of the political demonstration, which seemed to attract "all the world and his wife" to one part of London, in the snug and comfortable quarters of the above society, at The Grove Tavern, Camberwell Grove, another kind of demonstration was taking place among some of the anglers of London—viz., presenting Mr. Sames with a handsome gold watch for the bravery he displayed in rescuing from drowning two brother anglers, some time back. "Bravery and virtue always meets its reward," and it was acknowledged that by the energy of Mr. J. Gafney, P.B., in placing the case before the members of various angling societies, he succeeded in collecting sufficient funds to purchase the above gold watch, which was presented to Mr. Sames this evening. Mr. Beckett, of the A. Association, presided, assisted by Mr. Ellis. Among the gentlemen present were Messrs. Welsh, Hopkins, Smith, Page, Watkins, Hotham, &c. Mr. Beckett presented the watch to Mr. Sames, with an able address appertaining to the subject, to which Mr. Sames responded, and thanked the donors one and all for their presentation that evening. Harmony and recitation now prevailed, between which the healths of Messrs. Gafney, Beckett, and Ellis were drunk with musical honours. This having been responded to by those gentlemen, "The Health of the Visitors" was proposed, coupled with the names of Messrs. Page, Hotham, and Smith. Time now drew nigh to the parting hour, and, with the National Anthem, we brought to a close a very pleasant evening. Among those that contributed towards the evening's amusement were Messrs. Watkins and friend, Page, Smith, &c.—Pixie.

### BRISTOL GOLDEN CARP ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

Mr. Tippitt was out again on Saturday last, at Highbridge, and had a very nice bag of roach and dace, scaling 17lb. 9oz. Mr. Withers, on Monday, had a very nice trout and some nice roach at Kelston.—Lewis Wride, sec.

### BROMPTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

Some very nice fish on the 19th inst. Mr. Sparrow, trout & chub; Mr. Stonebridge, dace; Messrs. E. Saunders, C. Saunders, Burbidge, and Dutton, roach. On Wednesday, the 18th, Mr. Ducker, a nice show of bream—some of them very fair fish.—W. Dutton, sec.

### CLAPHAM JUNCTION ANGLING SOCIETY.

Messrs. Wilson and Speed had a nice show of roach and dace on Thursday last, from the Thames—18lb. Several members had fish on the 20th inst., but small takes were the order of the day. I beg to remind members that a match takes place at Walton on the 27th inst.; all start by first train.—W. Maslin, sec.

### CLAPTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The ordinary weekly meeting was held on Monday last, Mr. Wood in the chair, when the proceedings at the last Wednesday's meeting were confirmed. The secretary was absent the early part of the evening, attending a committee meeting of the Lea Protection Society, after which he recounted what had occurred at that meeting. Mr. Tidbury showed some fine roach in capital condition from the society's waters at Tottenham; Mr. J. Ellis and Mr. H. Short barbel, club, and dace from the Thames. Five new members were elected, and a vote of thanks accorded to the chairman. Gentlemen who may wish to join this society will please note that the meeting on Monday, the 28th inst., will be the last opportunity ere an entrance fee of 10s. 6d. each will be required.—Henry Howse, hon. sec.

### CITY OF LONDON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The following weighed in on the 20th:—Messrs. Nitz, Chambers, and Castell bream and roach from Dagenham, and Mr. G. Blackwell gudgeons from the Lea—Mr. Nitz winning Mr. Chambers's prize for the heaviest single roach, 13½oz.—Cas.

### COBDEN ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of this society fished their first club match of the season on the 20th inst. There were seven prizes to be competed for, ranging in value from £1 to 6s. The first was taken by Mr. Dunn, with bream from Wimbledon; the second and third were divided between Messrs. Fomison and Webley, each having an identical weight of fish; Mr. W. J. Giles took fourth, Mr. Sharland fifth, Mr. Hallowes sixth, and Mr. Wilkinson seventh. Nearly the whole of the members joined in the match, and the greater part weighed in fish. There was, of course, a full attendance of members to witness the weighing in, and the trays of fish were completely filled, nearly the whole of the freshwater finny tribe being represented. The heaviest fish was a jack of 3lb. taken by Mr. Fomison; Mr. Webley had a bream of almost the same weight. Mr. Giles weighed in a small barbel and several nice dace. Mr. Wilkinson also had a good show of roach and dace; Mr. Sharland had some fine roach from the Thames, as also did Mr. Hallowes. Taken altogether, it was the best show of fish that has been weighed in this season.—C. Reeves, sec.

### GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

The ordinary weekly meeting of the above society was held on Tuesday evening at the Mason's Hall Tavern, Mason's Avenue, Basinghall-street; Mr. Field in the chair. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed, after which a very fine tray of dace was weighed in by the chairman. On the motion of Mr. Field, seconded by Mr. Young, it was resolved to contribute a guinea prize for the forthcoming Anglers' Tournament, the conditions, &c., to be left with Mr. Marston, who is so ably managing the whole affair. A letter was read from Mr. Crumplen regretting his inability to be present owing to a severe accident, and offering a prize to be given on Tuesday next, or on the following Tuesday if not taken on the 30th. The prize, which is Knight's "Rambles by Rivers," Cabinet Series, 4 vols., is for the best tray of any fish, or best specimen fish of any kind shown at the society's room. Any water may be fished, but the society's measurements (or weights) will be taken as the minimum. After transacting some routine business, the meeting was closed with a vote of thanks to the chairman.—H.

### GLOBE ANGLING SOCIETY.

The sixth annual excursion and dinner of the above society will take place on the 27th inst. at the Black Dog Inn, Bury, near Amberley, Sussex. A break will start from the club house at 5.45 a.m., in time to catch the first special train, which will leave London-bridge at 6.45 a.m. The secretary will be in attendance on Saturday evening for the purpose of booking any member's or friend's name that have not already been entered for the above conveyance to London-bridge. On the 13th and 20th inst., the following members weighed in roach, bream, chub, perch, dace, and gudgeon:—Messrs. C. Ellis, H. Jeffries, G. Jeffries, S. Howell, W. J. Davies, J. Titmus, C. Franklin, S. Orrow, H. Luke, D. Thomas, J. Ballard, J. Harman, F. Lawrence, J. J. Holmes, L. Harrington, J. Philpot, and W. Whatcott. Three new members were elected on our last meeting night. There are still a few vacancies left.—J. J. Holmes, sec.

### GUILDFORD ANGLING SOCIETY.

We have received the report of this young but flourishing little society, which was established last year. The society is very fortunate in having the assistance of Mr. T. Andrews, the pisciculturist, whose help we see they gratefully acknowledge. It is also well supported by the neighbouring landowners who possess any fishing rights; in fact, the Guildford Society is in a very enviable position, and has an energetic staff of officers.

### HIGHBURY ANGLING SOCIETY.

The following members weighed some capital specimen fish on the 20th inst., viz., Mr. Frank Temple, barbel, chub, and dace from the Thames; Mr. Shipley, bream and roach; Mr. White, a fine take of roach and bream; Mr. Howell, jun., roach, dace, and gudgeon; Mr. Edwards, roach; and Mr. Highley, bream.—Jas. E. Wheatley, sec.

### INDEPENDENT BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

Our show of fish on the 20th inst, was not very large, as there were only a few of our members out. Mr. Roberts was the most successful with a few nice perch. Hope for a better show next week.—H. Moore, sec.

### IZAAK WALTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The week-day members dined at Mr. Lyndsell's, The Pied Bull, Stanstead, St. Margarets, Herts, on Wednesday, the 16th inst., when a most excellent dinner was provided by the worthy host. After dinner, the usual toasts were given and responded to, then followed a very interesting ceremony which consisted in presenting Mr. H. Butt, the secretary, with a very handsome marble clock and a very pretty silver teapot for Mrs. H. Butt. This testimonial was subscribed for by the members without the knowledge of the recipient, who, when it was presented by the chairman (Mr. G. Riches), was so greatly surprised that he was almost unable to express his thanks for these splendid presents, and hoped they would excuse a long speech, being so unprepared to reply appropriately; but thanked them all heartily, and hoped to be in their midst for many years to come. The company then dispersed, some rambling in the picturesque neighbourhood, and others boating on the river, returning to town in the evening, after having spent a very enjoyable day. On Saturday, the 19th inst., Mr. G. P. Rolt had 23½lb. of fine bream, Mr. G. Rolt had bream and roach, Mr. W. Wilkinson bream, Messrs. A. Bass, W. H. Mecham, T. Ward, and H. Butt had shows on the 20th inst. Messrs. G. Bliss and G. Wood had some good bream on Wednesday, the 23rd inst.

### LINCOLN ANGLING SOCIETY.

Our members were out in full force on the 20th inst. The Thames, Welsh Harp, Elstree, and Lea contributed to the takes. Mr. Bingle, 6lb. 7oz. roach; Mr. Pearce, 3lb. roach; Mr. Johnson, 2lb. 14oz. tench; while Messrs. Love, Blyth, Greenwin, Embleton, and Ulph contributed largely to the gross weight, which amounted to nearly 20lb.—Bingle, sec.

### NORFOLK ANGLING SOCIETY.

On the 20th, Mr. Tattenhall had a very fair show of roach, dace, and gudgeon from the Lea, and also a grayling. Is it not rather remarkable to get them from the Lea; we have not heard of any before? Could you inform me if this is a rare case?—Thos. Buckingham, sec.

### NORTH-WESTERN ANGLING SOCIETY.

On the 20th, several members of this society got a nice lot of fish, Mr. Underwood a nice lot of bream, Mr. Marshall also got amongst the bream again, Mr. Cross had some nice tench, and Mr. Grindley had the pleasure of making acquaintance with a nice carp, 7lb. 11½oz., which afforded him some capital sport. The members of this club are reminded that Thursday evening, the 31st inst., is the general meeting night to decide important business. I notice in last week's Fishing Gazette that several members of a certain society had been paying the Welsh Harp water a visit from having read in the *Sporting Life* the result of a day's fishing by two gentlemen. Mr. Hillier and a friend succeeded in capturing sixty-five bream, weighing 196lb. I am sorry it was not my friend and myself who met with this good sport. Who this Mr. Hillier is I have not the faintest idea. Perhaps some relation of mine.—W. Hillier, sec.

### PATRICROFT SOCIAL ANGLERS' SOCIETY.

The fourth annual match of this society took place on Saturday last in the Bridgewater Canal, where 238 anglers competed for the £10 offered by the treasurer (Mr. Adam Oldfield) and the society. This amount was divided into 12 prizes. The draw for places took place in the club-room of the society, the Golden Cross Hotel, Patricroft, and the match commenced at 5.40, and continued for two hours. About 120 weighed in, but many took fish, who, knowing they had no chance, did not stop to weigh. Wigan, Bolton, Manchester, Salford, Oldham, Ashton, Duckinfield, and Denton were represented, whilst Liverpool sent two competitors, Wigan and Bolton being our warmest supporters, and, as usual, the Wigan section taking the bulk of the prizes. The winners were as follows:—1st prize, C. Clark, Platt-bridge; 2nd prize, J. Smalley, Salford; 3rd prize, P. Clark, Platt-bridge; 4th prize, Makin, Wigan; 5th prize, S. Bennett, Ashton; 6th prize, O'Niell, Plank-lane; 7th prize, J. Fish, Patricroft; 8th prize, Heaviside, Wigan; 9th prize, W. Wilson, Monton; 10th prize, J. Clarke, Dover-lock; 11th prize, T. Parr, Wigan; 12th prize, Molyneaux, Wigan. The fish taken consisted entirely of roach and gudgeon, the latter predominating, maggot being the most successful bait. The fish ran small throughout, and I account for the gudgeon being taken in quantities by the dredging, which has been going on for some time now. The weather being fine, a number of residents and visitors witnessed the match, and with their jests and crowding round every fortunate angler, considerably annoyed and bothered them. Taken altogether, it was the most successful match the society has had, as it ran smoothly from the commencement to the end, and everybody appeared satisfied.—THE SECRETARY.

### PECKHAM BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

Amongst the members who weighed in fish during the week were Messrs. Stidolph, bream from Wimbledon; Griffiths and Page, bream and roach from Amberley; and Parsons and Phipps, dace from the Thames. At a special meeting, on Tuesday last, £8 10s. was voted from the club funds for prizes, and upwards of £20 promised from members and friends. Our host came of age on the 22nd, and therefore it was a gala day at the club, Mrs. Reed and "Amy," who visited the club-room during the evening, having a grand reception. They certainly deserve it, for I am certain they do everything in their power for the comfort of our members. The following gentlemen, amongst others, sang during the evening:—Mr. Durant, "Dawkens's Night"; Mr. Reed, "Half-mast High"; James Stidolph, "The Kissing Song"; The Duke, "One More Glass"; Mr. Page, "Sailing"; Mr. Pitts, "The Bugler"; and Mr. White, "The Cork-leg." The time for closing arrived a great deal too soon to suit the members.—GADFLY.

### THE PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The usual weekly meeting of this society took place at Ashley's Hotel, Covent-garden, on Monday evening last. Present: Messrs. Gillatt, Meyer, Jesse, Pattisson, Grey, Lemann, Foreman, Adlington, H. H. Brown, T. Huggett, Booker, Batt, Butler, Hill, Rev. J. Sumner, Bennett, H. B. Brown, Blundell, Dr. Coates, Galloway, Goodger, Russell, Walker, Lander (hon. sec.), &c. There were also visitors present. Mr. Booker was unanimously voted to the chair. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed, and when that portion was read announcing the splendid gift of books last week made by Mr. Booker, there were loud cheers. Mr. E. Walker next read his promised paper upon "Tight Corking," and treated on the subject most exhaustively. His remarks were listened to with perfect attention, and at the end of the reading he was loudly cheered. Mr. Adlington, in support of the paper, knew a very successful angler in the West Drayton waters who sometimes used to take as much as 40lb. weight in a single day. The benefit of the system was that you generally took larger fish than by floating down the swim in the ordinary conventional manner. Messrs. Huggett and Pattisson also made some remarks on the subject. Mr. Walker's health was proposed and drank with enthusiasm. The chairman announced the summer dinner for Wednesday next, also the barbel competition on Monday next, and he trusted some good shows of fish would be on the table. Mr. H. H. Brown and his friend have been fishing at Maidenhead; they took twenty-three barbel in one day, fishing with Wilder, jun. Mr. Huggett weighed in a fine show of bream from public waters, and some dace, all taken with lob. The two largest bream here this evening weighed 5lb. 10oz. and 5lb. 8oz. respectively, and they had lost weight considerably, having been taken on Saturday last. Mr. Walker showed some fine roach. The healths of Mr. Huggett and Mr. Walker were proposed, and in response Mr. Huggett said that these bream had lately been in a certain deep eddy, and had been fished for by the natives, early and late, for some time past. It was his good fortune to angle in the middle of the day, and to capture them. He, however, kept the matter perfectly quiet, and the locals are a good deal puzzled to know why the bream do not show these last few days as usual. Mr. Walker also replied. The Piscatorial Society was fully represented. At the Thames Angling Preservation Society's dinner at the Star and Garter, Richmond, the following members were present:—Messrs. Spreckley, Brougham, Marston, Wheeldon, Sachs, Eyre, Huggett, Godwin, Brown, Crumplen, Lemann, Hatfield, and Murray, and the Mayor of Kingston, and Mr. Knetchli and Capt. Alfred as ex-members—about one-sixth of the total number present. "The Continued Prosperity of the Society" was next duly honoured, and Mr. H. B. Brown proposed "The Health of the Chairman," who briefly responded, and the meeting terminated.—T. H.

### RODNEY PISCATORIALS.

On the 20th, the members competed for several prizes given by Messrs. Canton, Halmon, Arnsby, and Hotham. The Upper Thames was appointed for the place of contest, members being allowed to start away on Saturday afternoon, the contest to commence at 10·15 a.m. on the 20th, all fish taken previous to that time to be handed over to the secretary to be counted and marked, which was done to the satisfaction of all members present. Mr. E. Pyne had five nice perch—the largest turned the scale at 1lb. 1oz.—all taken in about 15 minutes from the towing path. Mr. R. Smith had some chub, dace, and gudgeon; Mr. Grant, roach and dace; Mr. Friedel had roach and chub. The word was given to start for the contest, and each one made his way to his fancied swim—some down stream, some up to the lock, while others made across the stream to the backwater to get out of the way of those delightful friends of bank anglers—"two-legged donkeys," tow-lines, boats, and small boys who exclaim, "Please put a penny in a poor boy's hat!" each time they see an angler. Seven o'clock was the time appointed to leave off fishing, but before that time we managed to get within easy sound of one another, and no fear of being pestered by our "friends." At seven sharp, time was called, and the result was as follows:—Mr. Grant first, with perch and roach; Mr. R. Smith, second, a nice lot of dace, taken with a fly of his own pattern; Mr. G. Dodd, third, dace and roach; Mr. J. Hotham, fourth, roach. Messrs. Pyne and M. Friedel also had fish in the competition. Members are informed that the next return visit of the South-London United will go to the South London, the George and Dragon, Camberwell-road, on the 28th. Let us give our old friend, Mr. Field, a bumper.—PIXIE.

### ROYAL GEORGE ANGLING SOCIETY.

On the 20th, the whole of our members went out to fish for a cup and a sweepstake. The cup stands over for another outing in consequence of the take not being up to weight specified. The sweepstake was won by Mr. Palmer; Mr. Wood, second; Mr. Chart, third; Mr. Holden, fourth; Messrs. Hewett and Healey followed. A committee meets next Tuesday to decide with regard to the said cup, also another that is given and waiting to be fished for. I might add that the above society is now in a most flourishing condition; but we are still open to elect a few respectable fishing members.—W. H. RIDER.

### SOUTH LONDON ANGLING SOCIETY.

On Monday, the 14th inst., the following members went as far as Wateringbury to fish for a number of good prizes:—Messrs. Morris, Head, Bate, Price, Brown, and Goody. They had a most delightful day and a very fair take of fish. The result of the match was that Mr. Rate was first, Mr. Morris second, and Mr. Brown third. We had also a nice outing to Woking on the 20th to fish for a number of prizes, given as follows:—Mr. Whittaker, 10s. 6d.; Mr. Sames, 10s. 6d.; and an additional 5s. by the secretary. Mr. Secretary had previously sent a note to Mr. Fox, proprietor of the Crown and Anchor, and until recently a member of the Walworth Waltonian Society, to send a conveyance to meet us at the station, and we were not disappointed, for it was there sure enough. Brother anglers would do well to support Mr. Fox, as he is a good angler and ever ready to give all information in his power. The result of the outing was as follows:—Mr. Delhaye first, Mr. Goody second, and Mr. Buck third. We have a visit on Monday, the 28th inst., from the clubs on the South-London Visiting List, when we hope to have a large number of anglers present.—J. KIRWAN, sec.

### SOUTH-EASTERN ANGLING SOCIETY.

Our Messrs. Smith, sen., J. Harris, F. Bennett, and J. Smith, jun., were out on the 20th inst. at Brand's Bridges, Medway, and succeeded in taking some good fish, comprising bream, roach, barbel, perch, chub, and dace, making a fine show. They are making hay while the sun shines for the prizes, and it behoves others to be on the alert. Messrs. Allard and J. W. Smith were too late for weighing in, owing to their train being delayed. It is wished that the committee attend on Tuesday next, early as possible, for the arranging of prizes given. Members please take notice, new rules are in hand, and will be strictly enforced.—THOS. H. WESTON, sec.

### SMETHWICK ANGLING CLUB.

On the 18th, Mr. W. Keen, fishing in the club waters at Penkridge, a nice lot of perch and roach. On the 19th, Messrs. Bate and Guy, roach and dace, some of the roach over 1¼lb. On the 21st, Messrs. Draper and Bannister, roach and dace.—THOS. BANNISTER, hon. sec.

### UNITED BROTHERS, DEPTFORD.

The above society fished a roving match on the 20th inst., at Weybridge association water, but I am sorry to say there was not much sport, only one prize being taken by Mr. F. Watts; other members had fish, but not enough to take prizes. Mr. W. Tyler, fishing in the old way, weighed in bream and roach; Mr. Richardson, roach and dace.—H. T.

### WALTONIANS.

July 20th, Mr. Burton, roach 6lb. 12¼oz., dace 1lb. 3¾oz.; Mr. Grace, bream 5lb. 1¾oz., and a tench 1lb. 14¼oz.; Mr. T. Watkins, roach 5lb. 5¾oz., dace 4lb. 10¼oz.; Mr. Morris, dace 3lb. 3oz., roach 1lb. 1oz.; Mr. J. Dodge, roach 2lb. 11oz., dace 1lb. 13¼oz.; Mr. Malcom had a fine roach 1lb. 14oz.; Messrs. Morgan and Marriott also weighed fish.

### WALWORTH PISCATORIALS.

The members of the above will have an open competition on the 27th, for three prizes, given by Messrs. J. Walker and M. Delhaye, jun. Members are requested to attend on Thursday next to decide where and how the bank holiday competition shall take place.—PIXIE.

## SCOTCH FISHING NOTES.

TAY.—Sir W. Elliot, Bart., and Mr. P. D. Malloch, Perth, killed two beautiful fish weighing 33lb. and 21lb. respectively, while fishing on the Stobhall water on the Tay on Tuesday.

LOCH TAY (KILLIN).—The trout fishing on Loch Tay has been exceedingly good this season. Mr. D. G. Howat, of Glasgow, fished from the Killin Hotel on Friday and Saturday. On Friday, he had eighteen trout weighing 11lb., and on Saturday twenty-one trout weighing 15lb. Mr. Johnstone, and friends from Edinburgh, had forty-seven trout weighing 28lb. on the Killin Hotel water. Good baskets were obtained by other gentlemen, and the river and loch are now in excellent fishing ply, trout being very plentiful, and affording good sport to anglers.

ORCHY.—On the Orchy on Saturday, the Rev. F. W. Peel, from Inveroran Hotel, caught a salmon weighing 12lb. Good sport was got on this river on Wednesday, Rev. F. W. Peel had two salmon, Mr. J. R. Boyd one, Mr. McKerchar one, and Mr. Shepherd one, the average weight being 14lb. On the Orchy, on Thursday, Rev. F. W. Peel landed five salmon weighing 14lb., 13lb., 13lb., 12lb., and 10lb. On Friday, the same gentleman landed two salmon weighing 11lb. and 8lb.

SPEY.—Since the rain we had last week, fishing has greatly improved. This river is running in good size and colour. On the West Elchies water during the week, Mr. Lethbridge killed a few grilse. On the section opposite the village of Aberlour, Mr. John McDonald caught a grilse. On the Aberlour House upper water, Mr. John Thomson's fisherman landed a fish. On the Craigellachie water, Captain Grant landed four grilse and a salmon. On the Arndilly water, Mr. Myburgh's fisherman killed a grilse; and on the same water Mr. Hendry, Tillicoultry, caught 6½lb. trout. On the Arndilly water, on Thursday, a grilse was caught by Mr. Myburgh's keeper. On the following day the same party caught a salmon weighing 14lb., and a grilse weighing 5lb. On the Carron Cottage water Mr. Smith landed, on the 17th inst., a salmon weighing 15lb., and a grilse 5lb.; and on the 19th a salmon weighing 6lb. On the Pitcroy Lodge water, on the 18th, Mr. C. M. P. Burn killed a grilse; and on the same section Mr. Campbell also secured a grilse. On the Knockando House water, on the 19th, Mr. Mellor landed a grilse. On the Fiddoch, on the 18th, Kev. K. O'Nell, The Orphanage, Aberlour, caught 135 yellow trout; Mr. George Mitchell, 40 trout; and on the 19th Mr. John Laing, 35 yellow trout, the heaviest ¾lb.

THE EARN.—On Tuesday, in several of the hill streams—tributaries of the Earn—Mr. G. Morgan, Crieff, and Mr. A. Kippen, Dundee, had a fine basket of trout weighing 20lb.

THE TUMMEL.—The river is at present in fair angling order. On Tuesday the weather was favourable, and Mr. Thomas Purdis, keeper, fished the Bonskeid water for a short time, and caught a beautiful salmon weighing 15lb.

LOCH RANNOCH.—The weather here was very unsettled on Monday, but two boats were out from Bun-Rannoch Hotel. Mr. Sargent and Colonel Latour fished from one of the boats, and Mr. J. M. Steele fished from the other, and they had excellent baskets of beautiful trout. Canon Holden fished the river Tummel and got a splendid basket of trout, one of which weighed close on 2lb. On Tuesday the weather continued very unsettled, but notwithstanding the above-named gentlemen were out in the loch and got good baskets. Trolling for large fish is not much indulged in, the fly fishing being invariably a success.

LOCH LUBNAIG.—On Thursday Mr. Clark caught a trout weighing 8lb. in this loch. Major Chalmers hooked a trout weighing 5lb., but lost it through the handle of his rod giving way. Since the recent rains fishing has greatly improved on this loch.

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## MR. DENISON'S SALMON FISHING SCORE.

Mr. Denison, whose renown as a slayer of salmon is as great, though it may not be so durable, as his fame as a collector of books, has been good enough to send us his catch of salmon and grilse during the past thirteen years, which will greatly interest our readers. It may be premised that Mr. Denison fishes the Ness and the Tweed, having had a water on both rivers for more than twenty years, and that the score includes the produce of both. It will be noticed how the years vary owing to floods, bright dry weather, and not least, the supply of fish. "The year 1873," he tells us, "was the best year of my life both in the number and size of the fish in both rivers. In the Tweed, in six consecutive days I landed 54 salmon, and all my Tweed salmon that year averaged 22lb. 15oz. For the last two years, owing to the disease which has carried off the big kelts, the average has fallen to 18½lb. and 18lb.

"The best day I ever had in my life was in the same year, 1873, in the Tweed, the second week in October, when I ran 20 salmon, losing three at the mouth of the net, and landing 16, which weighed upward of 280lb."

"The Ness," he adds, "is, as a rule, more a grilse than a salmon river, and the fish run from 8lb. to 12lb.; but this last year (1883) there was a considerable number of large salmon. I killed 10 fish there in one day, three of which weighed 28lb. each. One year in the Ness, after a long drought, when the sewage of Inverness accumulated in the river, rain came, and the salmon, long kept out of fresh water, rushed up, but meeting the sewage, turned tail, and during the two months I was there none came up, and I only landed 10 fish the whole season; after the season was ended they came up late in the close time."

| Year. | Fish. | Weight. lb. |
|---|---|---|
| 1871 | 170 | 2043 |
| 1872 | 188 | 2180½ |
| 1873 | 357 | 4487 |
| 1874 | 175 | 2169 |
| 1875 | 74 | 1085 |
| 1876 | 196 | 2240½ |
| 1877 | 228 | 2364 |
| 1878 | 80 | 1882½ |
| 1879 | 141 | 1515½ |
| 1880 | 94 | 1243 |
| 1881 | 293 | 3377 |
| 1882 | 191 | 2265 |
| 1883 | 243 | 2770½ |
|  | 2430 | 29122½ |

—From the "Angler's Note Book," of June 5th, 1884.

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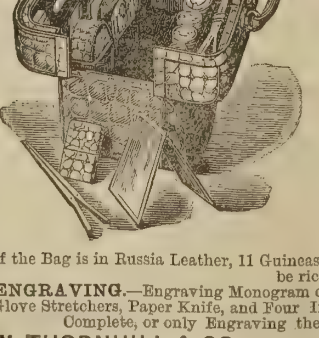

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Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only, and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith. Unless this rule be adhered to, no notice will be taken of such communications.

THE FISHING GAZETTE is published every Saturday, and can be obtained at Messrs. W. H. Smith and Son's Railway Bookstalls, and of the principal Newsagents and Fishing Tackle Dealers in London and the Provinces.

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All communications respecting Advertisements must be addressed to the Manager of the FISHING GAZETTE, No. 12, Fetter Lane, London, E.C.

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# The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 2, 1884.

## THE TOURNAMENT.

### DISTRIBUTION OF THE PRIZES.

IT has been decided to distribute the prizes on Friday, the 22nd inst., at the Meeting of the Anglers' Benevolent Society, at Foresters' Hall, Clerkenwell. In the mean time, we beg to ask those who have promised prizes, but have not yet sent them, kindly to do so, addressed, Mr. R. B. Marston, Editor FISHING GAZETTE, 188, Fleet-street, London. A letter stating value should accompany each.

It will also help the committee if those who have given prizes, but have not indicated their value, will kindly inform Mr. Marston. It was, of course, impossible to apportion the prizes before we received them, or even knew their value. When the programme was published last week, nearly half the prizes had not been received, and we have a great many fresh acknowledgments to make this week, but still require to know their value in many cases. By keeping the list open as we have done, the prizes have been greatly increased.

### LIST OF WINNERS

IN THE VARIOUS COMPETITIONS, CASTS MADE, &C.

"IT rained on St. Swithin's day, and has rained every day since. You surely do not think St. Swithin will go out of his way for the sake of an angling tournament! Anglers afraid of wet? I never heard of such a thing!" Such were the semi-sarcastic remarks on Friday last of an old friend who believes about as much in St. Swithin as he does in the Man in the Moon. But when the rain came down and steadily soaked us all on Saturday, it was refreshing to note how everyone put it all down to the old Saint. The weather "upset the applecart" as usual; but in spite of it, we had an extremely interesting meeting, and one or two results which will become historical were attained.

On Friday several of the officers spent most of the afternoon in arranging matters, and Mr. Kelson being present had a cast or two from the bank with his 15ft. 6in. rod, and made casts of forty and forty-one yards, which were measured with the tape by Mr. Murray and Mr. Marston, who fully expected to see Mr. Kelson beat this record next day; but the strong wind and rain which favoured the lighter lines were against his heavy one.

By two o'clock the ground was marked out and the fly-casting stage and the measuring line fixed ready; but the wind continued to increase and veer round, necessitating the postponement of the fly-casting, while the stage was floated over to the other side, the measuring line was again fixed, and before the competitors were ready (Mr. Malloch wished to compete in the Nottingham Amateur Competition) the wind changed again and rendered the measuring line useless.

It was then reluctantly decided by the judges that, it being already so very late, the measuring should be done in the old-fashioned way—viz., by measuring each competitor's longest cast with the tape. (The casts were made over the water, and the judges then took the rod and line and carefully measured the length thrown on the grass.) The plan originally arranged would have been more satisfactory; but it was impossible, owing to wind, weather, and time, to carry it out.

The great feature of the fly-casting was the extraordinary record made by Major Traherne. Forty-five yards one inch with one of Farlow's spliced 17ft. 4in. rods is, we venture to say, the longest cast authenticated. It was the opinion of some old salmon anglers present, as well as of all the spectators, that never was a more "fair and clean" cast made.

In the bait-casting in the Thames style, the wonderful distance of seventy-two yards was covered by Mr. Hobden, who actually threw two yards further than the ground was measured for. This is the longest cast of the kind on record.

Mr. Powell won the Richmond five-guinea cup with some casts which were greatly admired, and had it not been for an unfortunate catch in his second attempt, his total would have been much higher. The 65 yard cast actually fell on the ticket of the centre measuring line, which will indicate the accuracy of his aim. Mr. Alfred, jun., son of Captain Alfred, made some most excellent throws in several competitions. Mr. Malloch's new casting winch excited much curiosity. The reel does not revolve as the line is thrown off: the action is somewhat like holding a reel of cotton at one end, and pulling the cotton off the other. The Peg-down Match was quite a success, everything considered, and the "Go-as-you-please" Race caused much amusement, and resulted in the really wonderful performance of Mr. Tucker, who accomplished the 2½ miles of ploughed fields, fences and furrows, carrying his kit on his back, in the short time of 21 minutes, arriving at the tent as fresh as possible. Mr. Osborn was close behind.

Mr. Ramsbottom, 81, Market-street, Manchester, kindly provided the gut traces, which were beautifully finished; and not a flaw could be found after so severe a test.

We cannot conclude these few remarks without most heartily thanking the judges, timekeepers, and other officers who so kindly stuck to their work in spite of wind, rain, mud, and slush. Mr. Warner, as usual, did all he could to help us in bringing this, our fourth Tournament, to a successful issue, and we can only hope that next year the weather may for once give us all a fair chance.

AMATEUR OVERHAND FLY-CASTING, with salmon rod, not exceeding 16ft. in length (1st prize, Silver Egg Cup; 2nd prize, Painting of Pike, by Targett).—Mr. P. D. Malloch, 39 yards 2ft., 1; Mr. Kelson, 37 yards 1ft. 3in., 2; Mr. Thomas, 30 yards 1ft. 6in., 3.

AMATEUR OVERHAND FLY-CASTING, with salmon rod not exceeding 18ft. in length (1st prize, Gold Egg-Cup; 2nd prize, Guinea Card of Artificial Baits, presented by Miss Campbell).—Major Traherne, 45 yards 1in.; Mr. P. D. Malloch, 43 yards 2ft. 3in., 2; Mr. Kelson, 39 yards, 3 (unfinished); Mr. Thomas, 36, 0.

AMATEUR SWITCH FLY-CASTING, with any salmon rod; six feet only allowed behind the competitors for the rod or line to extend (1st prize, Salmon Landing Net; 2nd prize, Carpet given by Messrs. Treloar).—Mr. P. D. Malloch, 37 yards 1ft. 9in., 1; Mr. Kelson, 32 yards 2ft. 8in., 2; Major Traherne, 32 yards 2ft. 6in., 3; Mr. Thomas, 29 yards, 2ft. 5in.

AMATEUR FLY-CASTING COMPETITION, with single-handed fly-rod.—Mr. P. D. Malloch, 30 yards 2ft., 1; Mr. Marston, 23 yards, 2; Mr. Thomas, 21 yards, 3.

AMATEUR FLY-CASTING COMPETITION, with double-handed trout fly-rod (1st prize, Silver Cup, value £3 3s., presented by Mr. W. Thomas; 2nd prize, a "Francis" Pattern 14ft. Fly Rod, best finish, value £2 10s., presented by Messrs. Farlow and Co.).—Mr. P. D. Malloch, 32 yards 1ft., 1; Mr. Thomas, 30 yards, 2; Mr. Marston, 28 yards 2ft., 3.

SPECIAL COMPETITION, open to United Kingdom only, fly-casting with single-handed split-cane fly-rod, bent for the purpose by Mr. E. L. Andrews, of Uppingham. —Mr. P. D. Malloch, 28 yards 2ft., 1; Mr. Marston, 24 yards, 2; Mr. Thomas, 23 yards, 3.

SIXTH COMPETITION.—Amateur competition in Casting in the Thames style. Three prizes. Entrance fee, 2s. 6d. Each competitor to be allowed five minutes. Best cast to win.—Mr. Alfred, jun., 46yds, 52yds, 23yds, 1; Mr. Hobden, 46yds, 23yds, 2; Mr. Simpson, 44½yds, 40½yds, 44yds, 38½yds, 44¾yds, 3; Mr. Grandfield, all wides, 4.

SEVENTH COMPETITION.—Amateur Competition in Casting from Reel in Nottingham style. Five minutes each. Three prizes. Entrance, 2s. 6d. Best cast to win. —Mr. Slater, 38yds, 43yds, 49yds, 49yds, 47yds, 46yds, 1; Mr. Malloch, 47yds, 47½yds, 2; Mr. Hobden, 47yds, 38yds, 41yds, 45yds, 3; Mr. Grandfield, 40yds, 45yds, 44yds, 4.

EIGHTH COMPETITION.—Amateur Competition (open to Thames and Nottingham style) in casting towards a fixed mark. The angler casting the bait nearest to the mark to take first prize; the next best cast made by another angler the second; and the third best cast by another angler to get the third prize. Three prizes. Entrance fee, 2s. 6d. Mr. Simpson, 3ft. from mark, 1; Mr. Grandfield, 3ft. 7in. from mark, 2; My. Alfred, jun., 7ft. from mark, 3. The other competitors were Messrs. Slater, North, Hobden, and Powell.

NINTH COMPETITION.—Professional Competition in Casting in the Thames style. Two prizes. No entrance fee. Best cast, Mr. Andrews, Maidenhead, 48yds, 23yds; Mr. Martin, Nottingham, all wides.

TENTH COMPETITION.—Professional Competition in Casting from Reel in Nottingham style. Two prizes. No entrance fee. Best cast to win.—Mr. Martin, Nottingham, 38½yds, 41yds, 41yds, 44yds; Mr. Andrews, Maidenhead, all wides.

ELEVENTH COMPETITION.—Amateur Competition in Casting in the Thames style. Each competitor to use the same rod, line, winch, and weight (which, in this instance, was 3oz). Three prizes. Entrance fee, 2s. 6d. Best cast to win.—Mr. Hobden, 50yds, 69½yds, 72yds (the longest cast ever made at our Tournaments), 1; Mr. Alfred, jun., 50yds, 59½yds, 46yds, 57yds, 2; Mr. Simpson, 57½yds, and wides, 3; Mr. Gibson, 53yds, 57yds, 4; Mr. North, 54yds, and wides, 5; Mr. Sawyer, 53½yds, 57yds, 51yds, 6; Mr. Holman, wides, 7.

TWELFTH COMPETITION.—Ledger Bait Casting towards a fixed mark. Three prizes. Entrance fee, 2s. 6d.—No competitors.

THIRTEENTH COMPETITION.—Competition in throwing the Bait with Forked Stick, in the Welsh Harp style. Three prizes. Entrance fee, 1s. Best cast to win. —Mr. Sawyer, 54yds, 58yds, 63yds, 1; Mr. North, 60yds, 46yds, 2; Mr. Holmes, 49yds, 45yds, 46yds, 3; Mr. Holman, a wide, 29yds, 47yds, 4; Mr. Grindley, 40yds, 40yds, 45yds, 5.

SPECIAL COMPETITION for Silver Cup, value 5 guineas, given by the Richmond Piscatorial Society for the competitor making the most points in three casts, either Thames or Nottingham style. Mr. Powell, 65yds, 42yds, 61yds—168 points, 1; Mr. Slater, of Newark, 38yds, 44yds, 44yds—126 points, 2; Mr. Simpson, 41yds, 45yds, and a wide—86 points, 3; Mr. Malloch, 50yds, a wide, 4; Mr. Alfred, jun., a wide; Mr. Hobden, a wide. Mr. Powell, of the Richmond Piscatorial, won by 42 points.

### SPECIAL COMPETITIONS.

TWO HOURS' FISHING MATCH, pegged down.—Mr. Mavory, Good Intent, 3lb. 12oz., 1; Mr. Osborn, Hoxton Brothers, 1lb. 5oz., 2; Mr. Gadbury, 1lb. 3oz., 3. Eight competed.

GO-AS-YOU-PLEASE ROACH ANGLERS' RACE, competitors to be fully equipped, with rod in bag and roach basket or box (course about two miles and a half).—A. Tucker, Cobden Club, 1; Osborn, Hoxton Brothers, 2; Castell, City of London, 3; Monrow, 0. Tucker ultimately won. Time, 21min.

## LIST OF PRIZES SENT FOR THE FOURTH "FISHING GAZETTE" TOURNAMENT,

WITH NOTICES OF THE SAME.

WE have now the pleasure to give a complete list of the prizes promised for the Tournament, with notices of such as have been sent. The total value amounts to about £60.

A FIVE-GUINEA SILVER CUP, given by the Richmond Piscatorial Society, and won by Mr. E. V. Powell, of the Richmond Society. We congratulate Mr. Powell on winning this first-rate cup in such first-rate style. His second cast was coming on beautifully straight, when an unfortunate kink cut off twenty or thirty yards of its flight.

A GOLD EGG-CUP, won by Major Traherne, with a superb cast of the salmon fly over forty-five yards with a rod under 18ft. The line extended well behind, and then went out "straight as a line" to its full extent.

A SILVER EGG-CUP, won by Mr. Malloch, of Perth.

Money prizes (out of which the egg-cups and one or two other prizes have been purchased) have been given by Mr. T. Spreckley, the Gresham Society, Mr. P. Geen, Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Marston, Mr. E. Marston, Messrs. Sampson Low, Marston and Co., Mr. Field, Mr. W. Clarke, and Mr. W. Murdoch.

Mr. MARRIOTT gives Macaulay's "England," and Mill's "Political Economy," Victor Hugo's "History of a Crime," and Darwin's most interesting work on "Earth-Worms."

Messrs. W. WATSON and SONS, 308, High Holborn, send a "Tourist's General Rod," value £1 10s. For those anglers who object to carrying a bundle of different rods about with them, this rod will be just the thing, as with it you are prepared for fly, spinning, or bottom fishing of any kind. It is very nicely made, and put together with much judgment, and well suited for any one going on an angling tour where different kinds of fish are to be met with. We may also mention that they are having a great demand for their superb fly-lines, which, for strength, beat anything in the Fisheries, and gained them first prize. The dressing is excellent. They will send samples free on application.

Mr. Robert Ramsbottom, 81, Market-street, Manchester, sends a hank of his long gut as prize. Our readers will remember the splendid show of gut made by Mr. Ramsbottom at the Fisheries. Of late years he has paid very great attention to the gut department of his fine business, and this has resulted in anglers being able to obtain far better gut than was possible previously. His catalogue—descriptive of the various kinds of gut he imports from Spain from his own manufactory—is the most complete thing of the kind we know. The gut sent is of unexceptional quality and great length.

Mr. A. Bulmer, of 62, Wandsworth-road, sends a landing net, and a very excellent one it is. By the way, we have lately been using one of Mr. B.'s gossamer gut lines stained the sorrel colour, so dear to the hearts of anglers with hair lines, and succeeded in the clearest of still water on the Wandle in deceiving some wary, old, hard-fished trout. Have any of our readers tried this gut dyed sorrel colour? We should be glad to hear their experience, as we think very highly of them. The dye does not affect the strength in the least.

Messrs. Cassell, Petter, Galpin and Co. are good enough to send us three most interesting works as prizes—viz., "Cassell's Illustrated Sports and Pastimes"—a perfect cyclopædia of the subject; their "Domestic Dictionary"—certainly the best published at the price; and their "Wild Animals and Birds" (illustrated)—a charming work.

Mr. T. R. Sachs, of 22, Hyde Park-place, who made the beautiful silver cup presented by the Richmond Piscatorial Society, writes to us: "Having presented the Friendly Anglers, the Gresham, Silver Trout, and Piscatorial Society with three copies each of 'The Natural History of British Fishes,' the last work of my much esteemed friend the late Frank Buckland, I present three more as prizes for the Tournament, and feel sure the winners will gather much valuable information from them." We are quite sure our friend Mr. Sachs is quite right in his supposition, and beg to thank him for his generosity.

A new fishing-tackle firm, Messrs. John and C. Christie, of 3 and 5, Mansell-street, Aldgate, and 2, New Broad-street, send us a very handsome prize in the shape of one of their East India Mottled Cane General Rods, five joints, 14ft., bronzed ferrules, German silver double-brazed, value 50s. Messrs. Christie are just starting in the fishing-tackle trade, and at their Broad-street branch have a capital stock of fishing-rods and tackle of all kinds. Being so close to the G.E. Railway, they are right in the track of anglers, who will find their shop extremely convenient. Their principals are members of the Gresham, the Bonâ Fide Anglers', and other leading clubs. We wish them every success.

Messrs. Charles Farlow and Co., of 191, Strand, one of the oldest firms in the trade, and who have a world-wide celebrity for the sterling quality of their goods, write:—"We are in receipt of your favour, and have pleasure in sending you one of our 'Francis' pattern, 3 joint, 14ft. trout rods, value 45s., similar to the one you had." In a recent article on Trouting in the Darenth, we spoke very favourably of this rod; its action is perfect—*i.e.*, as far as our ideas go, and we do not for a moment pretend that what suits us will suit everyone. Mr. Senior, fishing editor of the *Field*, borrowed it to try on a Hampshire stream, and expressed himself as delighted with it, and we need not say more than that. In getting a rod from Messrs. Farlow you may be perfectly certain that nothing has been left undone to make it as sound and perfect as possible, and anglers know how exasperating it is to find the ferrules getting loose, after fishing with a new rod, as too often happens from careless workmanship.

Mr. Henry Bawcombe, of 2a, Victoria-road, Holloway-road, sends us as a prize one of Mr. Basil Field's most excellent Aërating Bait Cans, value 12s. 6d. This can has been recently noticed in the Gazette. Its chief feature is an apparatus for aërating the water. As you carry the can, you have simply to press a spring in the handle, and this forces air into the water at the bottom.

Messrs. Woodfield and Sons, of Redditch, send one of their new patent joint folding landing rings, with net and telescope landing handle. This ring is one we designed some time ago to meet the requirements of those anglers who want a cheap ring, which will go into half the space of the ordinary wooden hoop ring. It folds over on a hinged joint, and can be easily carried in the creel. The advantage of wood is its lightness, and its not rotting the net, as an iron ring does.

Ye Medway Dace, one of our correspondents, kindly sends a valuable work in two volumes as a prize.

Mr. Wm. Brown, 36, George-street, Aberdeen, says:—"I send you half-a-dozen of my phantom minnows as prizes for the Tournament." "Brown's Phantom Minnow" has got a deservedly high reputation among anglers in all parts of the world, and the increasing sale shows that it maintains it. These are most excellently coloured, to represent minnows, samlets, &c. Messrs. Farlow are the London agents, and will be happy to show them.

Messrs. H. Schweitzer and Co. very kindly send us twelve tins of their plain Cocoatina, and twelve flavoured with vanilla, value 30s. The qualities of Messrs. Schweitzer's goods are too well-known to need mention on our part: we have been practically acquainted with their cocoatina for we do not like to say how many years past. As a most delicious and quickly-made beverage it strongly recommends itself to anglers.

The following prizes, which were not won, remain over from last year:—"British Sportsman," given by Mr. Day. Plated Tankard, given by Mr. Parker, of the Good Intent Anglers. Three Spinning Baits, given by Mr. Wrigley, of Cheltenham. Three Spinning Baits, given by Mr. Bullock, of Derby.

Messrs. Geo. Routledge and Sons, The Broadway, Ludgate Hill, send us as prizes one copy each of Pennell's "Angler Naturalist," "Modern Angler," and "Book of the Pike." These books are well-known to our readers; we hope to give them separate notice later on. They are new editions, at greatly reduced prices, and no angler who aspires to be well up in the knowledge of his art can afford to be without them. The "Angler Naturalist" is a mine of information about fish, flies, insects, &c.

Mr. Treloar, of Ludgate Hill, has kindly sent one of his guinea carpets as a prize, and the winner will find that he has secured a beautiful and valuable, as well as useful article, which will please his "better half" mightily.

Messrs. Gillett, 40, Fetter-lane, send one of their solid cane fly rods, two tops, bronzed ferrules, bound cane handle, landing handles, and bag and spear, value 21s. Messrs. Gillett have sold a very large number of these whole cane rods. We frequently use one of their make, and as we have often done before, can with confidence recommend them. They make them of varying build—they throw a fly well, and kill fish quickly.

Mr. H. Booth, 13, Chariot-street, Hull, who was present at the Tournament, kindly accepted our hint, and instead of a fly rod sends us two of his capital "cheap roach rods," which—as a *cheap* road—we have often spoken well of; he has sold an immense number of them. Mr. B. has recently, he tells us, brought out an improved end ring for the top joint, and Mr. Slater, of Newark, a thoroughly practical angler, says it is a really good idea. We have not seen it, but understand it entirely prevents the line catching round the top ring.

Mr. T. L. Andrews, of High-street, Uppingham, sent one of his capital split cane rods as a prize for the angler making the longest cast with it, and a reference to the list of competitions will say more for it than anything we can. Mr. Malloch, of Perth, won it with a cast of nearly thirty yards, and both Mr. Marston and Mr. Thomas made much longer casts with it than with their own hardwood rods of the same length. It is very nicely made, extremely moderate in price, and well worth the notice of all who use split cane rods. It has patent lock-fast ferrules.

Mr. W. Clarke, of 23, Devonshire-square, when renewing his subscription to the Gazette the other day, very kindly added 10s. 6d. as a prize for the Tournament.

Mr. W. T. Maddock, Pharmaceutical Chemist, of Pulborough, Essex, says:—"I have great pleasure in sending you as prizes a set of breakfast cruets, a one-dozen case of old English lavender water, and a postal weighing machine which will serve also to weigh the fish caught." We feel sure that Mr. Maddock is an angler—at any rate, he deserves our hearty thanks for this generous contribution. His Old English lavender water has been used in several households we know for some time past, and the unanimous verdict is that it is the best in the market. We have also found his "anti-midge" preparation most valuable in preventing midge and gnat bites, or in allaying the irritation. It is quite pleasant to use.

Messrs. Baxter and Co., Waterproof Goods Makers, of 192, St. John-street-road, promise us some prizes, which we shall notice when they arrive.

Our Correspondent, Mr. W. Murdoch, of Aberdeen, who has given us such interesting articles on Aberdeenshire rivers and flies, kindly asks us to put him down for half-a-guinea towards the prizes.

Mr. J. W. Martin, the "Trent Otter," sends us a couple of his rods—an 11ft. stiff roach rod, and a 12ft. jack or Nottingham spinning rod, value 7s. 6d. each. We have seen several letters from anglers who speak very highly of rods they have bought of Mr. Martin, who spares no pains to meet the requirements of his customers. We were glad to see Mr. Martin at the Tournament. The rods look very useful ones: made for plenty of hard work, and not for show.

Our old friend, Mr. Warner, of the Welsh Harp, has very kindly again given a two guinea season, and three guineas-worth of day tickets as prizes. These are always greatly appreciated. There have been some wonderful takes of heavy bream and carp at the Harp lately—carp up to 9lb. and 10lb., and bream over 3lb. The water being very low now, there is more chance of getting at the fish in this fine sheet of water. Hundreds of day-long pegged-down matches have been fished with much less result in the shape of fish than in the two hours' match last Saturday.

The Gresham Angling Society kindly contribute a guinea towards the prize list. These cash prizes are most acceptable, and enables us to get those cups which are so much valued by the winners.

Mr. David Slater, of 8 and 9, Portland-street, Newark, who, we were glad to see, was again present at the Tournament, sends us a best Nottingham rod, a patent 4in. combination reel, and 80 yards of silk line, value 20s. He is a practical angler, and says, "I consider this the best outfit to be had for bottom fishing, spinning, or minnow fishing for trout. I make them lighter or stronger the same price. I also send a greenheart fly-rod, value 10s. 6d. They can be had from 8 to 12ft. either two, three, or four joints at the same price, made any action, in partition bag. I have sold over 250 of these rods since May last year. To this prize I add 30 yards of my best braided waterproof silk line, at one penny per yard." Fancy a 12-foot greenheart fly-rod for 10s. 6d.! And Mr. Slater guarantees the wood to be well seasoned. As far as we can judge without actually using it, the rod sent is in every way excellent, and Mr. Slater deserves encouragement for putting such a good article within the reach of all. We hear nothing but praise of his "Combination" Nottingham winch, the price of which has been greatly reduced since it was first patented.

Our old contributor, Mr. J. Paul Taylor, says: "If you consider so trifling a thing of any use I shall be glad to give a copy of my book, "Dot's Diary," price 3s. 6d., as a prize in the Tournament." Many thanks, Mr. T. Your book will undoubtedly delight some juvenile piscators.

Mr. Henry Richardson, of 77, Finsbury-pavement, who has recently commenced business in the fishing-tackle line, asks us to accept a 12s. 6d. telescopic gaff as a prize. Mr. Richardson's place is close to the club-room of the Bona Fide Anglers, and we feel sure some of the members will find it convenient to give him a call, as well as anglers generally who may be in the neighbourhood. We intend to do so when next we are that way. Anglers are increasing to such an extent that there is plenty of room for more fishing-tackle makers, and we wish the sign of "Ye Plucky Perch" success.

Messrs. Hardy Brothers, of Fenkle-street, Alnwick, write that they have much pleasure in giving as prizes one of their new pattern "Carry all" creels, the size to be chosen by the winner. This is the best creel of the kind in the market, and if we are not mistaken, Messrs. Hardy brought it out in answer to several inquiries which appeared in the Gazette for a creel in which fish, tackle, lunch, &c., could be conveniently carried without getting mixed up. The hole for passing the fish through is at the side, much more convenient to get at, and it is fitted up with knapsack arrangement of straps, with straps at back for a light waterproof. The lid forms a separate compartment for the tackle book, lunch, &c. It has been improved since we noticed it at the Fisheries, and now leaves nothing to be desired. Messrs. Hardy are thorough practical anglers, and Mr. J. J. Hardy the other day got a creel of trout in the Alne, twenty-eight fish weighing 17lb., with Hardy's No. 1 Halcyon Spinner—the best dish of trout taken in the Alne for many a day, and speaking volumes for the bait used.

Miss Campbell, of 2, Cecil-terrace, Maynard-road, Walthamstow, Essex, sends a card of different kinds of baits, value about 25s.; also a great curiosity, which will indeed be a prize—viz., a very little dog about 4in. long and perfect in form, mounted in a case; it lived three months. The baits on the cards are all extremely well made, and consist of various kinds of fish with the new automatic sole-skin fins, frogs, chub flies, &c. We notice these cards in most of the best tackle shops, and are glad to hear that they are having a large sale. The automatic bait should be fished in the way we described when noticing them recently. The little dog will certainly be greatly appreciated; as a curiosity in natural history it is worth some pounds.

Messrs. D. and W. Foster, naturalist anglers and tackle makers, Ashbourne, write: "We will send 100 yards of salmon line, value £1, as a prize." Messrs. Foster have recently vastly improved on their "Acme" line. We used one last week on the Darenth, and were delighted with it, a tapered 40 yard line. They have entirely got rid of the roughness of the old line, and by using plated wire there is no danger of the silk being affected. They will send a sample of this line post-free to any address, and we recommend anglers to write for it.

Messrs. S. **Allcock** and Co., of Redditch, send as prizes one of their new patent standard fly books, value 15s., and two fishing straps made from Col. Mawson's design, value 3s. 6d. each. The fly book is arranged to hold floating flies so that they cannot possibly get crushed; each page has a raised rim—it is an excellent idea. The fishing straps are made from the design of Col. Mawson, of the Manchester Anglers' Association, and enable the angler to carry a heavy creel comfortably, and without strain on the lungs, as is the case with the ordinary strap.

Mr. **Reuben Heaton**, of Hospital-street, Birmingham, sends one of his patent reels, value 34s., and a spring balance up to 40lb., in case, value 10s. We have once or twice spoken most highly of Mr. Heaton's new silent check strike-from-the-winch reels. It is a delight to fish with it, and a practical angler needs only to see it to appreciate it. We struck a 2lb. trout off it the other day (using Messrs. Foster's new "Acme" line), which at once rushed off with between 30 and 40 yards. With an ordinary check the very fine gut would have been smashed. The balance is beautifully made, and most useful.

Messrs. J. **Bernard** and **Son**, of 5, Church-place, Piccadilly, write: "We shall have much pleasure in giving one of our 10ft. brazed greenheart fly rods as a prize for the Tournament." We know many first-class salmon and trout anglers who never think of using any but Messrs. Bernard's goods, and shall have pleasure in noticing the rod when it comes.

Mr. **James Macnee**, of Bohally, Pitlochry, N.B., writes: "Enclosed please find three dozen of my pike scale flies as a prize for the Tournament. We ought to get one up in Scotland." The selection Mr. Nacnee sends is an excellent one, and our high opinion of his flies—from practical results—is well known.

Mr. **Wm. Hodgson**, of Stable-yard, Saltaire, Yorks, sends us one of his steel collapsing landing net rings as a prize, value 7s. 6d. Mr. H. is a mechanic, and his ring is a most excellent one. We bought one early in the year, and for trout fishing have used nothing else ever since. It would be worth the while of some large wholesale firm to come to an arrangement with Mr. Hodgson. The joint is extremely strong and simple. We have had our ring nickel-plated, which prevents rust. Many anglers we have met when out fishing have admired this ring.

Mr. **Bigg**, of Russell-street, Covent-garden, sends us a very excellent cane punt rod as a prize.

If we have omitted to notice any article sent us it is quite unintentional on our part, and we will gladly do so in a future number. We beg to thank all those who have so generously contributed most heartily, both in the name of the Anglers' Benevolent Society and on our own part, and we feel sure the fortunate winners of these prizes will do the same. It is, of course, impossible to do justice to all the articles sent—it would occupy whole numbers of the GAZETTE; but we feel sure it will be recognised that we have done as much as was possible. It has been pointed out that the value of the prizes given is out of proportion to the actual cash results to the Anglers' Benevolent Society. Granted; but it must be remembered that nearly, if not quite, all the prizes—except, perhaps, the money prizes—are given to us in return for the offer of a notice of them in this paper. The weather has again prevented a good return from gate money; but we maintain that though these Tournaments have given an immense amount of publicity to the Anglers' Benevolent Society for the last four years—publicity which it could not otherwise have got—our primary object in instituting these Tournaments was to bring anglers from different parts of the country together to obtain an exhibition of the different styles of casting, and it is agreed on all sides that they have been not only most interesting but most useful, and we sincerely thank all those who have so heartily cooperated in work which, though a labour of love, has by no manner of means been a light one.

## AN AMATEUR ANGLER'S DAY IN DOVE DALE.

We have much pleasure in giving our readers the following extract from a private letter received from the "Izaak Walton" Hotel the other day:—

" . . . But I am here to *angle*, not to write letters about business. Though old in years, I am a young, and, therefore, most enthusiastic disciple of "Old Izaak" ('*The* Izaak,' as they call this hotel). You will have a faint idea of my enthusiasm when I tell you that I started this morning in a steady downpour, at a little after eight, to commence operations on the trout and the grayling of the Dove. I started equipped in the best style possible; I had walked five miles yesterday to Ashbourne to buy me a mackintosh. I had a flybook that Izaak himself would have envied. Every blessed fly that ever flew over the waters of the Dove is represented in that book. I have a rod of the newest patent, and a crack reel, with patent self-acting machinery inside of it. I have a line so strong that nothing can break it, and yet so light and pliant that it is supposed to fall upon the water like the gentle zephyr. I have a landing net strong enough to land a 30lb. salmon, and yet so light as to add no perceptible weight to my equipment.

"Thus equipped I started, commencing operations at the lower end of my three miles of water—the southern entrance of the Dale. I had received verbal advice as to my method of procedure from one of the most deadly slayers of trout of modern days. I was told to fish with a *dry fly*, and with a dry fly I commenced. First, however, I examined the water with a critical eye, to see what sort of a fly the fish were taking; but after long and patient watching I could discover neither fish nor fly, so I selected as a leader a blackish fly, with white wings, called, I believe, 'The Coachman,' then two others, a dun and a brown, whose names I forget.

"Before I had thrown a dozen times, a man in brown velveteens turned up, and asked for my license; having satisfied him, and rewarded him besides with a shilling, for his kindness in demanding my passport to the Dove, he asked to see my flies. He pronounced them splendid—deadly; with such flies I may be sure of getting back to the 'Izaak' with a fine dish for dinner. Thus encouraged I started afresh, and not forgetting the injunction of my piscatorial Cromwell to keep my flies dry—wet fly fishing being exploded—I began to thrash the Dove. How to keep your flies dry in a torrent of rain, and whilst throwing on the water, was a problem which puzzled me a good deal. The way to do it, I was told, was to swing the line backwards and forwards constantly, and then to drop your fly gently on the top of the water, and let him sail quietly down, looking as like nature as possible. Bearing these instructions in mind, I swung away splendidly, and got over a mile of water in ten minutes, but not a rise could I get, not a fish could I see. By this time I thought it as well just to examine my flies to see if I had kept them *dry* or not. To my surprise, when I drew the line up pretty close to my eyes, which are by no means what they were, not a fly was there to be seen. I suppose I must have swung them all off! I resolved to be more circumspect in future, and after half an hour, in the still pouring rain, spent in adjusting a new and splendid cast of flies, I threw again; but unluckily I had not considered the spreading branches of an oak behind me—my leader was firmly fixed in a lofty bough. There was nothing for it but to tug away, and chance it. I had found, by previous experience, that sometimes the boughs gave way—sometimes the flies. Alas! In this case my new cast was left floating to the breeze on the top of the oak, and I had to set to work once more, under the oak's friendly shelter, to construct a new cast. This feat being accomplished in course of time, again I set to work. It was now twelve o'clock. I had been at work more than three hours already without so much as a single bite or rise to afford me the slightest encouragement, and yet I believe I had done everything that an angler could do to insure success. I had been told to keep my eyes steadily on the flies when I threw them into the water so as to strike in about the sixtieth part of a second after the fish had given the slightest indication of a desire to swallow my fly, but I never once saw such an inclination on the part of any fish; in fact, I cannot honestly say that I *did* keep my eyes on my flies, for, although I tried my best, no sooner had I consigned the flies to the water than they disappeared from my ken altogether, so that whether or not any little fish ever came up to look at them I am quite unable to say. Now, if you will believe me, on my first throw with my new cast my attention was distracted by a beautifully-plumaged bird, a king-fisher, I believe, which flew up the stream, and whilst following this charming specimen of the feathered tribe, instead of watching my flies I felt a tremendous tug at my line. 'Here you are at last,' thought I, 'perseverance is being rewarded—I at one end of the line and a vigorous trout at the other. That young fellow at 'The Izaak' boasted to me this morning that, with his young bride to help him, he had *hooked* two tremendous big ones (which, however, somehow managed to 'hook it' from him) will no longer be able to crow over me. This, and many another exciting thought, rushed through my brain, at this supreme moment. Here I am with my trout fast enough; but how am I to get him out is now the problem which exercises me. I am quite aware that the landing net is the proper thing, but how am I to get it around him? How can I manage my rod, my line, and my fish with one hand, and pass my net under the fish with the other, and at the same time prevent myself from tumbling down a steep bank into a deep hole? This was a puzzle. I had been told, and I well remembered it, always to keep the point of my rod *up* when landing a fish, but how the deuce could I do all these things at once? How could I wind up, let out, play my fish, keep the rod up, have the net ready, protect myself from slipping down the bank, the rain coming down worse than ever? How could one pair of hands attend to all these things? Alas! I found myself sliding; down went the point of my rod, and when I lifted it again the line was no longer taut—my fish had broken his hold, and I was left disconsolate. If this were not an isolated fact I should have been inclined to argue from it that, instead of keeping your eyes *on* the fly, it is better to keep them off it. The fish evidently has his eye on you and the fly, and the moment your eye is off, dash he goes at your fly! I am sorry I have only this one fact to support my new theory; whilst against it I am bound to adduce the, perhaps, condemnatory facts that I tested my theory by subsequently perseveringly keeping my eyes off my flies; but I am sorry to say the trout of to-day would not be done by that deep ruse. I think I shall write to the FISHING GAZETTE for some discussion or confirmation as to this new theory of mine. I should not have been a true disciple of Izaak had I given in. Hitherto I had fished and walked rapidly; now I decided to confine myself to one spot and fish that thoroughly. Away across the stream I saw a trout on the look-out; the water was clear, and he was the first I had really seen *on the feed.* Now, thought I, for a battle royal. All the arts I have ever been taught and all the native skill I possess shall be brought to bear upon that trout. First, I will throw a yard or two above him and let the bait flow gently down into his mouth, as it were. I threw, but somehow my three flies had got mixed up, and instead of reaching him, they fell in a heap far short of him. It took me nearly half an hour to disentangle those precious flies—the way they have of hooking on to each other, of catching hold of a knot, of doubling up on themselves, and when at last fairly disentangled, of getting hold of your hat, or your arms, or your trowsers is something really wonderful; but using my most powerful glasses, I did at last succeed in fairly straightening them out, and got another throw at at my friendly trout, who was still there waiting for me. This time I did get above him, and it was really curious to see how he turned up his eye, winked at it, in fact, wagged his tail, and allowed my tempting flies to pass on. I had been advised that it is an excellent plan sometimes, when the occasion serves, to cast your fly over to the opposite bank, and then humour it gently and innocently down off the bank, so that it may fall just like a natural fly softly on the water within a foot or two of your trout's nose—that is certain death; the wisest and most cautious old trout that ever was has been caught by such a stratagem as that. Well, here the occasion did serve admirably. My trout was just a yard from a gently sloping bank, and all I had to do was to follow the above given advice. I threw accordingly, and with my usual luck caught fast in a sturdy thistle! I did not wish to risk another cast by having a fight with the thistle and be worsted as I had been by the oak, so I took a quarter of a mile walk to some stepping stones, and when I got up to my thistle, I was not a little chagrined to find that he had already let go my fly, which was quietly dangling down the water waiting my return.

"I am sorry to say that I could do nothing to allure that sarcastic trout, though I persevered still for many anxious minutes. For the present, however, I have given him up, though I hope on another occasion to have a try at him again. I must now give up. I have had from five to six hours of angling in a pelting, continuous storm of rain, and I begin to think myself a worthy disciple of the great master, especially as my courage is not a whit abated; but the inner man craves for what is not here. So absorbed have I been in my occupation for the last five hours, that it only now strikes me that Nature and I are here alone together in the midst of her most lovely scenery, with only two water wagtails to keep us company. Here I could remain for hours were it not for that inward monitor already mentioned. So now I have reached 'The Izaak.' Luncheon waiting me for hours. I could not touch it. My feet as wet and sloppy as water could make them, my new felt hat spoilt, myself shivering with cold, and with a feeling of collapse and congestion which entirely prevents my eating or doing anything but write these incoherent lines to you, and I daresay you will long since have considered me crazy, and thrown the sheets unread into the fire; but what can one do? It is all very well for poets to talk about 'taking one's ease at one's inn;' but it is not so easy a thing to feel comfortable even there, when the rain is pouring and everything is so depressing, from the draggled hens and geese outside to the grumbling of our better halves inside for bringing them to such a place and calling it a *holiday*."

[We shall be at the Izaak Walton in a day or so, and perhaps be able to give "Amateur Angler" a few practical hints; in any case, we hope our venerable correspondent will continue his graphic notes.—Ed.]

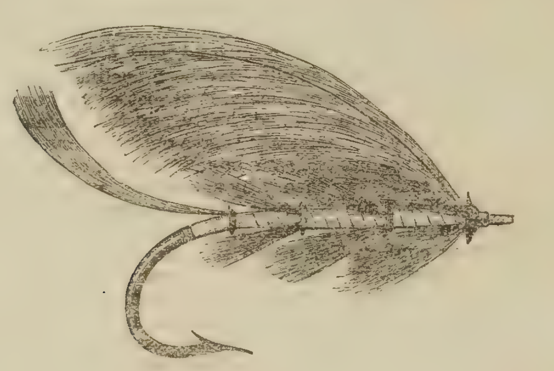
## ON THE DESCRIPTION OF SALMON FLIES.

By Mr. Geo. M. Kelson.

### Major Traherne's Patterns *(Continued).*

### No. 8.—The "Emerald Gem."

From the earliest to the latest records in fly dressing I believe there has been no stress laid upon the importance of underwork. I venture to assert that it is impossible to make the body correctly tapered, neither is it likely the wings will "arch" properly if we have to steer over bead-like lumps in the silk caused by unnecessary knobs,—ridges, produced by winding over preceding turns of silk, or rutty points occasioned by the incorrect management of the treble before it is bound on the hook. There need be no knots whatever in fixing the gut, and the half-hitch in completion can be levelled by the one touch of varnish as previously directed. Renew the silk for fastening the tag, and unwind or divest the twist of the silver or gold, thereby exposing the internal part of it, which is to be evenly and closely bound over as you work towards the barb of the hook: the twist, then, has a smooth space to cover in its finishing return over the well-waxed tying silk. If floss silk follows the twist which is generally directed, the first coil of the tag should be immediately above the point of the barb, depriving it of its silver at the other end; the same care being taken with the tying silk, as in the former instance, in preparing the way for the floss to have a uniform surface to encircle to the tail. If all the tag is twist, as with "Sylvia," "Col. Rocke," "Kingfisher," &c., it should not extend so far on the hook, but started at such place supposing you took an upright line midway between the root of the barb and the point of the hook; too much tag on the bend causes rudder-action in some streams, and the fly wobbles. When you have cut off the required length of floss, suspend it from the thumb and forefinger of the left hand to get any curl out with the same fingers of the right hand, by manipulation at the other extremity; stretch and flatten it, but in so doing be careful that the hands are clean, especially the thumb and finger, when they are drawn down the shreds afterwards to smooth it. Wind it closer as you progress to insure a gentle taper to the tail, continuing the smoothing process with each turn, and fix it under the bare hook up to the gut, where another half-hitch can be made and touched with varnish; this, in a minute or two, will be nearly dry, then level it with the stiletto. If silver or gold twist, ribs the tag, either of them can be made secure with the floss under the hook, also to meet the gut, stripping it again under the tying silk.



Before continuing with the tail of topping, toucan, summer duck, ibis, or whatnot, I may remind the pupil of the importance of protecting his feathers against insects and moths. Mr. Rollason's cabinet is adequately suited, not only to preserve these valuables, but because the whole of it can be packed or unpacked in a minute. I have tried no end of dodges, but have never found anything else so convenient and complete as one of these boxes, which for some years I have had in use. All amateurs should be provided with a bottle of naphthaline crystal. Sir John Lubbock writes: "It is the best antidote, I believe, and this opinion is kindly endorsed by the authorities at the British Museum." The ingredient can be purchased of Mr. Thomas, chemist, 103, Talbot-road, W. I have tried other preventives, but find this the most pungent; some in a diminutive pillbox with pinholes in the lid, is a convenient way of distributing its odour, which is neither redolent nor offensive. As evaporation takes place the pillboxes will require replenishing; but where moths or insects actually exist benzoline should be employed.

The Emerald Gem which I have the pleasure of describing this week is made as follows:—

Tag: Gold twist and purple silk (same shade as throat of chatterer).
Tail: Topping.
Butt: Black herl.
Body: Of gold tinsel in three equal sections, butted with black herl.
Hackle: Green macaw at the termination of each division.
Wings: Golden toppings.
Horns: Blue macaw.
Head: Black herl.

We have in this "Gem" an unusual effect; there is a deal of show for very little work. The iridescent hues in the hackles are heightened in bright water, and although in coloured water they are entirely extinguished, their other qualities are rendered more effective.

Painters—at least, some of them, with all their fame in the restless track of their wanderings, with all their talent, their growing wealth, their adoration of their art—are liable to be misled by friendly or perhaps biased criticism: they can blend with their colours, "touch up," and more or less imitate Nature's most beautiful tints to the satisfaction of those customers for whom they angle. But we—we who incite that which to us is more precious perhaps than the eloquence of speech— are only guided by the compensative instinct or information occasionally conferred by the shy recognition, the downright refusal, or the honoured reception by well-educated and "bona-fide judges," "customers" in *their* element ten times more difficult to please.

Fly-dressers as well as anglers have, perhaps, little idea how they must encounter misfortune, or of the time they must spend before attaining the golden fruit of knowledge; the recompense, though tardy, may be eventually secured by forging hard in the flame of adversity the power of endurance to wrestle with the waters of disappointment—those debatable fords through which they reach the shores of wisdom.

My readers have not looked in vain for variety and frequent contrast in these magnificent patterns—in these inimitable specimens of inventive ingenuity; indeed, if I may candidly express my opinion, an artist more fertile in device it would be hard to find.

I shall be happy to notify in next week's issue the address of any firm who keeps a stock of these flies.

## THE FRIENDLY ANGLERS' SOCIETY'S SUMMER DINNER.

It has been the custom of this venerable Society for some years to hold its summer dinner at the New Inn, Eton, Windsor, on the last Saturday in July, and accordingly on Saturday last this annual event took place under the most favourable auspices.

Mr. George Gillatt occupied the chair, and Mr. T. Allard the vice-chair. Amongst a company numbering about fifty, there were present Messrs. T. R. Sachs, T. Gillatt, C. M. Le Good, C. H. Woodall, Thomas Cliff, H. Mitchell, W. H. Brougham, J. P. Wheeldon, W. Taylor, G. Newsom, G. Batson, W. Dawson, F. Berry, T. Barwell, L. Brown, J. Page, F. Hoblyn, R. Hoblyn, G. Giffard, W. Hodgkinson, F. Craggs, and A. Hunt.

The dinner, placed upon the table by Mrs. Goddard, who is her own *chef*, was the perfection of good English cookery.

The first toast was "The Queen, the Prince and Princess of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family," and in proposing it, the Chairman remarked Her Majesty was the most constitutional monarch in Europe, and that as a wife, a mother, and a grandmother, her life had been a very long and useful one.

The Chairman then gave "The Continued Prosperity of the Friendly Anglers," observing the Society was now in its forty-fourth year, and was never in a more successful position. It had plenty of funds; it had its full number of members, and plenty waiting to fill up vacancies; the shows of fish were good, as no fewer than twelve large Thames trout had been weighed in, one member alone having three scaling respectively 13lb., 10lb., and 7lb. The same friendly spirit was maintained at the meetings, and the value of its museum was shown in the fact it had secured the highest honours at the International Fisheries Exhibition last year. The toast was drank with great enthusiasm.

The Chairman, in giving "The Press," said he should associate the names of Mr. W. H. Brougham and Mr. J. P. Wheeldon with it, as they were both highly respected by every member of the club, and in reference to Mr. Brougham, in addition to his connection with the press, they all knew how he had worked for a quarter of a century for the preservation of old Father Thames, and what the Thames Angling Preservation Society had done, and was doing now. After highly commending the literary labours of Mr. J. P. Wheeldon on angling subjects, the toast was most cordially drank.

Mr. W. H. Brougham and Mr. J. P. Wheeldon replied.

Mr. F. Hoblyn gave "The Visitors," observing that no convivial meeting was perfect without visitors, and he thought on that occasion they could go away with a good opinion of the Society.

Dr. Panck, in a humorous speech, replied, and expressed a hope that he would become a member—not that he desired any of the members any harm, but he was looking forward to entering the ranks of the club as soon as a vacancy occurred.

The Vice-Chairman proposed "The Officers of the Society," coupling with it the names of Mr. C. H. Woodall (treasurer) and Mr. C. M. Le Good (hon. sec.), both of whom briefly returned thanks.

Mr. Woodall, in complimentary terms, gave "The Chairman and Vice-Chairman," which was replied to by Mr. G. Gillatt and Mr. T. Allard.

The Vice-Chairman gave the last toast, "The Respected Hostess," and said all present were more than satisfied with her ample board. Mrs. Goddard was called into the room, amidst great applause, and when informed by the Chairman of her health having been drank, she heartily thanked them.

There was some capital singing. Mr. T. Cliff gave "Ring the Bell, Watchman," the chorus having glass accompaniments. Mr. T. R. Sachs sang "Baron von Big." Messrs. T. Allard, Brewer, Berry, Wheeldon, and C. M. Le Good also gave some excellent songs.

## THE NATIONAL FISH CULTURE ASSOCIATION.

### THE ANNUAL AND SPECIAL MEETINGS.

The First Annual General Meeting of the members of the National Fish Culture Association was held on Friday afternoon, the 25th ult., at the Offices of the Association, Exhibition Grounds, South Kensington, and there was a large and highly representative attendance. The Marquis of Exeter was in the chair, and his lordship was supported by the Earl of Romney, Lord Abinger, Edward Birkbeck, Esq., M.P. (the deputy chairman), T. J. Mann, Esq., A. Jardine, Esq., W. Senior, Esq., T. Andrews, Esq., H. Ffennell, Esq., S. B. Sharpe, Esq., the Rev. J. J. Manley, E. Jex, Esq., O. J. Carrington, Esq., J. Schrieber, Esq., — Stollard, Esq., the Rev. Mr. Steward, R. Barclay, Esq., and W. Oldham Chambers, Esq., F.L.S., the secretary. The annual meeting was preceded by the holding of a special general meeting, for the purpose of considering and adopting a number of revised rules which a special committee of the Council had been appointed to draw up.

At this, Mr. E. Birkbeck, M.P., said he had formally to bring this matter before the meeting, which had met for the purpose of taking into consideration certain alterations which had been made by a Committee of the Council. In many cases, it was found by experience that some of the rules did not work well, and it was decided that an alteration must take place. A Sub-Committee was appointed, and several meetings were held, and the result was now presented to the meeting. He might remark that these rules were unanimously adopted by the Council, and it was now asked that the general meeting should adopt them. It was believed the alterations would aid the work of the Association, and he would therefore conclude by formally moving that the rules should be adopted.

Mr. T. J. Mann seconded the motion, and remarked that the new rules before the meeting were the result of careful consideration and long discussion, and there was not the slightest doubt that they would work for the good of the Association.

After a brief discussion the motion was unanimously carried.

The annual general meeting was then proceeded with. Mr. Oldham Chambers, as secretary, read the notice convening the meeting and the minutes of the adjourned annual general meeting, and then proceeded to read the report of the Council. This was of an important and interesting character. It dealt with the foundation of the Association and of its early history, and recorded the fact of the commencement of actual work by the arrangements which were entered into with the Executive of the Health Exhibition, by which the management of the aquarium in the grounds of the Exhibition at South Kensington was transferred to the Association. The Council could not help feeling that they should specially congratulate the members upon the transfer of the management of the Aquarium, with all the tanks, cisterns, and marine and freshwater services into their hands, as they are now enabled to carry out practical operations and experiments in fish culture. (Hear, hear.) A department devoted to Fish Culture had also been established. The report proceeded:—"In order to increase the interest of the public in the proceedings of the Association in the various ways enumerated above, the Council have caused a popular work on British Fishes and a handbook of the aquarium to be issued, giving a detailed account of the fish exhibited in the tanks of the Fish Culture Department and of the Loan Exhibits, together with articles of interest in the science of Pisciculture generally. Arrangements have also been made for the periodical publication of a journal, which will contain reports of all matters of interest in relation to the operations at South Kensington. It is the intention of the Council to institute conferences and to invite papers and discussions upon subjects akin to Fish Culture. Notice of these conferences will be given from time to time to the members of the Association. It is under the consideration of your Council, during the year, to make arrangements to have constructed, within a convenient distance of London, a series of fish-ponds, and to develop an establishment upon the most approved principles for the Culture of Salmonidæ and river fishes generally. The members of the Association will then have the opportunity presented to them of purchasing fry at a reduced rate, and other facilities will be offered for the stocking of public and private waters. The Council, in concluding what they feel must be a satisfactory report, would urge upon the members of the Association the necessity for thorough support, and would venture to remark that, considering the valuable work which has been taken in hand, and the absolute necessity of increased co-operation in its promulgation, the number of members of the Association is most inadequate; every possible effort should be made in this direction, and the Council would press upon the members the advantage of individual exertion. So important a subject as that which is contained in the simple words 'Fish Culture,' should not, in these enlightened nineteenth century days, escape notice; and certainly such an Institution as the National Fish Culture Association, founded with such excellent objects, ought not—your Council venture to consider—fail in its object for want of members. It is the earnest belief of your Council that the mere fact of the existence of the Association has but to become known for it to become a very substantial and beneficent Institution." (Cheers.)

The report was signed by Lord Exeter as President of the Association.

The noble Chairman, in rising to move the adoption of the report, was received with cheers. His Lordship said: My Lords and Gentlemen,—In moving the adoption of the report, I am sure you will not wish me to detain you at any length; but I believe it is the wish of some, at least, of those present that a little should be said by me upon this motion in reference to matters connected with the Association. (Hear, hear.) It is not necessary for me to refer at length to the great progress which has been made in fish culture in recent years in breeding, and in inventions and improvements of apparatus, from the time of Jacobi in 1763, who made use of wooden boxes with wickerwork ends and sand, in which to lay the ova; or of the Spanish naturalist who, I believe, first discovered that ova could be compressed from the female fish and artificially fecundated by using the milt of the male, up to the present time. Most of us in this room are aware of all this; but I may be permitted to refer to the great and rapidly increasing interest taken in everything connected with the natural history of fish; with fish hatching; fish breeding; their habits and haunts; their food; and, in point of fact, with fishing in all its branches, from fly-fishing down to the often destructive net. (Hear, hear, and cheers.) All these, however, in their way, are sources of instruction, interest, and amusement; but the remarkable success with which the Norwich Fisheries Exhibition in the first instance, and the still greater Exhibition of last year in these grounds met with, set thinking men and naturalists to try to obtain some permanent good out of the interests which were raised by these exhibitions. This, perhaps, has been mainly the cause of the foundation of the National Fish Culture, almost, as you know, a unique Society, and one which, we trust, when it becomes more widely known, will rise into greater importance and prominence, and be of real use to the country. (Cheers.) America, Canada, Australia, France, Germany, all have in some shape or another their societies or associations for the development of fish culture and fisheries; all, more or less, under the supervision or protection of their respective governments; and I think we have a right to hope that, sooner or later, we shall be officially recognised, and that Government will see the advantage of encouraging fish culture, and will lend that aid which other Governments have lent to associations of this kind. (Cheers.) The great success which, from the first, the National Fish Culture Association has met with, is proof of how it is appreciated as supplying a want which has long been felt. All we want now in addition, of course, to the ordinary sinews of war, is that the existence of this society should be made more widely known, and, if such were the case, I believe that a very large number of persons in the kingdom, and every angler who loves his art, as well as all those interested in the culture and preservation of fish, would join, or would lend their aid in one way or another to promote the welfare of this Association. (Cheers.) Of course, it is very necessary that the income of the Association should be increased largely, in order that the objects we have in view may be carried out. It is of the utmost importance that funds should be forthcoming, and I hope, therefore, that our members will do their best to persuade their friends to join us. The annual subscription of a guinea has been put purposely as low as possible, so as not to be the least burden upon members, and I do hope that the next year, and the results of this meeting, will bring about a large increase in the number of members. I may say, for the information of the public, that we are desirous, as is mentioned in the report, of extending our operations to the establishment of rearing ponds, and hatching and fish breeding apparatus in the country. All this, of course, will require money, time, and organisation, but there is no reason, I think, why the Association should not eventually succeed in its objects. The report our excellent secretary has read is, I hope, and feel confident, a satisfactory one, and I am sure you will join with me in congratulating Mr. Chambers, the manager, and our staff upon the very efficient manner in which they have carried out the orders and wishes of the Council as regards the aquarium in this part of the Exhibition. (Hear, hear.) That aquarium, as most gentlemen here are probably aware, has been handed over to us by the executive of the Healtheries, and I think we ought to thank them for the great assistance they have rendered the Association by allowing us a percentage out of the takings at the doors. (Hear, hear). I shall ask you by-and-by to pass a vote of thanks in relation to this matter. Before I sit down, I would suggest that experiments should be made to find out the exact state of the water in the aquarium as regards hardness or softness and temperature, in order to ascertain which is the best suited for different kinds of fish. (Hear, hear). Well, gentlemen, I believe I have dealt with all matters of interest in the report, and so I will conclude by moving formally the adoption of the report.

Mr. E. Birkbeck, M.P., who was received with cheers, said: My lords and gentlemen,—In seconding the motion, I will only express my conviction that every member of the Association must entirely approve of the work that the Council has carried out throughout the past year, and I refer especially to the portion of the report which alludes to the arrangements with the Fisheries and Health Exhibitions' Executive Councils. I can assure any gentleman present who has any doubt in the matter that, being constantly here, I have every opportunity of forming an opinion, and I know that the public are grateful to us for having concluded an arrangement which has enabled this beautiful aquarium to be kept up in the way it has been and is being kept up. (Cheers.) And this fact is so palpably self-evident that I may inform the meeting that I am on the point of bringing the matter before the Executive Council of next year's Exhibition of Inventions, with a view of renewing the arrangement. (Cheers.) And I have reason to believe that at the next Council meeting of that Exhibition a resolution will be passed approving of a contract with this Council as regards the future. I can only add, in conclusion, that perhaps the time of the Council has been very much taken up with reference to the aquarium this year; and also that time has been taken up in the same way of our excellent and energetic secretary, Mr. Oldham Chambers—(cheers)—to admit of time being given to carry out all the objects of the Association; but in the interval between this year's and next year's Exhibitions our time will be freer, our secretary will be freer, and our finances will be in a better position, so that altogether we shall be able to carry out more fully the objects of the Association. (Cheers.) I beg to second the motion for the adoption of the report. (Cheers.)

The motion was then put and carried unanimously.

The report from the special meeting on the alteration of the rules was brought up and adopted.

Lord Abinger said: I have great pleasure in proposing as President and Chairman of this Association for the year the most honourable the Marquis of Exeter; Mr. Edward Birkbeck, M.P., as Deputy Chairman; and Mr. W. Burdett-Coutts as Treasurer. (Cheers.)

The Earl of Romney seconded the motion, which was put and carried unanimously.

Mr. Birkbeck: The next matter to be brought before the meeting is the election of the Council. The number of gentlemen which the rules of the Association allow to serve as members of the Council is 36, and the following are the gentlemen proposed. I beg to propose that they be elected members of the Association:—Chairman, the Most Hon. the Marquis of Exeter; Deputy-Chairman, E. Birkbeck, Esq., M.P.; the Earl of Romney, the Earl of Annesley, Lord Abinger, the Right Hon. Sir W. Hart Dyke, Bart., M.P., Sir P. de Grey Egerton, Bart., Sir John St. Aubyn, Bart., M.P., the Prime Warden of the Fishmongers' Company, the Maclaine of Loch Buy, T. Andrews, Esq., R. Barclay, Esq., C. Bates, Esq., J. Brunton, Esq., M.D., C. L. Buxton, Esq., C. C. Capel, Esq., T. J. Carrington, Esq., J. H. Crossman, Esq.. Lieut.-Col. Custance, H. Ffennell, Esq., Francis Francis, Esq., C. E. Fryer, Esq., P. Geen, Esq., Dr. Günther, F.R.S., Professor Huxley, F.R.S., A. Jardine, Esq., H. Lee, Esq., Rev. J. J. Manley, M.A., T. J. Mann, Esq., R. B. Marston, Esq., O. T. Olsen, Esq., J. L. Sayer, Esq., Col. Seddon, W. Senior, Esq., S. B. Sharpe, Esq., T. Spreckley. Esq., J. Willis Bund, Esq., Lt.-Col. Stuart Wortley.

Mr. Jex seconded the motion, which was unanimously agreed to, and the following gentlemen were elected vice-presidents:—The Duke of Portland, the Duke of Manchester, the Duke of Wellington, the Duke of Sutherland, the Marquis of Ailsa, the Marquis of Hamilton, the Earl of Pembroke, the Earl of Ducie, the Earl of Onslow, the Earl of Eldon, the Earl of Annesley, the Earl of Romney, Lord Suffield, Lord Waveney, Lord Lovat, Lord Abinger, Rt. Hon. Sir W. Hart-Dyke, Bart., M.P., Sir J. Gibson Maitland, Bart., Sir John St. Aubyn, Bart., M.P., Sir Samuel Wilson, the Prime Warden of the Worshipful Company of Fishmongers, E. Birkbeck, Esq., M.P.. W. Burdett-Coutts, Esq., Col. Teesdale, Lieut.-Col. Custance, Major Genl. Goodlake, W. Fuller Maitland, Esq., E. Jex, Esq., Chairman of the London Fish Trade Association, Professor Huxley, F.R.S., &c., Inspector of Fisheries, Archd. Young, Esq., Inspector of Scotch Fisheries, the Inspectors of Irish Fisheries.

The Marquis of Exeter thanked the meeting on behalf of himself and fellow-members of the Council for their election.

Mr. T. J. Mann: I beg to move that our secretary for this year, Mr. Oldham Chambers, be re-elected for the ensuing year. I have seen a good deal of the time he has spent here, and of the good work he has done, and I am sure we cannot do better than re-elect him. (Cheers.)

Mr. S. B. Sharpe: I beg to second the motion, and in doing so I may say I feel sure we might go a very long way before we could get as good a secretary as we have got now in Mr. Oldham Chambers, or one whom we shall so willingly re-elect. (Hear, hear.)

The motion was put and carried unanimously.

Lord Abinger: The affairs of the Association had been so ably and lucidly brought forward in the report, and by our noble chairman's speech, that his lordship has really left nothing that could be said. But I can emphasise a portion of the report by requesting your special attention to this resolution, which is, undoubtedly, one of very great importance, and one, too, which, if we can only see it officially carried out, will very greatly tend to further the efficiency of the Society. I will move:—"That this meeting, believing that the National Fish Culture Association, by its formation, rules, and objects, is best calculated to advance the nationally important questions connected with fish hatching and culture, and the encouragement and development of sea and inland fisheries, is of opinion that more general attention should be drawn to a Society whose work is so valuable and necessary in the interests of the nation." (Cheers.) Lord Abinger, in the course of a few remarks, urged the need of amalgamation with small local societies.

The Rev. Mr. Steward seconded the motion, and in doing so said he must make a suggestion to the Council. As to taking the temperature of the water, &c., he knew of a piece of water near where he lived, in Suffolk, in the vicinity of the Norfolk Broads, where he thought it might possibly be of some assistance to the Association if he were to try and take the temperature of the water, and also to try and get a piece of the water at a small rent, which might be useful as a sort of nursery to turn fish into when they had come out of the breeding places. He should be glad to be of any assistance to the Council, and if they would signify their wishes to him, he should be glad to do all he could in that direction.

Mr. Jardine suggested that there should be a printed list of the names and addresses of the members of the Association. This would be a great benefit to the members themselves, as well as the Executive.

Mr. Jex said he should be very happy to second any proposition of the kind.

The President put the resolution of Lord Abinger's to the meeting, and it was carried amid cheers.

The Earl of Romney proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman, for the very efficient manner in which he had conducted the affairs of the Association, and for the very great interest he had taken in its work. (Cheers.)

This was seconded and carried unanimously.

The Marquis of Exeter: I am exceedingly obliged to my noble friend for the exceedingly kind way in which he has proposed this vote of thanks. I cannot take to myself all that has been so kindly said,—that I have been the chief worker in carrying out all that has been accomplished by this Association; but I may say with truth that I have been happy to do all I can in this matter. But there are so many other matters which require attention that I must confess I have not been able to give all the time I should have liked to have been able to give to the work of the Association; and Mr. Birkbeck, Mr. Chambers, Mr. Mann, and other gentlemen have worked so very hard that I feel that the credit of any success we have achieved is due to their exertions, and not to my own. Before I sit down I think this is a fitting opportunity to ask you to pass a vote of thanks to Mr. Jex and other gentlemen of the London Fish Trades Association for the great aid they have given this Association in carrying out with efficiency the arrangements of the management of the aquarium by supplying us with fish, and by assisting us in all sorts of ways. We have been so much engaged with the aquarium this year, that we really have not had time to direct our attention to the carrying out of all the objects for which the Association was originally started. I have, therefore, two resolutions to propose before I sit down: one is, that a vote of thanks be passed to the Executive of the Health Exhibition; and the other, that a vote of thanks be passed to Mr. Jex and the London Fish Trades Society for their kindness to the Association in contributing fish for the aquarium. (Cheers.)

The motions were put to the meeting, and carried by acclamation.

Mr. Jex, on behalf of himself and brother members of the Society, thanked the meeting for the votes.

Attention was drawn to the satisfactory state of the tanks at present, and it was generally agreed that everything in that portion of the Exhibition under the management of the Association was in excellent condition. The deaths of a large portion of the young fry was regretted, and it was hoped that the probable cause—the hardness of the water—would be prevented in the future by the application of Maignen's system of rapid filtration.

The proceedings throughout were most unanimous, and terminated with votes of thanks to the secretary and staff.

A TROUT of an unusual size was taken out of the Lion water at Farningham last week. It measured 2ft. in length, and 13½in. in girth, and weighed 6lb. 1oz.—a very fine specimen for the river Darent.

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# RIVER REPORTS.

### TIME OF HIGH WATER IN THE THAMES.

To find the time of high water in the Thames at any of the following places, to the time of high water at London Bridge (given below).

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Add | 30 minutes for | Chelsea. |
| | 40 " | Putney. |
| | 45 " | Hammersmith. |
| | 50 " | Barnes. |
| | 55 " | Kew. |
| | 75 " | Richmond. |
| | 80 " | Twickenham. |
| | 85 " | Teddington. |

Example :—If it is high water at 2 o'clock at London Bridge, it will be high water at Teddington about 3.25, or eighty-five minutes later ; but it must be remembered that a strong wind accelerates or retards the tide very much.

For Times of High Water at London Bridge.

| | | | Morning. | Afternoon. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Saturday, | August | 2 | 10.9 | 10.45 |
| Sunday, | " | 3 | 11.19 | 11.53 |
| Monday, | " | 4 | 12.0 | 12.20 |
| Tuesday, | " | 5 | 12.45 | 1.7 |
| Wednesday, | " | 6 | 1.29 | 1.48 |
| Thursday, | " | 7 | 2.8 | 2.24 |
| Friday, | " | 8 | 2.41 | 2.59 |

Note.—August 4, Bank Holiday.

## THE LOWER THAMES.

### General Remarks.

Although there is a deficiency of water, the grand old river (G.O.R.) continues to give proof of its stock of fish, and Mr. M. H. Blamey, who has recently gone to reside at Richmond, has just given evidence that when barbel are fished for in that neighbourhood, plenty can be found. He writes as follows : "Fishing on Monday last with Kit Brown, at Richmond, I caught eighty-eight barbel, from 1½lb. to 4lb. each—the total must have been considerably over 160lb., by far the largest take of fish, Brown says, he ever knew taken by one rod in a day. I baited the swim myself the day previous, and was fairly pleased with the sport. I returned thirty-eight fish to the river at the end of the day." If there are such persons as lucky and unlucky anglers, Mr. Blamey is a wonderful good type of the former class. On the 19th of September last, he had a take of 110lb. weight of bream and barbel at Shepperton.

**Richmond.**—Christopher Brown, in addition to the take of Mr. Blamey's, has taken on other days a total of twenty-three barbel, and forty dozen of roach and dace. Henry Wheeler, in seven days, 140lb. of roach and dace, and a couple of barbel. Henry Mansell, in five days, eighty dozen of roach and dace, and nine barbel. Job Brain, during the week, 114lb. of roach and dace, fourteen barbel, and two chub. Henry Howard, in five days, fifty-six dozen of roach and dace, and twenty-one barbel.

**Twickenham.**—Samuel Cole, during the week, fifty-nine dozen of roach and dace, seven barbel, and seven perch. John Coxen, jun., in one day, six dozen of roach and dace. Madame Sarah Bernhardt, in one day, with John Coxen, sen., five barbel and three dozen of dace. Mr. Walker, in three days, with William Spong, 34lb. weight of roach and dace, and one barbel. Edward Finch, in five days, 80lb. of roach and dace, and six barbel. Charles Hennessey, in one day, eight dozen of roach and dace. Job Dobbin, in six days, thirty-nine dozen of roach and dace, four barbel, and one chub. John Spong, in three days, twenty-six dozen of roach and dace, and four barbel ; Pert Hammerton, in one day, 22lb. of roach and dace, and one barbel ; and in two other days, thirty dozen of roach and dace ; H. Spiers, in one day and three half days, 22½ dozen and five barbel ; George Coxen, in two days, eleven dozen of dace and one barbel ; and C. Miles, in one day, eight dozen of dace.

**Teddington.**—Joseph Baldwin, in two days, sixteen dozen of roach and dace, and five barbel ; John Stevens, in half a day, three dozen of roach and dace ; and Alexander Kemp, during the week, fifteen barbel. The tidal water is now in good condition for angling, and it will be seen that barbel are plentiful at all the fishing stations.

**Kingston.**—John Johnson, sen., writes : "I have been roach-fishing, and have got some fine ones up to 1¼lb. each ; they have been taken from six dozen in the half day to 20lb. in the day. One day I got four barbel and two chub. John Johnson, jun., has been getting a nice lot of fish. Great quantities of fish have been caught at the Surbiton Sewer—there is a great mass of fish there—roach, bream, barbel, and perch, and occasionally a jack. The private boats have done very well, and trailing with the spoon bait, a few good perch and jack have come to grief.

**Hampton Court.**—Thomas Wheeler, during the week, has taken twenty dozen of gudgeon, twenty-two barbel of 2½lb. each, eighteen dozen of roach and dace, and three bream ; Thomas Melbourne, in five days, ten dozen of roach and dace, seventeen dozen of gudgeon, and a barbel of 5lb ; John Smith, in four days, twenty barbel, six chub, and twenty-four dozen of roach and dace.

**Sunbury.**—Messrs. E. Clark and son, in six days, have taken eighty dozen of roach and dace, sixteen dozen of gudgeon, three barbel, twenty-five bream, six brace of perch, and one brace of jack.

**Walton.**—John Hone, one day, six dozen of roach ; another day, four dozen and three bream ; another day, five dozen, and six bream ; and, another day, four dozen. George Hone, in three days, fourteen dozen of roach, and one barbel. S. Rosewell, in two days, fourteen dozen of roach and dace, and seven bream. R. Whatford, in three days, eighteen dozen of roach and dace, two barbel, and a perch of 1½lb.

**Halliford.**—Edward Rosewell, in four hours and a half, seven dozen of roach and dace. E. Rosewell, jun., in one day, four dozen. E. D. Rosewell, in three hours, three dozen, and an odd perch. T. Strudwick, in one day, nine bream, one perch, and some fine roach and dace.

**Shepperton.**—F. Purdue, in two days, eighteen dozen of gudgeon, and one brace of perch. W. House, in one day, a brace of jack, and another day, eight dozen and a half of roach and dace. W. Rogerson, in one day, eighteen dozen of gudgeon, and one brace of perch. H. Poulter, fishing from the bank, has taken a fine trout of 7lb. J. Upsdell, in one day, six dozen of roach and dace, three barbel, and two eels.

**Staines.**—John Keene, in one day at the end of last week, five barbel, one weighing 11lb. 2oz., two others 5lb. each, and two more 3lb. each. E. Keene, in one day, six dozen of roach and dace, the largest roach 1¼lb. John Keene, jun., in one day, five barbel, and one chub ; another day, six barbel, and another day seven chub, the largest 4lb. 6oz., and six dozen of roach and dace.

**Chertsey.**—John Poulter, one day, two bream, two chub, one barbel, and one perch ; another day, 20lb. of barbel and bream ; another day, 40lb. of barbel, the largest 7lb., four eels, three chub ; another day, fifteen barbel, three perch, one chub, and one eel. Mr. Wastell, in one day, 11lb. of roach, and two bream.

## UPPER THAMES.

The river, notwithstanding continuous rain, is very low and bright, and angling in upper reaches of the Thames seems to be of a very indifferent description. Roach and jack seem to be well into the weeds, from whence they decline to be attracted. Perch have been feeding a bit late in the evening, Mr. Detmar getting about two dozen fair ones in the Horley district on one occasion with brandlings for bait. Three good barbel have been had in the Marlow waters by Coster, with a patron, and a 10lb. bag of roach have been taken by a "banker," at Bourne End. I have just interviewed "Father Thames" (Thursday evening), and find him still in a low and sinking condition ; so anglers, river-side bound, have little chance of sport except amid the gudgeon.—Marlow Buzz.

### Datchet.

Slight improvement in the water. There has not been much fishing this week. Mr. Austin, of Datchet, in the Fleet, on the 23rd ult., caught 13 chub, largest 4lb. ; on the 24th ult., one chub, 4lb., with greaves ; Mr. Clark, of Datchet, in the Fleet, three barbel, 8lb., with greaves. A trout was caught trailing, near Victoria Bridge on the 25th ult., 5lb. I notice they have begun to move again. Mr. Parsons, Thames-street, Windsor, tried the barbel on the 30th ult., and caught one, and two broke away—early morning. The dace are biting best at present ; have not tried the barbel this week, keeping them in store for next.—G. Lumsden.

### Dockett Point.

Two days last week, five dozen of fine roach and a few dace ; two chub put back; one perch. Monday, Mr. J. L. Meyers, three barbel, one chub, two dozen of roach over half a pound each, with tail of lob worm. Tuesday, Mr. P. C. Hatfield, 60lb. of bream, one trout 3lb. Wednesday, Mr. P. Geen, eleven bream, three barbel, two chub, and two perch. Plenty of fish to be had with fine tackle.—James Haslett.

### Thames (Goring).

Water in good order for all sorts of fishing, gudgeon and perch biting very well. I hear a trout and a tench were taken with the worm, weighing 4lb. each. My two best days were 20 dozen gudgeon, two dozen of very good perch, and a few good perch. Prospects at present look well for the next few days.—John Rush.

### Thames (Shepperton).

Water in very good condition for all-round fishing. The sport is very good, provided the fishermen were employed a little more. In two days 21 dozen of gudgeon and four perch were taken. There was a mistake made in my report last week. I caught two trout, not tench, as stated in the report. I have been a fisherman for fifty years, and never caught a tench when barbel fishing in the Channell, for it is more of a pond fish.—W. Rogerson.

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### Ancholme District.

Owing to illness, I have been unable to report for the last week or two. I send an account of what has been done in the meantime. Sport on the Ancholme proper has been very good, and catches of 5 or 6st. of fish have, by no means, been uncommon. Roach of 1lb. are very plentiful, and bream of 3 to 4lb. are quite numerous. Gentlemen obtain from 18 to 20lb. of fish in an evening after tea.—J. Ford, Caistor.

### Ballynahinch.

Since last report the following baskets have been made :—Col. Biden, 63 trout and 1 salmon, 6lb. ; Mr. Bailward, 50 trout ; Mr. and Mrs. Power, 36 trout, 1 salmon, 8lb. ; Mr. Smith, 58 trout, 1 salmon, 6lb. ; Mr. McNeil, 45 trout ; Mr. and Miss Chapman, 76 trout. In five days Mr. Taylor, 22 trout and 1 salmon, 14lb ; Mr. Middleton, 20 trout, 1 salmon, 12lb. In four days, Mr. Morris, 17 trout, 1 salmon, 11½lb. In three days Messrs. Eades and Houlgrave, 31 trout and 1 salmon, 13½lb. ; Mr. Wardle, 13 trout ; Mr. Shaw, 16 trout, 2 salmon, 9 and 10lb. ; Mr. Sutherland and Mr. Nevill, 43 trout. A party of three, the Earl of Malmesbury, Col. Harris, and Mr. Gould, in six days, caught 14 brown trout, 46 sea trout, and 1 salmon, 10lb., taken by his lordship. The totals for the week are 536 sea trout, 10 salmon, weighing 100lb. Weather improving well for fishing.—Walter Blackadder.

### Bure.

Anglers are busy on this stream at every part, and with the best of success. I am told that large catches of bream flats have been had. Of course, Acle is the most convenient from Yarmouth, or, if the Thurne is preferred, Potter Heigham ; Host Lawes, Waterman's Arms, Eastern and Midland Railway, is very handy, and capital sport amongst perch and rudd is to be expected here ; but returning to the Bure, Wroxham and Horning Ferry are equally good. The fish run small, but there are plenty of them. Large catches of bream continue to be made on Wrexham Broad, and also below Salhouse on the river. Prospects excellent.—Robert Moll.

### Chichester.

Visitors to the water side have, this week, been numerous, the quiet evenings being most enjoyable after the excitement of glorious Goodwood. The odds have been against anglers, takes being few. Sport generally has been very unsatisfactory during the week, nothing worth recording coming to hand. From Selham, Mr. Willison writes : "There are some fine roach and dace in the water, Mr. Budd landing a dozen good roach in half an hour, angling with gentles as bait. Weather, this Thursday evening, close and stormy.—George F. Salter.

### Dove.

The weather has been very favourable to sport this week. The copious and frequent rains have improved the condition of our river immensely, and the fresh has removed nearly all the masses of flannel weed which had accumulated, and which were proving so destructive to anglers. The killing flies just now are the July dun and the brown or golden Palmer, while excellent remuneration has also followed the use of the whistler and other gold-bodied lures. The average dishes of trout and grayling have been quite seven brace each to the expert rods, while nearly everybody has got something or other to reward them for their efforts. Bottom fishermen have been extremely busy all the week, and any quantity of barbel and bream have been captured, the best bait having been the lob worm. The wasp grub and maggot have also accounted for many good samples of roach, dace, and chub. Prospects of a continuance of good sport are just now first-rate.—The Splodger.

### Eden (Carlisle.)

The whitings are not showing in any great numbers as yet ; but the break of the tides this week ought to hurry them along, the river being in fine order for their running. A few are killed every evening below Carlisle. The best catch I have heard of was 8lb., taken by a man near Rockliffe, right in the tideway. Several salmon were killed with the rod last week in the upper waters, near Lazonby and Nunwick ; but there has not been a fish killed in the lower waters for many weeks, though the nets have been getting cartloads of salmon and grilse. The price, 10d per lb., shows they are not scarce.—Silver Grey.

### Exe (Exeter).

Since my last report, in which I referred to the fish destroyed in the Mill heat at Exwick, four persons have figured in the police-court and had to pay £7 and costs for a salmon improperly taken, and this I hope will have a beneficial effect ; but the wholesale way night lines are laid in open daylight in the Exe, near the railway station, is a bit of a caution just now. Weather very sultry, and nothing doing.—J. A. Kelley.

### Flanders Weir Fishery (Chingford).

On Saturday evening last, at about 8 o'clock, I hooked and landed a beautiful bream of 6lb., ledger fishing with a marsh worm. He is in magnificent condition, and has gone to Sanders to be set up. I had to get the fish across 6ft. of weeds into a friend's landing net. He played gamely for a bream ; but, fortunately for me, lay perfectly still while I slid him along over the weeds into the net. The fish will be on view at the fish-house after being set up.—W. F. Payne.

### Fens (Boston.)

The large Fen drains in the neighbourhood of Boston have this week been yielding immense takes of fish of the rough class. Roach and bream seem to be very plentiful, and they are now well on the feed. The Hobhole has turned up an immense quantity. At Old Leake, Mr. Geo. Hancock got six beautiful tench, as well as about 2st. of roach, and Mr. Fred. Wragg 24lb. of good roach scaling up to 1¼lb. each. At Frieston, on the same drain, B. Wilde got 28lb. of roach, bream, &c. ; and another angler at the same place 35lb. of roach. The great catch, however, was made by a party of Sheffield anglers, viz. :—T. Brown, W. Frost, J. Wilson, C. Turner, and H. Downs, who returned home with a total draught of 13st. among them. They were mainly roach, and of an excellent quality and size. Many of them ran up to nearly 8lb. each, and some turned the scale at 1½lb. each. From the Cowbridge drain, near to Boston, W. Higginbottom got 9lb. 7oz. of bream and roach, and several other anglers did well. Whilst from the Aqueduct water, I hear of an angler named Frith getting 12lb. of roach, along with a tench of 1lb. 12½oz. ; and another, B. Baker, 12lb. roach. From the Kelsey drain also there were good sakes, among the best being J. Wilkinson, with 18lb. of nice roach. The water is in fine trim, and at the present time prospects are very favourable.—Y. B.

### Ilfracombe.

Sea fishing has greatly improved this last week. Saturday, thick misty rain ; however, several boating parties were fishing off the Torrs, and all had good catches of bream, codlin, and ling. They report water thick, fish in prime condition, and biting free. Monday, some fine bream were caught by parties fishing off Lee. Fresh water—Tuesday and Wednesday, good catches of bream, whiting, codlin, and ling. There is fine sport from the rocks for hand-line fishers for pout, pollack, eels, &c., and those fishing from the jetty with rod and line have hooked some large fish. One gentleman caught a ling, another hooked a large skate and brought it to the surface when it broke its hold, and, having no gaff, it disappeared, much to his annoyance. Weather fine and prospects good.—E. Comer.

### Leicester.

A large number of anglers continue to visit the Leicester Society's waters at Leicester and Aylestone, and some fine lots of roach and perch have been taken. Among the regular frequenters at these waters, Messrs. Bird, Hobbs, Aarven, and Richards have been the most successful, their takes varying from 10lb. to 12lb. per day. Those who have fished during the evenings have been well rewarded. The roach, perch, and chub have been well on the feed. A few pike have been caught, varying from 4lb. to 6lb., and several good eels have been taken from the river Soar and canal during the latter part of the day. These have been taken with good-sized lobworms. The best of the roach and perch have been caught with straw-worms and the large brown earth-grub, the latter being a specially taking bait for perch. Excellent reports continue to come to hand from the waters at Narborough, Barrow-on-Soar, and the Wreake. On Thursday the weather continued fine, and prospects of sport during the holidays next week remain satisfactory.—Alert.

### Lodden.

We are having a splendid time of it. Fish of all kinds plentiful, and show plenty of sport, although the weather has been, and still continues, terribly showery. We had a hailstorm on Friday last lasting nearly half an hour, the stones were very large, and lay on the ground nearly an hour before they had all dissolved. The flower gardens and root crops suffered considerably, the latter were riddled through the leaves as though they had been shot through, and a piece of onions presented a most remarkable appearance, the standing stalks being knocked completely through from side to side ; and with all the rain we have had, the river has not risen half an inch. The average weight of trout taken being ½lb. ; chub, up to 4lb. We intend starting on trout to-morrow at 6 a.m.—Frank Gosden.

### Lugg and Arrow (Leominster).

Both these streams are now in good fishing condition, and have been freely visited this week. Rain fell heavily in this district, but made but little difference to the colour of the water. At the beginning of the week the waters were coloured, but they soon ran themselves clear again, and are now in prime condition for the fly, which are on the water in good numbers. The wasp grub has been used here freely, and some very good fish have been landed, the best killing flies on the water being the coachman and the black gnat. On Friday the fish were rising well in the Lugg at the coachman. A gentleman tried the Lugg, near the station, and took a splendid lot of trout. In the Arrow the same day a gentleman, with the black gnat, took a fine lot of trout, some scaling ¾lb. each. The Arrow was tried on Saturday with the fly, and a good dish of trout and grayling was landed. The Lugg was tried the same day, and a very good lot of trout was taken with the coachman. A very nice dish of trout and grayling was also taken with the wasp grub. On Monday some very good sport was had in the Arrow, a gentleman with the fly taking a splendid dish of trout, the lot weighing 5lb. A few very nice grayling were taken in the Lugg with the black gnat the same day. In the Arrow on Tuesday a very good basket of trout was landed with the wasp grub. The Lugg was tried and some very good sport was had, one gentleman with the fly taking a fine dish of trout and grayling, averaging ½lb. each. Some very good fish have been taken in the Eardisland water this week, and a few very nice fish were landed in the Monkland waters. There has been some good sport in the Lugg at Aymestry. The Pinsley is in good fishing order, and the fish are rising freely; some very good fish have been landed this week with the fly.—Gwynne.

### (Maidenhead).

Whilst fishing from early morn this day (Saturday), I caught and successfully landed a barbel of nearly 7½lb. The fish is a very fine specimen indeed, having the largest wattles I have ever seen. I was fishing with Clarke of Maidenhead.—N.B.—Can you give the highest authenticated weight for this particular fish since the commencement of the season?—D. Warren.

(We cannot say what is the largest barbel taken this season, but this is certainly one of the best yet.—Ed.)

### Medway (Tunbridge).

As I anticipated when I wrote last week, a freshet of water would bring fish and food, and so it has proved. The best takes I have heard recorded were on Tuesday: Mr. E. Greenwood and Mr. J. M. Streeter, fishing High Bridge Hole, caught no less than 120lb. of bream, many of them prime fellows weighing 3½lb.; while on Wednesday Mr. W. Ede, above the town, took no less than 186 roach, weighing nearly half a hundredweight. This was undoubtedly the best catch of roach made in the river for some years.—Ye Medway Water Rat.

### Ness (Inverness.)

The above water is now in splendid condition for angling, and good sport is being obtained on both the upper and lower waters. On Friday, the 25th ult., Mr. Denison, a few hours after his arrival from London, landed a salmon of 19lb. and one grilse of 7lb. He also hooked a third fish, but lost it. On Saturday, the 26th, Mr. Denison killed one grilse of 9lb. On Monday, the 28th, Mr. Denison killed five grilse, 19, 9, 9, 9, and 8lb. each. Monday, the 28th, was observed as a free fishing day, and a number of the local anglers were out early, and several good baskets of sea trout were made. Mr. Paterson killed one grilse of 9lb., and Mr. James Scott one grilse of 8½lb. At the four netting stations on this water the average catch is about fifty fish daily.—D. Watson.

### Ouse (Huntingdon.)

Bream and roach are well on the feed. During the last week several good takes have been made. On the 27th, I took 31½lb. of bream; on the 29th, 15¾lb. of fine roach, and 7½lb. of bream. On the 30th, 28 bream were taken by one gentleman; but the weight I have not heard. On the same day, 19 bream were taken by another angler. On the same day, 32 bream were taken by another angler. Weather fine, and water in splendid condition. I think the London anglers are very backward this season.—H. Rout.

### Ouse (Yorkshire).

During the past fortnight or three weeks there has been very little doing by the boats engaged in salmon fishing on the river Ouse between the lock at Naburn and Selby. Indeed, the fishermen have returned almost every ebb up to a few days ago without a single catch, nor will matters improve much until we have some heavy downpour of rain to bring down fresh water from the hills, and on which the river is dependent for its purification. If rain does not soon come, the season will be one of the poorest experienced for some years past. From Newbray to Goole more favourable reports come to hand, but the catches on these fisheries are due to the use of the "bow" or "click" nets, and not to that of the long nets, as the present state of the river renders the latter almost useless. As has before been pointed out, this river is known as a late one, in fact, one of the latest salmon fishing rivers in the kingdom. This is to be accounted for by its great length, the distance from the spawning grounds to the sea being fully twice as great as that of any other fishing river. It is a well-known fact that the fish do not all get down to the feeding ground until some time after the season has commenced, and consequently these do not return until after the 30th August, which is the last day of the fishing season. The fishermen throughout the whole length of the river, with probably but one exception, are in favour of waiving two months at the opening of the season for a month's extension for closing; and this, they urge, can be done without any serious effect upon the future of the fisheries, as urged by the conservators at the inquiry held a year or two since by Mr. Walpole, the commissioner, who attended on behalf of the Home Office authorities. The feeling amongst the fishermen generally on the Ouse is that the extension must be granted them, and it is their intention to agitate the matter until something is done on their behalf. The granting of bow-net licenses to persons other than recognised fishermen is another great source of complaint amongst the latter, as in their case it is without doubt a great hardship; so much so, indeed, that many of them, owing to the unfavourable season, are unable to spare the means for both the long nets and the bow net. The greater number of persons taking out the latter cannot be recognised as fishermen, as it is only in seasons such as the present dry one, when the fish appear at the top of the water, that they venture to risk their £5 in a license. The question of an extension of the close time is also being agitated by the fishermen on the river Trent, and with combined action the men all along the two rivers are sanguine in the end that some accession will be granted them.—H. T. Gardiner.

### Severn (Shrewsbury).

Notwithstanding the lowness of the river, the banks have been well patronised by the local anglers. During the week I have seen several bottom fishers, but their takes have been generally small, ranging from two to half a dozen dace and roach. A friend of mine who fished the lower waters last week, caught a fine chub, weighing 4lb. He has been very successful during the season on the Uffington Ford, not having to leave, as a general rule, without having taken at least one trout. Mr. Morris, on Wednesday, visited the Verniew, and although the water was rather thick, he managed to get a good basket of fish; and had the misfortune to hook and lose a very good trout, after a long and hard tussle.—Severn Salmon.

### The Shannon (Castleconnel.)

Sport during the week has been bad owing to lowness of river and fish not being on the take, as is always the case at this time of year. Trout fishing is good, and some large baskets have been made.—John Enright and Son.

### South Level Cut (Littleport.)

The following is a list of the best takes for the past week: July 24th, Mr. F. Drew and Captain Ward, Cambridge, 10½lb. good roach in about three hours. July 26th, Sergt. B. Brashier, Littleport, 6½lb. roach; Mr. F. G. Tuck, New Barnes, Ely, 15lb. roach; Mr. J. Gallon, Newmarket, 3½lb. in 1½ hours; Mr. F. Drew, Cambridge, 4½lb.; Mr. Rostans, Newmarket, 4½lb. July 28th, Mr. and Mrs. N. Gurner, 8lb., nice roach; Mr. F. G. Tuck, New Barnes, 17lb. very good; Mr. H. Lea, Cambridge, 5½lb.; Mr. F. Drew, Cambridge, 14lb., largest 1lb.; Messrs. Ward, Scott, and Rutter, 14lb., largest fish taken by Mr. Ward, a perch of 18oz. July 29th, Messrs. T. Hone and G. Stevens, Cambridge, 18lb. good roach; Mr. H. Lea, Cambridge, 20lb; Master Fetch, Cambridge, 3½lb.; Messrs. Tillett, Trindal, and sons, 13lb.—Charlie South.

### Teme (Ludlow).

All the streams around here are in good condition for top or bottom fishing, and the waters have been pretty fairly patronised. For bottom fishing the wasp grub has proved a most attractive bait, and amateur fishermen have not been slow to avail themselves of it. Some good catches have been had up Leintwardine district; one gentleman, on Saturday, caught five brace of trout, two grayling, and some dace, with the whirling blue and black gnat. Lower down the Teme, at Bromfield, a gentleman, on Monday evening, used the wasp grub and landed fifteen trout, four perch, and one small eel. I saw a nice dish of fish on Tuesday night, which were caught (nearly at dusk) in the Castle Pound. Down Ashford and Steventon waters some very good fish have been caught; one gentleman caught a couple of perch which weighed 4lb. the couple. Up the Clun some good fish have been caught with the wasp grub. A well-known fisherman informed me that on Saturday evening in one hour he landed twelve trout, one eel, and two dace with the wasp grub from the Clun. Another gentleman, in the same water, on Tuesday, caught twenty-seven fish. Wasp grub is hawked about the streets of Ludlow remarkably cheap by a fisherman known by the name of "Old Humphries." Up the waters of the Ony (in the Onibury district) fishing has not been over brisk this week; some fine chub have been caught up these waters. Up the Corve the wasp grub has been very successful. We saw twelve very nice fish which were caught up that stream on the night of Tuesday. The Letwyche has not been much visited this week.—S. Ludlow.

### Teme (Tenbury).

There is but little difference in the state of this stream, it still keeping low, but in good order for the fly or bottom fishing. Some heavy storms of rain fell in this district at the beginning of the week, but they made but little difference to the colour of the water. The best flies on the water are the coachman, whirling blue, and black gnat. There has been some good sport had with the wasp grub and red worm, and some very good lots have been taken with them. In the water below the town a gentleman with the black gnat took a very good basket of trout and grayling. Fishing at dusk with the wasp grub, a gentleman landed a nice dish of trout. On Saturday the fish were rising well at the fly. A gentleman near Easton Court with the coachman took a splendid lot of trout, averaging ½lb. each. Some very good trout were landed below the bridge with the worm the same day. A gentleman tried the water above the bridge on Monday with the whirling blue, and took a very good basket of fine trout. In the evening a few very nice fish were taken with the worm. There was some very good sport had in the water below the town; one gentleman with the coachman and black gnat landed a very good dish of fine trout and grayling. Some very good-sized trout have been taken in the Association waters this week with the fly. The Kyre and Rea both keep in good fishing order, and the fish are taking the flies, and some very nice lots have been taken. A very nice dish of trout was taken in the Rea on Saturday, and a few trout were landed on Monday with the fly. Some very good trout were landed in the Kyre on Friday with the coachman, and some nice fish were taken with the wasp grub on Tuesday. The Ledwyche is in good fishing order, and a few very nice trout have been landed.—Worcester.

### Trent (Nottingham).

Whenever in our district we shall be blessed with a rise it is difficult to conjecture. Rain this week has fallen almost daily; but the wet, excepting a few inches, makes no difference to the height of the river, which remains as clear as when I last wrote. The barbel swims in the Holme Pierrepont (Colwick) length have again been baited, and Mr. H. Cooper, of the Waltonians, has captained five fish, whilst a friend has taken three or four. Plenty of eels continue to run, and in the lower districts flounders have afforded sport. Bream, though not in large quantities, have been killed at Weston, where recently the salmon have again been seen disporting themselves. The fact, however, remains that they will not be caught, pending what is urgently required—a big rise, so as to wash into the lower estuaries the vast accumulations of "flannel" weed. Mr. A. Price writes that in the canal at Hickling—fed by the Trent—an employé of Mr. T. Bissill, of Kinoulton Grange, has caught a remarkably fine carp, with the worm, of 6lb. 10oz. There are plenty of fish in this water, and permission to angle for the same may be obtained from Mr. Price, of the Plough Inn at the village named.—The Man at the Clubs.

### Trent (Newark).

I have been very busy this week, so have not had time to look round and see what has been done in the way of sport this last few days; anyhow, the water is in capital condition, and good sport should be had; chub should now come on, both at fly and wasp-grub; bream and barbel should bite at worms, and roach and dace can be taken with both gentles and paste. Thursday night: water in capital condition, and weather very much improved.—The Trent Otter.

### Trent (Lower).

Sport on the Trent is now very fair. The water improves; but still we could do with a flush, as some continue to complain of flannel weed and other obstructions. Whilst the present condition of things holds we may expect takes of bream when the anglers come across them. There are many well-known holes on the river, but strangers cannot always expect to drop into them. There are occasional barbel got hold of, but these are fast betaking themselves to their winter quarters. Eels are running and causing sport now and again, and the flounders are to be had freely from Torksey. Among the takers of flounders here may be mentioned Alfred Vickers, who got about 10lb. of them, and roach in the meadows there. The recent thunderstorms have affected the water but little.—Trace.

### Trent (Alrewas).

River slightly risen, but in good condition; weather much unsettled. Baskets of roach, during the past week, have been shown at the Pan and Pig, averaging 12 to 13lb. each; some very fine samples of the same scaling 1lb. 7oz. Good perch have been landed, using the dead minnow as bait. Members should avail themselves now the water is slightly coloured.

### Tweed (Berwick).

There has been a slight falling off in the number of salmon caught by the net fishers from some cause or other, though at the Crabwater there has been a decided improvement. This fishing is situated just within the pier, on the north side of the Tweed. Perhaps this may be taken as a sign of an approaching general improvement. Though the river is in fair condition, yet a flood would make a difference for the better in the catches. Salmon, grilse, and trout 1s. to 11d. per lb. The harbour is full of herring boats, with tugs in attendance on them.—J. J. Hills.

### Waveney (Beccles).

Roach have been well on the feed during the week, and many nice baskets have been taken. In our competition, Mr. J. Rouse had upwards of 7lb. of fish in four and a half hours' fishing; Mr. J. Hooker upwards of 6lb., and Mr. W. R. Buck also had upwards of 6lb., all takeable fish, over 7in. in length, and many of them weighing ½lb. and ¾lb. Mr. Holland captured a splendid rudd weighing 1lb. 9¼oz., a fine specimen of what kind of fish there are in the Waveney. Mr. W. Piper has also had some good catcees of bream and roach. I have not heard of much being done with the pike or perch, but to-day news reached me that a 17½lb. pike had been taken, spinning with the natural bait, but at present cannot speak as to the correctness of the report. Wind at present rather unfavourable, being due east, but water in good condition.—A Waveney Angler.

### The Wharfe (Yorkshire).

During the past week the atmosphere has been very heavy and oppressive, consequently the fish have risen "short," as is usually the case when thunder is hanging about. Saturday was a very wet, miserable kind of day, but the water was in nice condition, and I caught eight trout, a couple of them weighing ¾lb. each; stone bloa, small red ant, and the black midge have answered best so far as my own experience goes. On Tuesday evening, just before dark, the river was completely alive with rising trout, some of them very large ones. What they were taking I could not ascertain: but I fancy it was a minute spinner, the image of one of the pale duns now so strongly on the water. The grayling have not yet commenced to rise freely, and I am not at all sorry, for I consider that if the close time was extended to August 15 it would give this beautiful fish a far better chance of getting into condition. The Kirkstall Angling Club held their annual fishing match at Tadcaster last Saturday; the fish were well on the feed, and good catches were the result. On the Monday one of the members caught a splendid dish of dace and roach, weighing, I believe, close upon 14lb. This also was at Tadcaster.—Francis M. Walbran.

### Witham (Dogdyke).

We continue to be favoured with the presence of many of our angling friends, some of whom have done very well indeed, getting from 14 to 28lb. each for a day's sport. Roach, perch, and eels are now well on the feed, We heard the other day of one fisherman catching a fine trout weighing 7lb.—Packet Hotel, Dogdyke.

### Witham.

A rare lot of fish have been taken from the Witham this week, and the different stations along the riverside have had many visitors. Tattershall and Kirkstead have been particularly well patronised. Bream, roach, perch, and other fish are being caught very freely. Among the best takes at the former place may be mentioned 32lb. of bream and roach, by A. Crofts, of Sheffield, whilst Wilford Crofts in the same water caught 16lb. of roach along with a few perch. More dace have been taken in the neighbourhood of Dogdyke, whilst at Kirkstead, Mr. Darwin showed 29lb. 5½oz. of bream and roach, one of the former scaling 2lb. A take of 19lb. of bream and roach was placed to the credit of J. Wilson, and 18lb. to that of T. Brown. Both these anglers hailed from Sheffield, as did also an angler named Arnold who managed to land 28lb. of roach and bream from a point about half-way between Stixwold and Kirkstead.—The Yellow Belly.

### Wye and Derwent.

On Saturday last there was a greal deal of thunder, and rain fell all over Derbyshire, which discoloured both rivers a little ; in fact, the Derwent has had a beautiful nut-brown colour on it the whole of the week. A very killing water and good sport has been had up and down the Derwent, both with trolling, bottom, and fly fishing ; and baskets up to ten brace per angler have been made. The largest baskets have come off the Darley Dale Club waters, the fish being killed mostly by bottom fishing with wasp grubs and maggots for baits. The small honey dun bumble, ash dun, and little black gnat, and sand flies have all taken fish during the week off both the Wye and Derwent. Sport on the ponds has been first-class both with the bottom and fly fishing, and large baskets have been killed. The night line party have taken some large eels up the Derwent between Darley and Matlock Bath, some of the fish being nearly 4lb. each. Weather very close and hot.—Geo. Jas. Eaton.

### The Yare (Norwich).

Reports from all the fishing stations on this river are as encouraging as it is possible to be. At Cantley some very fine bream have been taken, as well as some good roach. Buckenham Ferry seems again to be to the front, as the chief clubs have again decided on this spot. At the annual match of the Champion Angling Club, 22 of the members caught nearly 17st. of roach. The weather, although now and then threatening rain, has been just the right thing for angling. On the match-day a gentleman from Norwich, fishing with Professor Day, caught a very fine lot of roach, weighing upwards of 30lb. The river all down from Norwich now seems alive with fish; both roach and bream. At Brundall, reports are nearly as good, but I do not get so well informed as in the case of Buckenham ; still, visitors staying on our coast, and wishing for a few days' sport, may make sure now at almost any of the three places I have mentioned. If they prefer bream, they had better go to Cantley and row down to Hardley Dyke. If they fancy roach, I would strongly recommend Buckenham Ferry or Brundall ; the latter place is very handy for the boat station, if only a day's angling is in view, as Messrs. Flowers' boating and yachting station adjoins the station ; but at Host Brown, Coldham Hall, every attention is bestowed on visitors, and very good accommodation afforded. The catches all the way down vary from 2st. to 4st. per boat, fishing only the middle of the day. Now would be the time for a sensational catch, if someone would start at daybreak and fish until sunset. I have had several letters from gentlemen intending to visit these rivers, and I shall still be pleased to answer any that wish for information about any waters in the Eastern Counties. Prospects never better.—Robert Moll.

### THE DEE, DON, FEUGH, UGIE, EBRIE, &c. (ABERDEENSHIRE).

At present fishing for salmon is less inviting than fishing for trout. On the Dee fish are slow to take. In the lower waters they are scarce, but from Aboyne upwards they are still plentiful. About Banchory the following takes have been reported since our last notice :—Blackhall Castle water, Mr. Frank Farquharson, one grilse ; Riverston water, Wm. Dawson, one grilse ; Invery water, A. Wright, keeper, one grilse ; Crathes, no report ; Woodend, Cairnton, and Invercannie, Mr. W. Farnell Watson, one salmon, one grilse, one sea trout. The Dee is in beautiful angling order just now.

In the Kincardine O'Neil district the sport, we hear, is improving, but no report in confirmation of this has been received from our correspondents in that quarter.

A little is doing at Aboyne. The pools there seem to be well stocked with fish. Colonel Keen is having some sport almost every day. The flies being used are small. To those living in the hotel the fishings attached to the "Huntly Arms" (five miles of tip-top river) is free till the end of August. Fish on the hotel water are being got regularly. The water is streamy and pleasant. On the Cambus O'May and Glen Tana reaches a few fish are got weekly.

The Invercauld private Dee water at Braemar is always showing good sport when tried. A fish or two are landed from the hotel waters there occasionally. The Invercauld Arms water at Ballater is now open to those staying at the hotel—eight miles of splendid water—suitable to all tastes. Fish are plentiful, and when out from the hotel, gentlemen are usually successful. Mr. George Smith, saddler and tackle-maker, Ballater, reports that on this reach Mr. Sturton had one fish 8lb. on Saturday ; Mr. McKinnon, Monday, one sea trout, 3lb. One very fine fish was landed on Wednesday. Monaltrie water, Saturday, Tom Kinnaird, one fish, 8lb. ; George Morton, Cambus o'May, Friday, one fish, 7½lb. ; Tom Grant, keeper to Kintril, landed one fish, 15lb., on the Pananinch Section on Thursday. Some very good baskets of trout are got every day. The following lets for the autumn fishing are recorded :—Carlogie, Admiral Farquhar ; Borrowstone, Walter Evans, Esq., Derby ; Norton House, Wm. Lamond, Esq. ; Kineskie, Jas. White, Esq., of Overtown ; Crathes, General Kane ; Knappach, Col. Flamstead ; Durris, Wm. Knowles, Esq., banker, London ; Park, S. L. Scheuster, Esq. ; Glen Tana, W. Cunliffe Brooks, Esq., M.P. ; Cambus o'May, H. L. Gaskell, Esq.

The Don is at present affording fine sport. The recent rains have helped matters a good deal. On the Parkhill beat, Mr. Muirhead Aitken, barrister, and Mr. Brown, of Orchards, are getting first-rate sport. At Kintore, on the open water, Mr. Phillips and others are doing fairly well. Some good takes are had about Inverurie. At Alford, on the hotel's sections, the lakes are encouraging. Inverkindie Hotel water is in fine ply, and the trout rising freely. Farther up the Don the sport is immensely good.

Heavy trout are being had occasionally on a few of the Urie sections. The Feugh, Aan, and Dye, particularly the first and last-named, are not doing so well this year as usual. Baskets from six to twelve dozen have been got at times on the Aan this season.

Trouting is encouraging along the greater part of the Ythan. Sea trout and finnock have begun to run, though as yet to no great extent. Between Fyvie and Methlick the best sport is perhaps being had. The Ebrie is still continuing to maintain its reputation as a trout-producing stream. Mr. Mackenzie, of Aberdeen, and the Rev. Mr. Mintz are having heavy catches when out. The Cairnbanno Burn and the Little Water of Light are declining somewhat.

V. Twining, Esq., and Mr. Jameson are basketing some splendid sea trout at Strathbeg Loch.

The angling clubs from Peterhead are not doing much on the Ugie at present. Dark brook trout this year are very abundant in the Gonar, Strichen Water, and North Ugie, and some heavy takes with the Professor and red hackel have resulted. About Hythie the trout are showing very well indeed.

"Finnock" are again beginning to take in the tidal waters of the Dee, Don, and Ythan. An occasional good capture was had in the Dee last week.

The Culter Burn is over-fished, and the average per angler is consequently small. The Tana is in fine volume, and the trout got in it by Mr. Brooks' permits good, numerous, and of fine quality.

The Sheoch has been little fished this summer, but it appears well stocked with goodly-sized trout. Several gentlemen have lately fished the Beltie, and had much success. The Crathes Burn has produced some fine trout this year, of which a few, about a pound weight, fell to a Granite City angler.

The Muick and Gairn are doing indifferently, the Clunie pretty well, and the higher streams better.

There is yet little improvenent as regards the Deveron. The silting up at its mouth is not yet cleared away, and as a natural result no salmon are getting up, Trouting on it, the Bogie, Kirkney, and Mossat are good.

Our little "Blue Charm" is *facile princeps* the best Dee fly at present. Weather pretty dull in the main, cold somewhat, and wind shifty. W. M.

## CLUB REPORTS.

### AMICABLE BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

On the 27th ult., Mr. Moir, roach and bream from Dagenham ; Mr. Dwelly, roach, perch, and bream. Mr. Partrick, bream, roach, and dace. Mr. Partrick won Mr. Marshall's prize for the gross weight of fish during the month. Members are requested to sign the book for the pegged-down match at Dagenham, on Wednesday, August 6th. We start from the club house on the 2nd August, at 12 o'clock p.m., and commence fishing at 4 o'clock a.m. next day.—J. Worledge, sec.

### BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT AMALGAMATED ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

Angling is going on briskly among the members of the above club, and some good catches have been reported, two members of the West-End Club taking 60lb. of roach and bream at Westwood. Mr. Thomas Coles, our president, took 10lb. of roach and bream in Orford Brook at Fearnall Heath. I should like to remind the Birmingham anglers that the Severn licenses cover Orford Brook, and these can be obtained at 1s. each at the Old Green Man, Lancaster-street, Birmingham. I think if it was better known how much water can be fished with these shilling licenses, a great many more would be taken up ; and I would advise the anglers of Birmingham to call at the above house and examine the map of the Severn fishery district, kindly sent there by Mr. Stallard, clerk to the Severn Conservators Board.—James T. Allen, hon. sec.

### BROMPTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

Not many shows up. On the 23rd ult., Mr. Ducker, bream. On the 27th ult., Mr. Dutton, roach and bream ; Mr. C. Saunders, bream ; and Mr. E. Saunders, bream. Mr. Editor, I am very much surprised at Mr. Hillier's reply to my question. I should have thought it was his duty to the anglers in general to contradict a statement he knew to be false, given, as it was, to decoy them to spend their money, as many did. I hope Mr. Hillier's recollection will enable him to remember that there were several club members present when his friend produced the report cut from the journal, and also heard the remarks passed on the same by both parties.—W. Dutton, sec.

### BURDETT ANGLING SOCIETY.

We have had fair shows of fish at this club during the past three weeks, the following members having weighed in on the 13th ult. :—Mr. Hadkiss, 13lb. 4oz. bream ; Mr. Shervill, 15¼oz. tench ; Mr. Eaton, 1lb. 3¾oz. roach ; Mr. Brook, 1lb. 1oz. roach ; Mr. Britt, 4¼oz. roach, and 2¾oz. dace. On the 20th, Mr. Reeves, 4lb. 14oz. chub ; Mr. Wilson, 8½oz. roach ; Mr. Searle, 1lb. 11½oz. tench ; Mr. Hadkiss, 6lb. 12¾oz. bream, and 15¼oz. roach ; Mr. Smith, 4lb. 7oz. roach, and 4¾oz. dace. On the 27th, Mr. Smith, 3lb. 10½oz. roach ; Mr. Eaton, 1lb. 6oz. roach.—T. G. Walker.

### CHAMPION ANGLING CLUB (NORWICH).

The annual match of this club was held on Tuesday at Buckenham Ferry. The members assembled at their head-quarters at half-past six in the morning, and were conveyed by the Norwich Omnibus Company to their destination. The journey was accompanied with a downpour of drizzling rain, which made it very disagreeable, but on arrival at the fishing station the weather cleared ; a fine, though dull, day ensued, the wind, which at starting had been south, veered round to N.E. and N.W., gradually settling into N.E. The 22 competitors started for the struggle at 9.30, and at 10 o'clock sharp they were to commence, as they had the choice of three miles or more of water. I expect some were hardly ready by that time ; still, from what I can gather, they all found their favourite spots and commenced the slaughter as quickly after 10 o'clock as possible, and, I am happy to record, it was one of the grandest roach days I ever remember, especially on a match day, as they are usually noted for the smallness of the individual catches. Between 6 and 7 o'clock the boats all arrived at Host Garrett's, and the weighing in took place with the following result : 1st prize (challenge cup, value £25) and piece of plate, Mr. G. G. Whincop, 30lb. ; 2nd, R. Moll, 28lb. 11oz. ; 3rd, Mr. Goreham, 20lb. 7oz. ; 4th, Mr. Spratt, 18lb. 4oz. ; 5th, J. Rice, 16lb. 15oz. ; 6th, T. J. Hook, 16lb. ; 7th, T. J. Lapthorne, 15lb. 10oz. ; 8th, G. Daniels, 14lb. ; 9th, J. Youngs, 13lb. 6oz. ; 10th, W. Chettleburgh, 11lb. 6oz. ; 11th, Mr. Wells, 10lb. 8oz. ; 12th, Mr. Sidell, 9lb. 13oz. ; 13th, T. F. Howitt, 7lb. 8oz. ; 14th, Mr. Skinner, 7lb. 4oz. ; 15th, Mr. Jeffries, 6lb. 12oz. The total catch was 16 stone 8lb. 6oz., which, I believe, is one of the largest, if not the largest, catches ever known at a match, considering that nearly all were roach ; only a very few flats were amongst the take. After the declaration of prize winners, the members partook of a capital spread, which Hostess Garrett knows so well how to provide, and the health of the cup winner was proposed and responded to.—R. M.

### CITY OF LONDON ANGLING SOCIETY.

We had a poor show of fish on the 27th ult. Mr. Chambers, bream, roach, and dace, from Amberley ; Mr. Nitz, bream, 1lb. 10oz., from the Welsh Harp ; and Mr. Castell, bream, 1lb. 4oz., from the Harp ; Mr. G. Blackwell, a few roach from the canal at Brentford.—Cas.

### CLAPTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The weekly meeting of this society was held on Monday last, Mr. Colls occupying the chair. The minutes of the last meeting were signed. The weighing in of a handsome perch, 1lb. 15oz., was reported as taken by Mr. Colls ; Mr. Soundy, dace and perch, from the society's water at Tottenham ; and Mr. Beck reported being broken away, whilst fly fishing there, by a heavy chub. This gentleman had some splendid dace and chub from Waltham ; several other members reported small catches. Satisfaction was expressed that so many members of the Clapton attended the Fishing Gazette Tournament at the Welsh Harp on Saturday last, and regret was expressed that the unfavourable state of the weather precluded much enjoyment on that occasion. Seven new members were elected, and a cordial vote of thanks was accorded to the chairman.—Henry Howse, hon. sec.

### COBDEN ANGLING SOCIETY.

A large number of our members were out on the 27th ult., and those that had the courage to face the weather were well rewarded. There was a beautiful display of fish at the Society's room in the evening, consisting of bream, roach, dace, and perch. Mr. W. Jenkins caught some very nice bream at the Welsh Harp, one of them scaling just over 3lb. ; Mr. Tucker also took several large bream from the same place ; Mr. Stead weighed in a beautiful lot of roach, some of them being over 1lb. ; Mr. Sharland also weighed in a nice lot of roach, dace, and perch from the Thames ; Mr. Hammons had a similar lot of roach to those weighed in by Mr. Stead, but not quite so heavy ; Messrs. Andrews, Hallowes, and several other members also weighed in some very nice fish, the total weight being nearly 50lb.—C. Reeves, sec.

### THE CROWN AND BUCKLAND UNITED PISCATORIAL CLUB.

The Crown Piscatorials and the Buckland Angling Society have amalgamated and have adopted the above name. The club house is the Middlesex Arms, Clerkenwell-green. Members are particularly requested to attend next Wednesday evening at nine o'clock, for the purpose of electing all new officers, &c.—W. H. Burwash, jun.

### EASTERN COUNTIES ANGLING SOCIETY.

A large and influential meeting in connection with this newly-formed society was held in the Duke's Head Hotel, Quay, Great Yarmouth, on Thursday evening, the 24th ult., for the purpose of electing officers and enrolling members. For the ensuing twelve months Dr. Alexander Mitchell was elected president; Thomas Freeman, Esq., vice-president; E. J. Bonfellow, Esq., chairman; Messrs. John Lee and B. Seaman, honorary secretaries; Messrs. Bonfellow and Archard, auditors. The following gentlemen were appointed as a committee of management, viz.:—The president, vice-president, chairman, secretaries, auditors, and Messrs. Crowther, Bacon, Lowne, Hannant, and Bond. A meeting of this committee was held on Tuesday evening, the 29th ult., for the purpose of examining into, and, if necessary, revising, certain rules suggested by the president for the future guidance of the society. Many gentlemen were enrolled, and amongst them we notice the names of the Rev. T. Williams, J. McKinlay, Esq., M.D., Mr. D. S. Bayfield, &c. Fish in this district are now well on the feed, and several good catches have been weighed in during the week. Messrs. Mitchell and Freeman weighed in one catch amounting to 50lb., all bream, many of them scaling well over 2lb. Since the recent rains the Broads have been simply in excellent condition.

### EDMONTON AND TOTTENHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

The above club had a very fine show of fish again on July 27th, the following members weighing in:—Mr. F. Fowler, roach; Mr. G. Crane, trout, dace, and roach—he also had a nice eel going 2¾lb.; Mr. O. Wade, roach and dace; Mr. Warner, roach and dace; Mr. F. A. Gray, roach and dace; Mr. J. Collyer, roach.—F. Gray, sec.

### FITZROY ANGLING SOCIETY.

The following members were out on the 27th ult.:—Mr. Mitchell, with roach and dace; Mr. King, with roach and dace; Mr. Ramsley, with roach, dace, and chub; Mr. Streetham, with bream. Mr. Kemp's prize of a water mill was fished for at Shiplake on the 27th ult., and won by Mr. A. Ensberg, of the Golden Barble; Mr. Henri second, and Mr. Trowbridge third, of the same club. Mr. Kemp and Mr. Ramsley were out on Tuesday, and caught 20lb. of dace with Mr. Wheeler, of Richmond.—G. A. Harris, sec.

### GLOBE ANGLING SOCIETY.

On the 27th ult., the following members weighed in fish from Amberley:—Messrs. H. Jeffries, G. Jeffries, J. Ballard, G. Brown, L. Harrington, and C. Ellis, the first-named winning the treasurer's prize with 9lb. 3oz. Members will please to note, if they wish to stay at Pulborough or Amberley till the Bank Holiday (Monday), they can do so by paying one shilling extra at the booking office at London Bridge at starting.—J. J. Holmes, sec.

### GOLDEN BARBEL.

Messrs. Green, Allen, Stanton, and Whitehead had some nice fish from Sussex, mostly roach; Mr. Whitehead had one that turned the scale at 1lb. 9oz.; Mr. Green had the next largest, 1lb. 7oz.; J. Stanton had bream from the Harp.—Pixie.

### GREAT NORTHERN BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

On July 20th, a considerable number of the members went by road to Dagenham Lake to fish for four prizes. A most enjoyable day was spent. Mr. Hewitt, 1st, 5lb. 15oz.; Mr. Page, 2nd, 2lb. 5oz.; Mr. C. Watling, sen., 3rd, 2lb. 1oz.; Mr. F. Watling, 4th, 2lb.; Messrs. Keys, S. Baker, G. Watling, and King also weighed fish. From Amberley, Mr. J. A. Fitch, 5lb.; Mr. Theobald, 4lb. 4oz.; Mr. J. K. Fitch, 9lb. 2oz. roach and dace. From Welsh Harp, Mr. Stammers, 5lb. 11oz.; Mr. Juker, 1lb. 15oz. On the 27th inst., from Amberley, Mr. G. Watling, 8lb. 8oz.; Mr. S. Baker, 2lb. 8oz.; Mr. Cooper, sen., 4lb. 5oz.; Mr. J. Hewitt, 5lb. 11oz.; Mr. Juker, 6lb. 8oz. From the Thames, Mr. F. Watling, 8lb. 8oz., nice roach; and Mr. C. Watling, sen., 5lb. 1oz.; Messrs. Theobald, Stammer, and E. Smith also had fish.—J. Fitch, sec.

### GOOD INTENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

There was a good show of bream, roach, and perch brought in by Mr. Holmes on the 27th ult. Our annual dinner will take place at the Rye House on August 25th. Chairman, P. Geen, Esq.; vice ditto, H. J. Tibbatts. The members are getting up walking and running matches for that occasion. I will give more particulars next week. There will be a handsome four-horse brake start from the club-house at 9 p.m. on that day; all members desiring to go by it must give in their names at once. At the Fisheries Society Meeting on Monday last, some of the committee had to leave the room, as the Amalgamation disagreed with them; I hope they have recovered by this. The Welsh Harp Tournament.—Peg-down match, only eight entered, Messrs. Bowdell, Grant, Spencely, Gadbury, Maybury, Osborn, Dodd, and Manow; the winners being Maybury, 1st; Osborn, 2nd; Gadbury, 3rd; Manow, 4th; the first and third being members of the Good Intent. The Go-as-you-please match, only four entered; but as I gave my notes to a gentleman to copy, and not returned, I cannot give the name of the first man, but will do so next week. Mr. Osborn was 2nd, Mr. Castell 3rd, and Mr. Manow 4th. The winner's time for the two miles and a half was 21 minutes, the others close up.—R. Murphy.

### GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

The ordinary weekly meeting of the above society was held on Tuesday evening at the Masons' Hall Tavern, Masons'-avenue, Basinghall-street. The chair was taken by Mr. Chambers, and there was an exceedingly good attendance of members and visitors. The minutes having been read and confirmed, several letters were read, and the routine business disposed of. Notice was received from the Central Association that the next Delegate Meeting would be held on the 1st prox. A letter was read from Mr. Godwin (hon. solicitor) reporting the progress of negotiations for a piece of water. At the suggestion of the chairman, the subject was deferred to the next meeting, when it is hoped a still larger number of members will be present, and the subject will then be thoroughly discussed. Mr. Crumplen gave an interesting account of the Tournament at Welsh Harp in aid of the Anglers' Benevolent Fund. It is to be regretted that the weather was so unfavourable, as the assistance of so deserving a charity was the object of the meeting. During the evening some very fine fish were weighed in, Mr. Oscar Warren taking Mr. Crumplen's prize with an especially fine barbel of 6lb. 4oz. Mr. Warren had several other remarkably good specimens of the same fish, and Mr. G. H. Young had an exceedingly handsome tray of roach, eight of them scaling 81¼oz., or an average of nearly 10¼oz. each. The largest was a fine specimen, and carried down 16½oz. The toast of "The Successful Anglers" was duly honoured, and Mr. Warren, in replying, expressed his pleasure in being able to weigh in such fish, and his thanks to Mr. Crumplen for the prize. He also proposed for membership a friend, Mr. Charles King, whom he said had been induced to take up fishing and join an angling society by witnessing him capture his prize fish. Mr. King will, in accordance with the by-laws, be balloted for on the 12th August. Mr. Thomas, who has just returned from a three weeks' holiday in the North, gave a very fine account of the fishing in Sutherlandshire. In eight days, and with one rod only, he had succeeded in capturing 310lb. of splendid trout. He strongly recommended Sutherlandshire lochs to any London angler desirous of obtaining a fortnight's capital sport. Plenty of free fishing could be obtained in waters literally teeming with fish; indeed, to such an extent that the angler would tire of taking them. The hotel accommodation was remarkably good and the charges particularly moderate. In conclusion, he recommended any angler in search of a fortnight's splendid sport to pay a visit to the places he had been to, and expressed his willingness to afford any information in his power to any member of the Gresham contemplating a trip in this direction. A vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Thomas for his pleasing account; and in replying, Mr. Thomas expressed the pleasure it would give him to read a paper on the subject, an offer which was accepted with thanks. Mr. Harding relieved Mr. Chambers of the duties of the chair during the later part of the evening. Under his guidance, a very pleasant "after part" was spent, and the meeting brought to a close with votes of thanks to each of the gentlemen who had so ably presided over it. The barbel competition (being the second in the society's list for the year) takes place on Tuesday next. A keen competition is expected, as several of the best rodsters of the society have intimated their intention of taking part in it.—H.

### HIGHBURY ANGLING SOCIETY.

There was a capital display of jack, roach, bream, barbel, chub, and gudgeon in our trays on the 27th inst., and among the most successful may be mentioned Mr. Lewis, Mr. Shipley, and Mr. Howell, jun. We have several valuable prizes to be angled for Bank Holiday, including the previous day, both days to be included as one weighing, and the result is being looked forward to with great interest. Will you permit me to acknowledge through your journal the receipt of a very handsome specimen bream from C. Harcourt, Esq., taken by him at Hampton on the 27th inst., scaling 6¾lb., which he has kindly presented to the society, and is now in the hands of Mr. Saunders for preservation.—J. E. Wheatley, sec.

### HEARTS OF OAK ANGLING SOCIETY.

We had some nice shows of fish on the 27th ult., Mr. R. Ford filling up one of the largest trays with bream and roach; Messrs. A. Fish, Walford, Pleydell, jun., Glover, and Layton showing roach, and Mr. Rider, perch.—C. J. Millie, sec.

### INDEPENDENT JOVIAL ANGLING SOCIETY.

Several of our members were out on the 27th. F. Conroy, two barbel weighing 5¼lb., together with some dace; H. Cann, some fine dace and two barbel; D. Keep, roach and dace, and one barbel.—C. Smart, sec.

### INDEPENDENT BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

Our members were well rewarded for their labour on the 27th ult. with a capital show of dace, roach, perch, and bream. We also hope for a better next Monday, as all have the allowance of an extra day.—H. Moore, sec.

### IZAAK WALTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

Mr. G. P. Rolt has been well amongst the bream and roach this week, having weighed in 31lb. 13oz.; Mr. G. Rolt, 11lb. 8½oz. of ditto; Mr. W. Wilkinson, 3lb. 6¼oz. of the same kind; Messrs. Bass and Butt had roach on the 27th ult.—H. B.

### KIRKSTALL ANGLING CLUB.

Saturday last was a red letter day with our members, as it was our 10th annual competition. We had played a cricket match the week previous to augment our prize list, Old versus Young, the latter winning by eight runs, showing they can defend their wickets as well as land a fish. On Saturday 46 members entered to compete for a lot of valuable prizes. A beautiful 15 miles' drive brought us to our old trysting place, Tadcaster, where Mr. Smith kindly allows us to fish in the River Wharfe. Here we found a very fair water, rather too dark if anything. After partaking of refreshment a start was made. After three hours' fishing we found 35 had killed fish, 28lb. 10oz. in all. A few hours' harmony at our host's, Mr. Hodgson's Railway Hotel, and a drive home brought a very agreeable day's sport to a close. List of winners:—1st prize, A. Miller, 3lb. 4oz.; 2nd, J. Wright, 2lb. 1¾oz.; 3rd, F. Myers, 2lb. 1¼oz.; 4th, J. Cook, 1lb. 13oz.; 5th, J. Annal, 1lb. 11½oz.; 6th, W. Lofthouse, 1lb. 11¼oz.; 7th, F. Chadwick, 1lb. 11oz.; 8th, Jos. Walker, 1lb. 6oz.; 9th, E. Mountain, 1lb. 5½oz.; 10th, W. Peate, 1lb. 3oz.; 11th, J. Armitage, 1lb. 1¼oz.; 12th, S. White, 15oz. On Monday one of our members, G. Scarbro, went to try the Wharfe where we had fished the match on Saturday, and after three hours fishing he had caught a splendid lot of roach and dace, 14lb., a very fine lot.—Thomas Booth, sec.

### LIVERPOOL ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

Over 30 of our members fished in the lake at Combermere Abbey, on the 24th ult. We travelled to Wrenbury in one of the L. and N. W.'s saloon carriages, and had a fairly pleasant journey. On our arrival, however, it commenced to rain heavily, and during the whole day rain squalls were almost incessant, whilst the thunder rolled about on every side, and the consequence was an almost total eclipse of our best talent and a complete failure so far as taking fish was concerned. Only two out of five prizes were won by Messrs. Harrison and Ellinger, and this surely was bad enough considering the preparations that had been made, and the anticipations indulged in, by the competitors. Well, better luck on Monday next, when we fish in the River Vyrnwy, at Llanymynech, for prizes. This river can always be depended upon for more or less sport, and as it is well stocked with both fine and coarse fish, every class of angler is suited.—R. Woolfall, hon. sec.

### NORTH-WESTERN ANGLING SOCIETY.

On the 27th ult. the trays again looked well, and the following members weighed in fish:—Messrs. Underwood, Marshall, Grindley, and Hillier bream; Mr. Underwood's being a beautiful lot, weighing 35lb. Mr. Aldis got among the roach; one a real picture, weighed 1lb. 12oz. E. Cross showed jack and roach, and W. Roxbie roach and dace.—W. Hillier, sec.

### ORIGINAL CLERKENWELL PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

Very few fish have come to the scale of late. On the 20th. Mr. Roberts, 1lb. 15oz. of dace; Mr. Richardson, perch and bream, 2lb. 15oz.; Laundy, bream. On the 27th, Mr. Roberts, roach and dace, 5lb. 15oz.; Mr. Obbard, chub and roach, 4lb. 8oz.; Richardson, 1lb. roach; Mr. Laundy, 12oz. Members are requested to attend on August 11th, when all contributions must be paid. All communications to the above society should be addressed: Secretary, care of Mr. Birk, the Three Kings, Clerkenwell-close. J. Obbard, sec.

### PECKHAM BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

The match fished at Amberley on the 27th ult. had the following result:—W. Gardham, J. Gafney, F. Beard, and W. H. Page, finishing in the order named. A match for a number of club prizes will be fished at Pulborough on the 3rd. All members are informed that by paying an extra shilling at the booking-office when they get their railway ticket they can return on Monday. The South London United visit to this society will take place on Monday, Aug. 25th.—Gadfly.

### RODNEY PISCATORIALS.

Our worthy host, Mr. T. Hughes, is having a turn among the roach and dace at one of his favourite places, just to keep his hand in. On the 27th ult. he exhibited a very nice lot of roach, many of them turning the scale 1lb. 6oz. On the same day Mr. R. Smith had some sport among the chub in the upper Thames, but he failed to grass any, his tackle being too fine and not strong enough to hold some of the beauties he had to deal with. He managed to get a few roach and dace. Messrs. Chantry and C. and A. Grant visited Mr. Hoole's district, where they managed to get some roach, dace, and eels. Mr. G. Dodd visited the Harp in search of bream. Members are informed that the next South London United visit will go to the Peckham Brothers, the Prince Albert, East Surrey Grove, Peckham, on the 25th inst. I am requested by the committee of the Rodney Piscatorials to inform the members of that society that their presence is required on Wednesday next to decide the where and how the next monthly competition shall take place.—Pixie.

### THE PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

On the present occasion this report is from memory, as I have unfortunately mislaid the notes taken by me at the meeting. Mr. Adlington, chairman. There was a good attendance of members present to witness the result of the barbel competition, open to be fished for in any public water, the minimum size allowed to be weighed in being 2lb. The efforts of those members who competed were devoted to the Thames, and Messrs. Blamey and Beasley gained 1st and 2nd prizes respectively. The tables were well filled with trays of fish, principally barbel, there also being chub and roach. Mr. Blamey showed nearly 40lb. from Richmond; he also took many others nearly up to the 2lb. standard, the principal part of the same being returned to the water. Mr. Beasley, fishing at Maidenhead, had the honour of gaining the second prize, and the largest fish of the competition; also showed some chub. Mr. Huggett, also at Maidenhead, captured barbel and chub; early in the evening it was thought he had gained the second prize, but Mr. Beasley showed up later on, beating him by 5oz. Mr. Meyer weighed in barbel from Shepperton, and Mr. Lemann a tray of nice chub. The healths of Messrs. Blamey and Beasley were proposed as the successful anglers. Mr. Blamey, replying, graphically described his day's sport, and sat down amidst the loud cheers of those present. The result of the competition proves the statement made at our summer dinner—viz., that the Thames Angling Preservation Society had well stocked their portion of the river. Mr. H. H. Brown and other of our members visited the Tournament and said, that although the attendance was poor, the castings, both with fly and weight, were exceedingly good, some of the distances cast being wonderful. Rev. G. Sumner gave his opinion that long casting was very often prejudicial, and that many persons acquired the habit of long casting and thereby lost efficiency. The discussion was also continued by the chairman, Mr. Goodger, and others. The chairman, in a few appropriate remarks, announced the death of one of the oldest members of the society, Mr. J. Mann, and proposed a vote of condolence to the deceased's relatives, which was unanimously approved, and the hon. sec. requested to write same. "Continued Success of the Piscatorial Society" and "The Health of the Chairman" brought the first of our competitions to a close.—T. H.

### SMETHWICK ANGLING CLUB.

On the 26th ult. Messrs. Guy and Lynch, roach, dace, and perch. On the 29th ult., Messrs. Godfrey and Keen, roach and perch.—Thos. Bannister, hon. sec.

### STOKE NEWINGTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The fourth annual dinner takes place at the Pied Bull, St. Margaret's, Herts, on August 10th. Members and friends intending to be present, please give notice to the secretary not later than Wednesday, August 6th, this being quarterly night.—Thos. Gretton, sec.

### UNITED BROTHERS, DEPTFORD.

Several of our members were out on the 27th, and I must say had some nice takes of bream and roach. Mr. J. Payne weighed in 9lb. 10¼oz. of bream from Weybridge; Mr. Beak, 6lb. 13oz. of roach from Pulborough; Mr. Belton, 4lb. 1¾oz. of roach and bream from Pulborough; J. Currans, 1lb. 11¼oz. of roach and bream from Pulborough; F. Watts, 7¼oz. of "faries" from Dagenham.—H. T.

### WALTONIANS.

July 27th: Mr. Roland, roach, 7lb. 12¾oz.; Mr. J. Dodge, roach, 3lb. 13oz.; Mr. Juker, roach, 3lb. 10oz.; Mr. Clarkson, 2lb. 12oz.; Mr. Rushbrook and Mr. Morgan also weighed in fish.

### WALWORTH PISCATORIALS.

The members of the above society met at Sawbridgeworth, on the 27th ult., the result being Mr. Delhaye, sen., 1st; Mr. Bedford, 2nd; Mr. Delhaye, jun., and Mr. Griffin, dead heat; Messrs. Piolaine and Cain also had fish. In consequence of the wind and rain the takes of fish were small, eight members only competing. Since last report Messrs. S. J. Weatherhead, C. A. Beckett, Delhaye, sen., J. Boalch, and T. Gilbert weighed barbel and dace from Richmond, weight about 59lb., the greatest weight falling to Mr. Weatherhead—namely, about 24lb. in two takes.—J. Boalch, sec.

### WOOLWICH INVICTA ANGLING SOCIETY.

The annual dinner of the above society, which had been unavoidably postponed from the 11th June last, took place on Thursday evening, the 24th July, at the Golden Marine, Woolwich. The chair was taken by Mr. F. Latham, faced by Mr. J. Perry; and after the usual loyal and patriotic toasts had been given, Mr. C. Jolly proceeded to award the prizes to the successful competitors. The 1st prize was taken by Mr. G. Pycroft; the 2nd, C. Foster; 3rd, F. Latham; 4th, G. Knight; the remaining prizes being taken by Messrs. J. Perry, C. Jones, G. Walker, J. King, H. Gardner, and Jenner. Prizes for largest fish were taken by Mr. G. Knight, chub; Mr. J. Perry, perch; Mr. F. Latham, roach; Mr. F. Latham, bream; Messrs. F. Latham and C. Foster, dace. Messrs. Latham and Foster tied for the dace prize, after a most spirited competition by all the members. After the thanks of the members had been given to the donors of last season, a new prize list was opened, which was heartily responded to by the members and their friends, a handsome list of prizes being thus furnished for the ensuing campaign with the finny tribe. The health of the visitors was then drank, and responded to by Messrs. Levitt, Ray, and Lomas, &c; and a vote of thanks awarded to our worthy host, Mr. W. Davis, for the excellent dinner he had provided. The remainder of the evening was devoted to harmony.—F. Latham, hon. sec.

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**Great Eastern Railway.**—This company have lately established a new and admirable train service, and made some especially good arrangements for the issue of Cheap Tourist and Excursion Tickets for the convenience of the public. Yarmouth, Lowestoft, Cromer, Hunstanton, &c., can now be reached in a little over three hours, and tickets are issued enabling the holders to spend Friday till Tuesday at either of these truly excellent seaside resorts for the moderate charge of 10s.; while Fortnightly and Two-Monthly Tickets are likewise issued at a similar low rate. A Fast Express Train Service is also running between London and Doncaster, opening up a new and important route to Leeds, Bradford, Halifax, Manchester, Liverpool, Hull, York, Scarboro', Edinburgh, Glasgow, and all parts of Lancashire, Yorkshire, Scotland, &c., and Tourist and Excursion Tickets are issued to all the favourite seaside and inland places of interest in these districts. The company have also very greatly improved the service between England and the Continent, viâ Harwich, and Rotterdam or Antwerp, this route being now the best, cheapest, and the most direct of all existing routes. The steamers have been specially constructed for this service, and are among the finest running. There are no steward's fees, and the special express trains from and to London, Doncaster, &c., and Harwich, run alongside the steamers.

**Secretaries** and other gentlemen having subscriptions on behalf of the widow and family of the late S. Morgan, chairman of the United London Anglers' Central Committee, will oblige by sending them in on or before Monday, August 18th, 1884, to R. Ghurney, Secretary, 10, Baches-street, Charles-square, Hoxton, N.

George James Eaton, of Starkholmes, Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required, from gentlemen who can fish, to prove whether they may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—(Advt.)

# CORRESPONDENCE.

[*We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.*]

### LIVERPOOL ANGLERS AND CLOSE TIME.

Sir,—Three letters appeared in last week's Fishing Gazette, signed respectively "Quill Float," "Piscator," and "Baby Roach" (what a bore these assumed names are!), in which the writers, under cover of replying to "Isaak," make a feeble effort to disparage the Liverpool Angling Association, and say things which cannot with propriety or credit be discussed in the columns of a public journal. But in a general sense, I should like to say some few things by way of reply to these letters.

We have fished two competitions in the river Vyrnwy this year during close time, did so last year, and hope to do so next. These contests took place on the two great Bank Holidays—Easter Monday and Whit-Monday. Now, it is just as *right and legal* to fish in this river during the close season as it is to fish for *old, small, and degenerate* roach in the few little ponds rented by the "Central," or in *so-called* private waters preserved for ticket-holders. The Freshwater Fisheries Act, 1878, gives power to Boards of Conservators to exempt any waters from the close time clause of the Act, and the Severn Board of Conservators have exercised this power by exempting the Vyrnwy. Therefore, anglers in fishing in it during the close season are clearly observing the *letter* of the said Act, if not the *spirit*, as "Piscator" put it. My own opinion is that the *spirit* of the Act is not observed either in fishing exempted or rented waters. And it is surely better to go to a *decent* river if you do fish than to potter about from one insignificant pond to another, taking infant fish of about 40 to the lb. "Quilt Float" says he would not belong to an association of which "Isaak" was a member. Perhaps he means what he says; but I would remind him of the answer given by the milkmaid to the gent who rudely said he could'nt marry her: "Nobody asked you, sir." I am afraid "Q. F." is too particular by half. As to progress and working members, it really is pleasing—if true—to learn that in these critical times for angling clubs, there is one which is doing well, although there are no outward and visible signs of the fact. But in their prosperity, this one Association does not appear to be doing much for the general benefit of either angling or anglers, for when we were endeavouring to induce the railway people to restore us our lost privileges, and the Central were spoken to on the subject of helping the movement in any way, the reply was, "What is the use of our going to any trouble or expense, for if you succeed we shall share the success and save our pockets?" and this reply was accompanied by a smile that was *childlike and bland*. And these are the people who desire to impress upon the many readers of the Fishing Gazette their superiority, morally and piscatorially. I believe there are some members in the Liverpool Central Angling Association, who originally were members of the Liverpool Angling Association, and I beg to ask these gentlemen if they left the latter Association in a manly or straightforward manner—*i.e.*, did they give the notice required by the rules or any notice at all, and did they pay up their subscriptions? We have managed to get along so far without them or their money, but it is not pleasant to have members on whom you cannot depend. The Chancellor of the Exchequer frequently has "conscience money" sent him, and there is a goodly amount of this due from previous members of the Liverpool Angling Association—strictly *moral* obligations which I hope will now be discharged. I am somewhat doubtful, Mr. Editor, whether you will spare me space for this letter, for I have written more at length than I at first intended; but these sly hits at this Association, which is the oldest, the best, and most influential, and which has always been in front when there was anything to be done for the benefit of angling in this city and neighbourhood, have somewhat "riled" me.—I am, &c.,

R. Woolfall,
Hon. sec. the Liverpool Angling Association.

### PRESERVING WASPS AND GRUBS.

Sir,—If you know of any sound system of curing and preserving wasp grub, and will kindly reveal same through your valuable columns, you will confer a favour. I remember reading some time ago how to render a line waterproof. Would you kindly supply your latest information on this process and very much oblige?—I am, &c., A Newcastle Angler.

### TROUT FISHING ON THE WHARFE.

Sir,—Would you, or one of your readers, kindly inform me whether I should get better trout fishing on the Wharfe or in Wensleydale, and, also, which are the best places to stop at? I do not object to high charges for daily or weekly tickets so long as the fishing is good. Can you also tell me of a good guide to Yorkshire?—I am, &c., J. A. Hutton.

P.S.—Would Mr. Walbran kindly answer this either through your columns or by letter?

### MR. HOTSCHIS.

Sir,—Mr. Hotschis will oblige me by kindly forwarding his address.—I am, &c.,
13, Colville Mansions, W. G. M. Kelson.

### FISHING IN THE DARENTH.

Sir,—Could you inform me if there is any free fishing in the neighbourhood of Eynesford? The river Darenth runs close by, and I should like to know those portions that are public in order to avoid trespassing. Information on the above will oblige.—I am, &c., J. Hotham.

[Visitors to the Lion Hotel, Farningham, can fish the open water there in the Darenth.—Ed.]

### ANGLERS' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

Sir,—Since my last report I beg to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of £1 1s., annual subscription, from Mr. A. J. Little (Richmond Piscatorials).—I am, &c.,

R. Ghurney, sec.

### AN APPEAL TO ANGLERS FOR LIVE SPECIMEN FISH.

Sir,—It is very difficult for us to obtain, by love or money, certain species of freshwater fish—chiefly pike, trout, chub, roach, tench, and gudgeon—for our aquarium here. Would you kindly insert, in your next issue, a note stating that if any angler who gets hold of specimens of these fish, sufficiently important in size and numbers, will wire me here, I will send him down immediately carriers, and will pay all expenses in connection with the transit of the fish to South Kensington. By doing so you will oblige.—I am, &c., W. Oldham Chambers, sec.

National Fish Culture Association, Exhibition Grounds,
South Kensington, London, July 19.

### ACCOMMODATION AT HEIGHAM.

Sir,—I should be glad if you, or some of your readers, can give me any information as to staying accommodation at Heigham (Potter), on the river Thurne in Norfolk, as I think of staying there a few days, fishing, during next month.

There is, I believe, an inn at the bridge. I should like to know if a bedroom can be obtained there, and whether the charges are reasonable; also if rowing or sailing boats are procurable in the immediate neighbourhood?

Can you tell me, too, if the shooting of wild fowl on the river and its banks is allowed. Thanking you in anticipation,—I am, &c. Ignoramus.

## FLY-FISHING FOR DACE IN THE THAMES.

There has been some remarkable sport in fly-fishing for dace in the neighbourhood of Twickenham this season. Mr. Wright, of the White Swan Hotel, at the waterside, who is a member of the Thames Angling Preservation Society, gives me the following account of what he has done at the point of the island opposite to his hostelry: On four occasions of one and a half hours' each he made a total of 158 fish, nothing under 7in., and some 9½in.; and if he could have remained at any one time for about seven hours, he would have produced the same total. They were all caught with the red ant and the black gnat, and I am quite sure if any fly-fisher will call upon him, he will give him every possible assistance. Mr. Nicholls, in four hours' fly-fishing last week, took five dozen of splendid dace; and this gentleman, who got the second prize at the Richmond Piscatorial Society Competition for specimen fish, caught all his fish with the fly, and had he not accidentally left one of his fish in the bag at the time he weighed in, he would have secured the first prize. I spoke to one of the fly-fishers on Thursday in last week opposite to the above hostelry, and he told me he had been getting some capital sport this season.

B.

Thames Fishery Conviction.—Mr. Augustus Davenport was summoned before the Hampton Bench on Monday last, July 28, for taking a quantity of unsizeable roach at Staines. Mr. W. H. Brougham prosecuted on behalf of the Thames Angling Preservation Society, and the charge was proved by head river-keeper, Alfred Thompson. The defendant was find £1, and 8s. costs.

An Angler's Hat Knocked off by a Trout.—We quote the following account of a curious freak on the part of a trout from the *Norwich Argus*:—"Two local anglers—Messrs. Lapthorne and Pepper—whose word has never yet been doubted, had scarcely settled down to business at Loddon Reach, Cantley, the other day, when off went the hat of the former; and just as the piscatorial gun-maker was on the point of pulling ashore to look for the culprit who had thrown a stone (as he supposed) his condimental colleague discovered in the bottom of their boat a splendid trout weighing nearly 4lb. We have heard of tall salmon leaps, but never of a fish that had larks with a man's hat before. When those black bass and other game fellows are introduced, Broad visitors and anglers generally may prepare for sport indeed; but they might bring the new Yankee tell-tale hook along which registers the weight—it saves trouble and prevents disputes. By the way, a goodly number of gentlemen are arriving at the various fishing-stations hereabouts."

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Trout sizes, Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 2s. each; Salmon, Nos. 5 and 6, 2s. 6d. and 3s.; Pike, Nos. 7 and 8, 3s. 6d. and 4s. each.

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Communications relating to the Literary Department, Fishing Tackle for Notice, Books for Review, &c., must be addressed to the Editor of the FISHING GAZETTE, No. 12, Fetter Lane, London, E.C.

Contributions are solicited, but the Editor will not undertake to return rejected MSS. unless accompanied with a stamped addressed envelope.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only, and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith. Unless this rule be adhered to, no notice will be taken of such communications.

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# The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 9, 1884.

## THE "FISHING GAZETTE" TOURNAMENT.

IN our list of prizes sent in for above-named, printed in our issue of last week, we accidentally omitted to name Messrs. C. L. Matthews and Co., of 1A, Wynyatt-street, St. John-street-road, London, who kindly sent three of their No. 1 black "Adjustable Rod Holders," and six nickle-plated do. ; also three of their No. 1 black "Boat Clips," and six nickle-plated do. These are good, genuine articles, and very useful to anglers. We also omitted to mention the very handsome three-guinea Silver Cup, given by Mr. W. Thomas, which was won by Mr. Malloch, and a most excellent cash-box, sent by Mr. J. C. Chubb, of the celebrated lock firm. If the winner is wise, he will use it to keep his flies and fly-book in, and so keep out the moth.

## ANGLERS AND THAMES RIGHTS.

IT will be seen from the report which we publish below that the House of Commons Committee, after long deliberation and examination of a great mass of evidence, have come to the conclusion that the public has "not got any right of free fishing from ancient custom, and that the fishing appeared to be entirely distributed among owners of manors who retained their proprietary rights." We have always said that the probable result of the inquiry would be to confirm the riparian owners in their claims, and that anglers would not benefit by the inquiry. Rowing men come off better if the recommendations of the Committee are agreed to by the House, for the right to row wherever you please wherever Thames water flows, whether for pleasure or business, is claimed for them.

ON Monday last the Committee of the House of Commons appointed "to inquire into the operation of the Acts for the preservation of the Thames, and the steps which are necessary to secure the enjoyment of the river as a place of recreation," presented their report to the House of Commons. The Committee had been taking evidence twice a week for about four months, and they have agreed to a report drafted by Mr. Story-Maskelyne, who has acted as chairman of the Committee. They assert that the paramount object of the river is its navigation, and they consider that the change from a great commercial traffic to a pleasure traffic does not interfere with that principal consideration. They maintain that the river is open from bank to bank wherever the Thames water runs. With regard to the towing-path, they deem it to be desirable to have a towing-path through all parts of the river that were much used, and that it should be made a public path, and not kept merely as a path for navigation. The Committee then propose that the Conservancy should have large powers to deal with all the questions which concern the rough and disorderly conduct which had made the Thames unpleasant lately, and that a certain number of police should be placed on duty on the river ; that the Conservancy should have the control of all house boats, steam launches, and all kinds of boats that are on the river ; in short, that they shall practically lay down the rules and laws that are to regulate the conduct of the public on the river. It is also suggested that for certain offences there ought to be summary jurisdiction. With regard to the fisheries, they had taken a great deal of evidence, and they had come to the conclusion that the public had not got any right of free fishing from ancient custom, that the fishing appeared to be entirely distributed among owners of manors, who had more or less granted them to other people, but had retained their proprietary rights.

## ELFORD, RIVER TAME.

AN inspector of the Trent Conservancy has been engaged during the last week, specially inquiring into the cause of dead fish floating down the Tame. It seems that the long drought killed a number of fish in the river Rea, and they floated into the Tame. When the Wolverhampton sewage is removed, the improvement will be very great, and the town council are now studying how best to remove it.

## AN AMATEUR ANGLER'S DAYS IN DOVE DALE—(*Continued.*)

SATURDAY, the first of my angling experiences, was the wettest I have known for many a day. I have already told you how I fared on that, to me, very memorable occasion. It rained steadily from 8 a.m. on Saturday till 11 a.m. on Sunday without intermission.

The Dale, you know, is a centre of attraction for all the country round, and Saturday always brings a number of visitors. They came in four-horse coaches, in vans, and waggonettes, and traps, all soaked in rain, and in rain some of the most adventurous started off for the river ; but most remained under the friendly shelter of the hotel. Happy youths and maidens, what cared they for wind or weather ! They departed as they came, in a steady downpour, happy and joyous as if in the brightest sunshine. Rain, after all, is not so depressing in these healthy hills as it is in the dank streets of London.

Yesterday afternoon, it being tolerably fine, I started off to survey, in sunshine, the scenes of my previous day's exploits in showers. I was accompanied only by my umbrella, and having as suddenly become a lover of Nature as I had become a disciple of Izaak Walton, I revelled in the beauties of the ever-changing scenery through which I rambled ; but now a sad reflection was forced upon me. I have been a business man for nearly fifty years, alas ! and during all that time Nature and I have been for the most part strangers to each other, and now that I meet her in her most enchanting beauty, I feel like a bashful lover, unable to find a single phrase wherewith to address her, or to express my admiration. I would advise all young people to study the language of Nature in their youth, and in old age they will be able to hold intelligent converse with her. Here am I, an old man, wandering through lovely scenes with a sort of childish delight ; but with a feeling of mournful regret that, withal, Nature and I are strangers. How have I neglected her in my youthful days ! And how she laughs at me now in my old age ! I long to be a botanist, an artist, a geologist, a fern collector, even a genuine piscator ! I want to seize Nature by some one of her many glorious features, and be able to say, "Here, at least, thou are mine." But, no ; she evades my grasp. I see around me green trees, and shrubs, and plants ; at my feet, a limpid, rippling stream ; far away above my head, bare rocks and wood-clad heights—but what are these to me ? I had a notion that, hidden away in rocky and almost inaccessible recesses, I should discover the rarest ferns and the choicest flowers—but how is it in reality ? Of ferns I could see none, and if I had seen them, how could I distinguish the rare from the common ? The prevailing plant on the water's margin was a large-leafed one—to my ignorant mind more like a cabbage than anything else, or, rather, like rhubarb as one sees it in market gardens, and in Covent Garden. It must surely be wild rhubarb.

Thus I wandered through the winding vale in childish admiration of the new pictures ever opening up before me. The most remarkable features of this wonderful valley seem to me to be the weird spires of grey rock, every here and there standing up abruptly, some of them over a hundred feet above the green foliage which lines the hills on either side. It does not require much imagination to fancy these gigantic rocky pillars as the ruins of some giant's fortress. Looking upward, I beheld a picture which reminded me of that terrible frontispiece to "The Whole Duty of Man," which has haunted me from my childhood—it looked so like the grim, wide open jaws of death ! The entrance to this awful cavern was about one hundred and fifty feet almost perpendicularly above me ; but like a trembling bird at the gaze of a serpent, I was fascinated. I felt bound to ascend that terrible height, and be swallowed up by that fearful, widely-gaping mouth. I scrambled up on my hands and knees, holding on now by tufts of grass, now by jutting rocks, until at length, breathless and exhausted, I tumbled headlong into that fearful monster's jaws ! After a lapse of time—I know not how long—I recovered my breath, and looking round, it did not seem to me so grim a place as my excited imagination had painted it. I observed here and there the ends of smoked cigars, fragments of tobacco pipes, and other mundane things, which sufficiently assured me that I was not "the first that ever burst" into that silent cave. In my case, comparatively speaking, it had been "facilis *as*census Averni," but how to get down again "hoc opus, hic labor, est !" That was really a trying time for me, for remember I was alone. I felt it was an easy matter to break my bones in scrambling down those slippery stones ; so I looked upwards and around, and at length I spied a side path which seemed to lead perpendicularly another hundred feet or so to the outside top or head of the giant's cave,* and as it presented jutting rocks, tufts of strong-looking grass, and here and there a tough young ash plant, I determined to try the ascent to the top, in the hope of finding my way down the other side of the mountain, rather than "retrograde" the way I had climbed so far ; and accordingly I set to work, but I found this tougher work than the first ascent. I had got nearly to the top when the terrible thought assailed me, "Suppose there is no outlet there !" To descend the way I had climbed on looking down I felt to be quite beyond my powers. In ascending I had prided myself on my Alpine youthful agility, but now my poor old limbs trembled violently beneath me ; it was clear that I could not sleep on that little ledge, I scorned the idea of shouting for assistance, and if I had I do not quite see how anybody could come to me ; so straining every nerve, I managed to reach a friendly young sapling at the very top of the precipice, and I landed clear above it on the mountain's brow, triumphant, but exhausted in wind and limb.

After a short interval of rest, I descended gradually to the margin of the gently-flowing Dove. In coming down I had heard some crashes in the woods on the opposite hills, and on reaching the bottom whom should I see on the other side but my old friend the keeper. "Well," said he, "I *was* surprised to see *you* up there !" There was just a little something in his tone not quite intelligible to me, but whether it meant sarcasm at my folly or admiration of my manly performance, I was uncertain. "How on earth did you get on top of that hill," he added ; and when I told him I had got there through the Giant's Cave, he only said, "I wouldn't a' done it for something !" After this he waded across the stream, and we became quite friendly-like and confidential. He remarked that the river was in capital order, just a little discoloured, and the trout were rising famously. "It's a curious thing," he said, "but I have often noticed, and other people have said the same, that fish do rise better on Sundays than on any other days. I suppose they get to know that people don't fish on Sundays."

A pretty bird flew up and skimmed along the water. It was the same kind of bird as the one which on Saturday caused me to lose my only fish. "Is that a kingfisher," said I. "No," he replied, "that's a *water ouzel*." I remarked that I had also seen a little bird, strange to me, about the size and colour of a lark, but with a white back, now skimming the water, and now pretending to pick up insects on the grass. "I don't know the proper name of that bird, but from your description I should think it must be what I call a 'dipper.' And I believe that both he and the water ouzel are about the worst fish poachers we have in these parts. People in other parts wouldn't believe that we had water ouzels here, and I remember some years ago a clergyman from Warwickshire sent a messenger specially to me offering to give me half-a-crown for a brace of water ouzels. I soon got him three, and he was so pleased that he gave me three-and-sixpence; but I have my ideas that that wasn't much to what he got by those birds. I have heard that, notwithstanding his being a clergyman, he had made a bet of ten pounds with another man who declared there were no water ouzels on the Dove, and of course he won it.[*] He promised to write to me again, but from that day to this I have never heard another word of him." "Shame," said I; "he ought to have sent you a pound at least." Thus we chatted along. I asked him if he could tell me how to get a good appetite, and he said that if I could not get a good appetite for dinner after such a climb as he had seen me perform, he could offer me no better prescription. For himself, he always did with one good meal a day; "but then," says he, "I like to get a fair share of beer. I generally take from five to six pints a day, and I find it does me good. I am on my feet about these hills and dales from daylight to dark, and I don't know as there is ever anything the matter with me." I should think not, indeed, for a more jolly, genial picture of good health I never came across in my life—a splendid example of what good air, good ale, and outdoor exercise can make of a man. How I envy him! For here am I, a poor valetudinarian (to say nothing of being a sexagenarian), who dare not touch a glass of ale; and now after this six miles' walk and scramble over that awful cave without any appetite whatever. They seem to get all sorts of people at this hotel. There are, I daresay, some like me, "as canna eat," and also some "as can eat"—like a company of ladies (mostly foreigners, judging by their names), under whose inscriptions in the visitor's book some wag has written :—

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* I am told that in the guide books this rock is called "Reynard's Cave," but I make a point of never looking at guide books.

"They ate so much, and they drank so much,
And so little they cared to pay;
That it was well for this hotel
When this lot went away."

But I must be off. The trout are waiting for me with open mouths. The water is in better "fettle" than ever, so perhaps I shall tell you of my success in another letter."

## ON A YORKSHIRE CHALK STREAM.

By Francis M. Walbran.

*(Continued from page 2, Supplement, June 28th.)*

As a rule, you generally find that river watchers, and such kind of men, are pretty good judges of the weather, and in this respect C. proved himself no exception, for when I arose next morning I found there was every indication of the day being a blazing hot one. I was busily engaged in making up a fresh cast of flies in the coffee-room when the waiter appeared upon the scene :

"Please, sir," he remarked, "I am very sorry, but the cook has made a mistake."

"Mistake! What do you mean?" I exclaimed, wondering what on earth he could be driving at.

"Well, sir, I put down fish on the slate for your breakfast as you ordered, and she has cooked one of yours."

I dare say that most of my readers, who have been anxious to take a good dish home, and have met with adverse circumstances, can imagine my feelings. However, the fish was cooked, so I made the best of it, and did not allow my reflections to spoil my appetite.

A gentleman whom I met on the previous evening informed me that he had recently taken a good many fish with a small partridge hackle tied with crimson silk. I therefore called in at the local tackle dealer's and purchased a few as I went down to the river. I also picked out a few other likely patterns.

I found C. smoking his pipe in the garden pending my arrival.

"You will have to fish very carefully to-day, sir, to make up a dish," he sententiously remarked; "so, if you like, we will work up-stream where they have not been bothered so much this season as they have below."

"All right; you know best," I answered. So accordingly up-stream we went.

Just above C.'s cottage is a piece of water about a quarter of a mile in length. It is pretty uniform in depth, and contains some really splendid trout. I have conversed with a goodly number of keepers in my time, but I never remember meeting with one who took such an obvious interest in his stock of fish as C. does. He is absolutely proud of them, and treats them just like pets. The club may congratulate themselves upon having such a painstaking servant. Indeed, the fact that he has been in their employ for 28 years proves alone how they value his services.

There was not a breath of wind, and the whole of this length—alluded to above—being still water, there was no chance of rising any fish in it. We accordingly strolled on until we arrived at a mill, where the surplus water from the dam fell a distance of some feet into a kind of small lake, surrounded with hawthorn bushes and trees, under the shade of which several good trout were rising.

"If you can creep down behind them nettles, and get your flies well out under the boughs, you will happen catch one of yon," said C.

So I obeyed his instructions; and after the usual amount of caution necessary when crawling among nettles, succeeded in dropping my tait fly (crimson partridge) right into the centre of a circle caused by one of the rising fish.

"I have him," I shouted, as he came up with a wave, and the next moment rushed off into the boiling water below the fall. The struggle, however, was of short duration, the hook relaxing its hold. C.'s face showed evident chagrin; but the very next throw the same tactics were repeated, this time with more satisfactory results, for after a good fight a beautiful golden trout about 12oz. was scooped out with the net and consigned to the creel.

After this no more of the inhabitants of that pool were to be seduced into rising. We therefore proceeded onwards, making a cast here and there with no further success until we reached a thick plantation, where, under the leafy shelter of a large sycamore tree, several good fish were leisurely rising at every fly that came over them. It was, however, an exceedingly awkward cast, and only after numerous entanglements and forcible remarks did I contrive to get my flies on the water. One of the trout instantly took the yellow dun; but being in such a cramped position, I could not strike properly, and after a brief struggle he escaped—much to my disgust after all my trouble.

It was now eleven o'clock, and the fish began to rise pretty generally; so at C.'s suggestion we hastened on to a place where he was confident that I should get a brace or two. We soon arrived at this desirable hunting-ground, which I will describe before recounting the sport that I met with there.

It was a length of water rather narrower than that below, but more streamy, and terminating with a sluice, the water from which formed a nice eddying pool under it. On the left bank a thick fir plantation came down within the distance of a couple of yards from the water, the right bank being entirely open. My first cast was made into the rough water below the sluice, and resulted in the loss of a small fish; but within the next few throws I was fast in a "pounder," which C. brought to bank in the net. And now the fun began in earnest. Creeping along almost upon my hands and knees (for the bank was higher in this part), I threw across to the other side, where I could see that the trout were feeding, and almost every cast was rewarded either with a rise or a fish. Didn't I work while that rise lasted! Not one single moment did I waste; and when after the lapse of about three-quarters of an hour the circles began to appear less frequently, I had $2\frac{1}{2}$ brace of splendid trout in my creel. C. was now obliged to leave me, having some work below which needed his attention. I therefore sat down in the shade of a large tree to smoke a pipe, which I considered I had earned. Shortly after C.'s son passed by, and he kindly offered to carry my fish (which I had now made into $3\frac{1}{2}$ brace) down to the cottage. To this proposal I gladly assented, as the creel was beginning to feel heavy. After lunch and another pipe, I worked on up-stream, throwing over each fish that I saw rising; but the sun had now come out more strongly, and it was only in sheltered places that I could succeed at all. I therefore began to retrace my steps when I had gone about half a mile, nor did I make any halt until I came to the place where in the morning I had lost the fish that resided under the sycamore tree. Now, the fact of losing that fish after adopting such strategic tactics to get at him had "riled" me more than any other incident of the day, and I therefore determined, if possible, to make him accompany me home. Peeping cautiously through the bushes, I perceived that he had come back again exactly to the old spot, and was sucking down every fly that came over him with as much avidity as ever. I was perfectly well aware that he would have learnt caution from his previous experience, and that it would be useless to attempt reaching him in the same manner as before. I therefore crossed over to the opposite side of the stream and threw my flies about a yard above the overhanging branch, allowing the current to carry them down under it. I then lowered my rod-top, and awaited the result. I did not wait long in suspense: a gentle tug proclaimed to me the fact that my plan had succeeded, and my captive rushed out from beneath the boughs and made off down stream, taking out a few yards of line as he went. I soon stopped these tactics, however, by giving him the butt, for I had found out from previous experience that if you allowed these fish a yard of spare line, they almost invariably rushed into a bed of weeds, and threading the cast through, would escape on the other side. After another rush or two he plunged sullenly on the surface and then caved in, whereupon I gently drew him into the net, and triumphantly brought him to bank. I must say that after capturing this trout I felt more gratification than I did in the case of any of those taken previously, owing to the fact that he had triumphed over me in the morning's encounter.

I got another fish in the pool below the sluice, and then turned my steps towards C.'s cottage. On my way thither I met with my companion, who had picked up four brace of good fish, but was compelled to desist owing to a splitting headache. We had a cup of tea together, after which C. weighed my fish. Altogether, reckoning the $1\frac{1}{2}$ brace caught on the previous day, I had six brace of trout, the whole scaling exactly 11lb.

Wishing my companion (who was staying the week) success on the morrow and freedom from his headache, I wended my way to the station, and shortly after commenced my return journey. The details of that I will not recount; but may remark that when I read in the Fishing Gazette the other day our Editor's graphic description of *his* return home on the eve of Whit-Monday, with an almost identical creel of trout, I was very much struck by the similarity of our experiences, except that I did *not* meet with a rural policeman seeking promotion by the capture of supposed dynamitards. I reached home at one o'clock a.m., thoroughly tired-out and disgusted with the delays consequent upon Whitsuntide travelling. I was soon in bed, however, and a good sound sleep soon dispelled this feeling. I would not at all object to experience the same inconvenience to-morrow, so long as it resulted in such an enjoyable day's sport.

## CAMBRIDGE AND ELY ANGLING SOCIETY.

At the Ely Petty Sessions on Thursday, the 31st ult., before O. C. Pell, Esq., in the chair, H. T. Luddington, J. Martin, and C. M. Bidwell, Esq., an important case as to the rights of this Society was heard. James Bryant was charged with angling in the day time in the South Level Cut, near Littleport, in which water the Cambridge and Ely Angling Society have, as lessees of the South Level commissioners, the exclusive right of fishing.

Dr. Cooper (instructed by Mr. Rogers, of Ely) appeared for the prosecution. Mr. Atter, solicitor, of Peterborough, appeared for the defendant.

Dr. Cooper stated that this prosecution was instituted in order to vindicate the rights of the Cambridge and Ely Angling Society who claim the exclusive right of fishing in the South Level Cut. There was an idea prevalent that anyone, whether a member of the Society or not, could fish the water from a boat, or angle from the towing path. Such a claim was entirely erroneous, and it was of the highest importance to the Society that the illegality of such a course should be pronounced by the Bench. The learned counsel quoted the various decisions of the judges as to the rights of persons to angle in non-tidal rivers, and stated that he could conclusively prove that the South Level commissioners, who had made this Cut under the authority of an Act of Parliament, were the owners of the fishery which they had leased to the Society, and that the so-called claim of right by the inhabitants of Ely and the neighbourhood to fish the water was entirely without foundation. The Society, which consisted of 400 members, afforded every facility by a low subscription to persons to fish the waters, and in the interests of sport, and for the preservation of the fish, it was absolutely necessary that none but members should be permitted to fish.

Benton, the Society's keeper, gave evidence that on the 28th of June, about four in the morning, he found the defendant fishing in the South Level Cut in a boat with rods. He inquired if he was a member of the Society, and the defendant replied that he was not, and did not intend to be, and that he should fish as he had done for 20 years despite of the Society. He also threatened the keeper. Evidence was also given of the execution of the lease of the fishery, and of the right of the South Level commissioners to the fishery.

Mr. Atter, on behalf of the defendant, stated that he could not resist a conviction, as both the law and the facts were clearly against his client. The defendant, like many others, had an erroneous idea of his rights, and the only thing he could urge was that a somewhat misleading notice had been issued by the Society, to the effect that only angling by rod and line was permitted.

Dr. Cooper stated that the notice referred to only applied to members. There had been extensively circulated a further notice that only members of the Cambridge and Ely Angling Society were entitled to fish.

The Chairman (Mr. O. C. Pell) said that the case was perfectly clear, and the defendant must be convicted. As he understood no excessive penalty was asked for, the defendant would be ordered to pay a nominal fine of 1d., and the costs, £2 19s. 6d., on his undertaking not to offend again.

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[*] There seems to be a specialty about the neck feathers of the real ouzel which mark its character; and these feathers are found on the Dove ouzel.

The defendant at first declined to give such an undertaking, but on the Chairman telling him that if he did not, he would be fined the full penalty of £5, he agreed to do so.

The Chairman stated that after this warning, any future offenders, if convicted, would be fined the full penalty. Every facility was offered by the Society for persons to become members, and their rights must be protected.

It may be useful to state that the keeper has received strict instructions to report all cases of persons fishing who are not members. The effect of this conviction has been to convince a large number of persons who imagined they had the right to fish from the towing path or a boat that they are wrong, and they consequently have joined the Society. At the present time the prospects for anglers in the Society's waters are very hopeful. The stock of fish was never larger, and some excellent sport has been obtained.

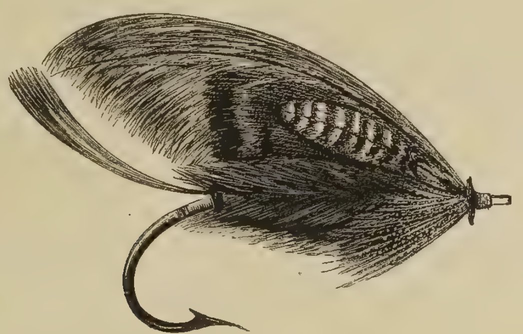
## ON THE DESCRIPTION OF SALMON FLIES.

### By Mr. Geo. M. Kelson.

### Major Traherne's Patterns *(Continued).*

### No. 9.—The "Chatterer."

Spreading tails, sometimes flat, sometimes in set-sail fashion, resembling closed butterflies' wings, are very effective and telling. I am very partial to them seated erect on any of the "Baker" element; but they would be out of character and ill-placed on any of these more refined patterns. Almost every wing feather in our collection can be utilised here in moderation; and if we want this sort of tail bow-shaped—turning up like the illustration—the strands from one side should be piled first and backed with those from the other; but after collecting the whole bundle, we must be careful in replacing any that are obstinate or reversed, before they are attached.



Mixed at will, they may be rolled between the thumb and forefinger, but not twisted, taking pains beforehand to pack them pretty much the same length. Unless it is first-class work, we may frequently observe that these fibres have been incorrectly fastened, resulting in a projection just at the very place where the small part of the taper should start from. But it is simple enough to avoid this obstruction.

You remember you have already levelled the under part with the floss which meets the gut, and that on the top from here there is nothing but the even and regular coils of tying silk closely woven. As a formal example, take Teal, Canadian duck, Gallina, Ibis, yellow Macaw, powdered blue, and Tippet, a minute portion of the three former, laying the latter only in different lengths, though also in single strands. Such combination would make a splendid show. In order to escape this clumsy lump, which is a dreadful eyesore, begin by lashing on the tail with a couple of turns of silk, holding the fibres between the thumb and forefinger for the upright variety; but if "shovel-tailed," merely press the thumb down throughout the work over them after they have been spread to suit the fancy. In cutting the waste away hold the scissors along, not across, the hook, and fetch it off pretty close to the iron, just touching the remainder with varnish before it is made secure with another turn or two of the silk. The herl butt should cover enough for you to have a fair road to proceed; but bear in mind that the scissors have encouraged the taper to decrease the wrong way, which momentary mischief you override by winding the small sprays or *point* of a rapid-tapered herl over the part apparently a little thick, and following on with its fuller ones to make up the very slight descent.

Particulars such as these, and many others to which I may occasionally allude, are more for amateurs who have "gone through the mill," who know something of the work, and who aim at nothing short of perfection.

Professionals can scarcely be expected to resort to such measures—they could ill afford the time, especially at their present prices. Hence our work is reputed to be firmer, truer, and more to be depended upon; but, of course, I am not alluding to the specimens of those who are masters of the art.

It is in these first steps, these early stages, that we require to be careful before we can possibly spring up enlightenment; and we must trace, we must pave these less interesting yet all important subways, by which alone we reach the goal.

If we really desire to gain habitual confidence—to become proficient, we should keep up our practice; there is no art in fly-dressing that is too difficult for industry to attain to. Industry makes its science easy; but that systematic knowledge founded on principles so infinite which to us has such a fascination, soon becomes so distasteful from the mere custom of inactivity that we are liable to sink from one state of quiescence into another till we may finally forget the most trivial matters which we have accomplished previously with the utmost ease.

However clever we may be, or however much we may know of flies, we can never decide what salmon take them for. Some schools say seaweed; others, for enemies or opponents on the spawning bed. Many authors tell us that this fish does not feed in fresh water; if we are to believe them, flies cannot be fancied for food. Have any of my readers ever seen salmon take caterpillars that have fallen from overhanging bushes? I have. Butterflies, struggling for their lives on the surface of the stream; wasps, as they dip like martins and swallows; dragon flies, as they flit along the sedgy side. I have also seen kelts chivying pinks and swallow them; and do they not readily take our worm, legering? or when in its steady and undisturbed descent down a flat suspended below our float yards and yards from the point of the rod? But the authors add that, of all the thousands of salmon opened annually, not one single atom of food is ever found in their stomachs.

Some years ago, pike fishing about Christmas time, I took my casting net to a favourite little rivulet (an upper tributary to a well-known salmon river) for a pitch over the numberless small yellow trout always to be seen there. In arranging the meshes over one shoulder I was gently tapped on the other by the water bailiff. "I see you have my master's dog, sir; do you mean having the salmon too?" he asked.

The "master," however, was a peaceful relative of mine, and "Shot," the pointer, with only a hale, hearty old housekeeper of perhaps seventy summers, whose profusion of respected wrinkles almost as regular as the jowl of a jack, had been my companions for some few days; the dog just now was made fast to a fence.

The "Artful Dodger"—such was the keeper's village title—was, however, soon satisfied, and called my attention to a salmon in a miniature pool of water, bright as gin, and only 18in. deep. The back fin of a trout quite ½lb. was at that moment ploughing its way up stream over the peeping pebbles at the outlet; it could thus scramble in, but the salmon—or rather the two salmon, for the female was also there—could neither get up nor down. *He* was devoting his attention to the persistent little trout which would not be beaten off, and which seemed bent upon disturbing her ladyship, who was busily engaged over a bright little dip in the gravelly bottom. At last we distinctly saw the trout caught and devoured. A friend who had just then put in an appearance determined to have this fish "set up"; the casting net was immediately popped over, and a 25lb. salmon was dragged out on to the bank in a moment. It proved to be dreadfully diseased, so we decided to dissect it, and found the cankerous sores little more than skin deep. But where was the trout? Nowhere. In the stomach? Not a sign of it; neither did we ever know!

. . . . The fly that I illustrate this week, with its beautiful blue body, is one of the most useful, one of the most expensive, and one of the most difficult to dress—indeed, a trophy which should specially attract our attention, and raise us into action in our wakeful study. The amateur who can make a fairly good "chatterer" anything approaching the illustration in shape may be regarded as a prodigy of skill and patience.

Such a device, the fruitful result of experience, the acme of perfection, may well suggest something beyond the mere picture of fancy—may mean more than an idea germinated and matured from the screened seed of knowledge—might almost strike us as nothing less than the ideal insect of superlative and Oriental beauty, or a clever copy of some sylph-like splendour looming from a magic lens—in either case vividly and most truthfully portrayed.

There is not a little generalship required in managing and marshalling some seven or eight dozen of these delicate and brilliant feathers—two at a time, one over the other—to form a true taper the whole length of the body; neither is it a task an angler would care to undertake before breakfast. But to give anything like an idea to the uninitiated of this charming invention and work of one who has every fancy feather at hand ready for his facile fingers, we want colour, or better still, the original fly. The "chatterer" can be made two ways—by padding the body and using the same sized feathers all along, or by increasing the length of them as you progress; your assortment, however, must be an extensive one, and if you select those of uniform dimensions the fibres will be more regular in substance, more even in action, and consequently more shapely under water. It is described:—

Tag: Silver twist and light orange floss (tippet colour).
Tail: Topping.
Butt: Black herl.
Body: Two turns of purple silk, making headway for the chatterer's feathers closely packed and covering the whole of the body. A hook this size taking perhaps fifty to sixty.
Throat: Gallina.
Wings: Four red crows, in pairs, red points of the former extended, and one jay feather on either side. Toppings over.
Cheeks: Blue chatterer.
Horns: Blue macaw.
Head: Black herl.

## IMPORTANT FISHERY PROSECUTION AT DORRINGTON.

At the Dorrington Petty Sessions, last Friday week, before Sir Frederick Smythe, Bart., and E. M. Hulton-Harrop, Esq., George Jones, Edward Jones, John Boiden, William Hughes, Richard Ford, and Humphrey Howells, all of Meole Brace, were summoned for unlawfully, between the expiration of the first hour after sunset, on such day, and the beginning of the last hour before sunrise on the following morning, taking freshwater fish, in the parish of Meole Brace, on Friday, the 27th of June. Mr. J. Hawley Edwards appeared to prosecute on behalf of the Severn Board of Conservators, and Mr. Chandler represented all the defendants.

Mr. Edwards said the defendants had been found fishing in the River Rea, contrary to the Salmon Fishery Laws, to the by-laws of the Severn Board of Conservators, and also to the new Act of Parliament—the Freshwater Fisheries Act of 1884. After detailing the circumstances of the case, he said it might be contended that the defendant Jones was on property where he, as tenant, had the exclusive right of fishing. He (Mr. Edwards) submitted very strongly that although he had the right of fishing, he was subject to the statutes and by-laws of the Severn Board of Conservators. It was unfair that he should use a small net to take out trout, and the other riparian owners on the other side of the stream should be deprived of fishing, which, perhaps, they might have carefully preserved, and only used a rod and line. Very strong representations had been made to the Board on the subject, but they did not wish the Bench to inflict any vindictive penalty.

The magistrates suggested that the case should be settled privately.

Mr. Edwards offered to do it on payment of costs, and not have a conviction registered, but after a long consultation the defendants declined to settle the matter.

The Chairman said they considered the case proved, and, although the defendants had acted in ignorance, they would each be fined 1s. and costs.

**Illegal Fishing.**—At the last Petty Sessions at Clasbury-Mortimer (Shropshire), Thomas Perkins and David Perkins, of Rock, and Daniel Barber and Joseph Hudson, of Kinlet, were charged by J. Humpherson, of Bewdly, water-bailiff of the Severn, with taking trout from a brook at Kinlet, otherwise than by a properly licensed instrument. As defendants had permission from the owners of the land through which the stream runs, and were not aware that it was in the Severn Fishery district, the Bench inflicted a fine of 1s. each, with 5s. 7d. each costs.

# CORRESPONDENCE.

[*We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.*]

### "EYED HOOKS, THEIR EARLY HISTORY," &c.

Sir,—Your paper of the 26th has reached me here in the Highlands nearly a week late, and in it I see Mr. Hall's letter on the above subject. I am not going to reply to it now, being too much engaged in the cultivation of the acquaintance of the Loch Cluny trout, but on my return home I shall ask you permission to do so. Mr. Hall's letter is an utter perversion of the intention of my meaning in the letter of May 31st, and I beg your readers to reserve their judgment until I have an opportunity of stating my case in answer to his remarks.

I wrote hurriedly, and I intended to give him the "lion's share" of any credit there may be in the matter; but I can show that my statements are consistent with facts, though his reading has given a wrong impression of them.—I am, &c.,

George Bankart.

Glen Cluny, Rosshire, August 1.

### FISHING IN SUTHERLANDSHIRE.

Sir,—In your issue of to-day I am reported to have said at a meeting held at the Gresham Club on Tuesday last, when giving a short account of a fishing trip I had in Sutherlandshire, that "one rod caught 310lb. weight of trout in eight days."

This is a slight mistake. It should have been *four* rods in eight days. I may, however, say that only on two days did we fish for trout exclusively, and then we managed to take 70lb. weight each day between four rods. The other days were partly devoted to trolling for ferox, and only occasionally, when the wind was favourable, was any attempt made to fly-fish.—I am, &c., Wm. Thomas.

103, Talbot-road, Bayswater, August 2.

### FISHING AT MARTHAM.

Sir,—It is truly lamentable that in the Heigham Sounds case the poor anglers should have "gone to the wall;" but it may be some consolation to the piscatorial fraternities of the "big city," and other gentlemen ambitious to prove their dexterity with rod and line, to be informed that there are certain "holes" in the river Thirne, near Martham, where, with proper ground bait, &c., a goodly company of "finny beauties" can be attracted and coaxed "to bank." Witness the exploit of Mr. Geo. Nicholls, of Martham, on Wednesday, 30th ult. He fished a favourite "deep pitch" in the river, and in the evening I saw him "trudging his homeward way" with a sack of fish on his back. His catch, mostly bream, weighed 26lb., heaviest fish 2lb. I do not think, therefore, that Waltonians who visit Yarmouth can be far wrong if they give the Thirne a try.—I am, &c., Alf. Roskelly.

Martham, Aug. 1st.

### FISHING IN THE NEW RIVER.

Sir,—Can you give me any information (through the Gazette) as to the fishing in the New River near Cheshunt?

If you can, and will, I shall be much obliged.—I am, &c., E. E. S.

### FISHING NEAR BRISTOL.

Sir,—Can you or any of your numerous readers inform me of any fishing in the neighbourhood of Bristol, in the direction of Mangotsfield, Yate, or Coalpit Heath, as I shall probably be in that neighbourhood towards the end of the month?

Any hints as to the kinds of fish, &c., would be very acceptable.—I am, &c,

98, Hampton-road, Forest Gate, Essex, E., 7th August, 1884. Hy. Colley.

### FISHING NEAR YARMOUTH.

Sir,—I am now at Yarmouth for a few weeks, and, as usual, intend fishing the broads and rivers of Norfolk. To-day (my first day) I fished at Potter Heigham, in the river Thurne, my catch consisting of five bream, respectively 3¼lb., 2½lb., 2¼lb., 1½lb., and 1lb., besides many minor ones. I lost three hooks, and several very fine fish broke away. While writing for the benefit of your many readers, and probably some may visit Norfolk, I would say, that amongst all my fishing excursions for the last three years, I have never failed to get a "bag" at Potter Heigham—Ormesby, Fulton, Cantley, &c., &c., being very inferior in my estimation. There is a nice inn there (Potter Heigham), Waterman's Arms, kept by Mr. Laws, and visitors receive the greatest attention, cleanliness, and as good cooking as one would wish to find at most reasonable charges. I mention this, Mr. Editor, since so many friends of mine have been to other quarters, and have been charged exorbitant prices, and have had no sport worth speaking of, which damps one's holiday. On my return from Potter Heigham yesterday evening, I passed no less than eight fishermen from Ormesby, the biggest bag consisting of about 4lb. of fish. I may mention that the baits used were lob-worms. I hope in a few days to send you some really good catches, if you will accept such reports.—I am, &c.,

W. F. Ditcham, M.D.

### ANGLING ON THE YORKSHIRE RIVERS.

Sir,—In reply to your correspondent, Mr. Hutton, in last week's issue of the Gazette, I think that for trout fishing he will obtain more satisfactory results from a trip into Wharfedale than to the Yore, which is more a grayling stream. At Bolton Bridge, by staying at the Devonshire Arms, he will be allowed to fish upon a first-rate length of water abounding in trout, but not of great size. Higher up the valley comes the Burnsall Club water, a splendid piece of fishing. Inn, the Red Lion; terms, 5s. per day. Or he might go on to Kilnsey, which is perhaps the best ground of all. Inn, the Tennant's Arms; terms also 5s. per day. Should Mr. Hutton require any further information, I shall be most happy to oblige him by writing direct to me at my address as at foot.—I am, &c.,

Ivy Cottage, Pool, *viâ* Leeds. Francis M. Walbran.

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Sir,—In reply to J. A. Hutton's inquiries for fishing the Wharfe, he can stay at the Tennant's Arms Hotel, Kilnsey-in-Craven, 14 miles from Skipton. Coach meets first train from Leeds and Bradford 7 a.m. The fishing is very good in the club waters for trout; charge 5s. per day. There is some free water as well. Bolton Abbey is another station. The Devonshire Arms Hotel has fishing for some miles of water free, but it is much fished. For Wensleydale, Haws's Black Bull Hotel, good length of fair fishing; day tickets, 1s. Aysgarth, Palmer Flatt Hotel. Club preserves 12 miles of water here, good fishing; day tickets, 2s. 6d. Masham, King's Head Hotel, gives permission for some good water. Tanfield, Bruce Arms Hotel: Mr. Kendall gives permission for about two miles of first-class water; salmon, sea trout, grayling, and trout. I think this is the best station on the river.

The fishing at Kilnsey is very good, but there is not the variety as in Wensleydale. Mr. H. will find, on the whole, according to my opinion, and I have fished both waters often enough, from Tanfield upwards the best; but of course before settling definitely, some of your correspondents may give Mr. H. more satisfactory information than—Yours, &c., W. Macaulay.

### BARBEL FISHING.

Sir,—As the topic of barbel fishing seems now to be affording some amusement, it may, perhaps, be of interest to note the capture by myself of a fine barbel of nearly 11lb. weight. The fish was taken among others from the bank on the Thames at Eynsham, while trying for chub, on Monday last, with a long rod (16ft.) and fine Nottingham tackle; these circumstances tending much to the sport of killing the fish, and to say truth, to my fears of losing him; however, after twenty minutes' play, he was in a condition to be landed, if that was possible, up a 6ft. high clay bank, and in a small net. This was also successfully done by Mr. Dean, of Oxford, who was kindly put across the river to my assistance by a boating party, and he very artistically brought the fish to grass, where he was held up to the astonished gaze of several boating parties, and was duly gloated over by —Yours, &c.,

R. W. Hobden.

P.S.—There are, I feel sure, many larger barbel than this one in these waters, and if properly fished for they could be taken: in this respect my opinions do not agree with some of our best barbel anglers; but if I could ventilate my notions on the subject without fear of transgressing against the laws of the Medes and Persians, I would do so.

23, Blomfield-road, W.

### "OTTER" FISHING ON LOUGH CONN, CO. MAYO.

Sir,—Seeing in last number of Fishing Gazette remarks made by Mr. F. Hearns—with whom I fished very many consecutive years, as also with his father, "Ould Pat,"—I am led to ask, What can have become of the proprietors on banks of River Moy and shores of the Lough Conn, that these otter fishers are not prosecuted? "Cross fishing" with a "license" is legal where it is not prevented by proprietors or associations; but "otter fishing" anywhere, with or without license, I have long understood, is "illegal" on any water in England, Ireland, or Scotland. Perhaps, sir, you will kindly inquire if I am right or wrong about the illegality of it, and let us know in next week's issue of Fishing Gazette. If illegal, I shall ask you to send the Fishing Gazette, at my expense, addressed to the Chief Officer, Revenue Office, Ballina, Co. Mayo, to sharpen up his wits. I intend going there shortly, but neither I nor any of the old and regular visitors to those happy fishing grounds will again try our luck if this nefarious poaching is permitted. I take it scarcely any salmon or trout angler that has gone there this or any other season is ignorant that this is one of the worst and most unsportsmanlike methods of poaching.—I am, &c.,

Laxoring.

[In our last year's "Holiday Summer Number" we gave a sketch of this poaching implement, and referred to it as the bane of Irish lake fishing, as fair anglers will not again go to a place where they find it is used. Many thanks for offer of trout and big pike fishing in Ireland; hope some day to avail ourselves of it.—Ed.]

### FISHING NETS.

Sir,—I have often thought something might be invented to supersede the fishing net, and of late have wished over and over again that this were so.

I have an ordinary net well steeped in linseed oil, and find when trawling down stream in a wide river, endless trouble whenever a trout is hooked, arising from the hooks embedding themselves in the net. (I refer to an artificial minnow.)

Again, trout come on the feed at the edge of dark, and continue rising more or less. What is more aggravating than wasting time every time a fish is hooked and netted, in order to liberate one, two, or three hooks?

I think something might be invented to obviate all this bother. When one draws his fish well up, head out of water, something is wanted like a pair of tongs, broad and oval, in order to clasp your fish under the gills, when a little pressure would safely land him, in spite of a little wriggling. It would have to be made of wood, with the exception of the head end, and could be carried behind, slung like a net.

If any of your inventive readers know of such an instrument, or use one, I shall be glad of any information. A net is very useful; but on a windy day, or under above circumstances, is frequently to me a great annoyance.—I am, &c.,

Fly Fisher.

### THAMES FISHERMEN.

Sir,—I was induced, from an article I read in the Fishing Gazette last year, to employ a fisherman of the name of George Lumsden, at Datchet, and I engaged him in writing for three special days this season, independent of any other days I might require him. Was with him the first day (July), and wrote to remind him of the second day, the 5th of August; but upon arriving at Datchet on the 5th found he had left a message with another fisherman that he was ill, and could not attend upon me. Upon reaching the Weir in a punt I found Lumsden out in his punt, attending upon another angler. I think a man who breaks an engagement, and tells a deliberate falsehood in that way, does not deserve the praise bestowed upon him in your columns.—I am, &c., Edward J. Powell,

64, Gauden-road, Clapham.

### THE THAMES.

Sir,—I am anxious to know why the people who are so anxious to clear the Thames of its sewage do not evince their anxiety by availing themselves of the advantages offered by, say, the Native Guano Company. Why not?

They can so purify their effluent that delicate fishes will live therein; so I think a vast improvement might easily be effected in the state of the great river. "Silver Thames" is so often referred to in essays and other writings, that it seems absurd that it should still run as black as ink in some parts, and brown in all. Why should not the accumulated filth of our 4,000,000 or 5,000,000 inhabitants of the great metropolis be utilised, as good manure, and spread on the land, instead of going out to sea?

People seem as if they wanted to quarrel with themselves. They want, it appears, to "cut off their noses," as the old proverb has it, "to spoil their faces." See what grand exhibits of fruits and vegetables the Native Guano Company have to show at the Health Exhibition. Why, then, throw away all that is capable of doing so much into the sea? It appears to me to be a perfect sin to go on in this really wicked way. Are we so wonderfully rich that we can easily afford to throw our wealth and "substance" into the salt water, and that for nothing? I trow not. England cannot afford to part with its wealth in these days of hard times, over-taxation, too expensive education, and so forth. No, we must utilise all we have, and strive all we know how, like the Chinese, to make the most of our possessions. Is not our sewage a national possession, just as much as anything? Why, then, should we throw away our goods for nothing? We send missionaries to convert the good people who do not, from habit, birth, or other natural causes, quite agree with us in our religious ideas; but I cannot help thinking that we had better leave them to their own devices, and take more care of our own health, as well as pockets, by attending to our sewage.

If you can make most excellent vegetables out of that which now flows down the gutter or sewer, is not that sounder political economy than any of the measures brought forward by any Ministry? I cannot help feeling that it is so, and, therefore heartily commend the subject to your consideration.—I am, &c.,

Chas. C. Capel.

Cray Fishery, Foot's Cray, Kent, July 20.

### LIVERPOOL ANGLERS AND CLOSE TIME.

Sir,—In reply to the letter of the secretary of the Liverpool Angling Association in your last issue, I beg to say that the members of the Liverpool Central Angling Association are not in the habit of fishing for small, old, degenerate roach in ponds rented by them, for the simple reason that they do not rent any ponds. I would advise him to be more careful in getting his information about this association, and get it from a more reliable source than he has done hitherto.

A smile stole over my countenance when I read that absurd passage about the gentleman and the milkmaid, because Mr. Woolfall is decidedly wrong in quoting that passage, as I have been asked dozens of times by members of the Liverpool Angling Association to join their club; but they always met with my refusal. I think the explanation, in which he tries to prove the Vyrnwy to be a private water, because the conservators have exempted it, is a very poor one; for what does it signify?—simply this, that there is a flaw in the law, and the Liverpool Angling Association takes a very mean advantage of it.

I quite agree with the first part of his letter about using a public journal for such a discussion; but he must remember that any discredit there may be attached to it must fall upon "Izaak's" head, as he first started it.

As regards "sly hits," mine have all been straightforward and to the point, it being in my power to prove them all, and am willing to do so if necessary, and so, do not consider them "sly ones." I certainly don't think either "Izaak" or Mr. Woolfall could do so by theirs. Trusting that I have not intruded too much upon your valuable space.—I am, &c.,

Quill Float.

### MAY-FLY FISHING IN WESTMEATH.

Sir,—I was one day musing over that most interesting of books, "A Year of Liberty," in which Dr. Peard relates his experiences of fishing in Ireland (a delightful book of which every angler should have a copy), and coming to that part wherein he describes his visit to the famous Westmeath lakes, and the fishing with a blow-line, I was taken with a strong desire to go and see what this May-fly fishing was like. At first I thought I would follow on the track of the worthy doctor, who made Mullingar his headquarters, fishing Loughs Belvedere, Ouel, and Derevaragh. It was 15 years or so since he sang the praises of these lakes, and though they are now as productive of sport as ever, I thought I would procure some recent information, and it is this, coupled with my own actual experience, which I am going to impart to your readers.

Towards the end of May, 1883, through the courtesy of friends in Dublin, and of one gentleman in particular, a solicitor (a great lover of the rod, and, I believe, a good all-round sportsman besides), I ascertained that Lough Sheelin, which lies a few miles north of these lakes (and really is in Cavan) was the best *point de départ*. For Sheelin accordingly I set out, the fly being reported well "up," and the moment most favourable. Starting by the night mail from Euston, you reach Dublin as usual about 7.0 in the morning, then take car to Broadstone terminus of the Irish Midland Railway, from which book by 9.0 train to Ballywillan, a distance of 70 miles. Ballywillan is reached at 12.0 or soon after, when a pleasant drive of half an hour or so brings us to the small village of Finea, and here we are at the end of our journey, and, I may say, landed at the water's edge. You will note that we leave London by the 8.25 night mail, and arrive at Finea in ample time next day for a good afternoon's fishing. The sport I had last year was so good that it induced me to go again this year, and with your permission I will prolong my description.

There is a small hotel at Finea, but two comely cottages, the one held by a Mrs. Whyte, the other by a Mrs. Coyle, seemed to be greatly patrynised by anglers. I stopped at Mrs. Whyte's last year, but if it were not for her being so good-natured as to let me squeeze into the smallest possible compass I would not have had that pleasure, as her best rooms are always engaged for months previously. As Mrs. Whyte was again quite full this year, I fixed at Mrs. Coyle's, and here received every attention, Mrs. Coyle herself being a model of activity and kindness. There were five or six gentlemen staying here, all anglers like myself, with whom I passed some very jovial evenings, and whom I hope to meet again. Now for the fishing.

In the first place, when arranging for your apartments, it would be well to secure your fisherman in good time. I must be excused if I do not publish the name of the excellent man to whom my friend consigned me, because in the short days of the May-fly season he could not divide himself into more than two portions, and that would only disappoint others; but there are plenty of good men about the lake having boats and understanding their business, and Mr. Whyte or Mrs. Coyle can always recommend one. For the information of friends who may not be acquainted with this peculiar style of fishing, I may state that the *modus operandi* is as follows:—

All being arranged, and the May-flies of course being well up, the men collect a supply in small boxes, which is easily obtained from the grass and the bushes surrounding the lake. The boats (managed by two men, for the lake is rough when the wind is up, and without wind you have little chance of fishing) are rowed into the proper quarter, and then allowed to drift leisurely before the wind.

The rod should measure 16 or 18 feet. To the line of the finest description is often attached a piece of strong, but very light, gossamer silk, supplemented with a length of the finest gut carrying a small hook (No. 5 Kirby, or smaller). Upon the hook the fisherman impales, in the most artistic manner, a couple (and sometimes three) of the natural May-flies. These float, wings up, in the most natural manner, and as a bait I doubt that anything could be more attractive. The wind which now drifts the boat carries out your blow-line, and the flies are held resting on the water as described.

In a little time a *break* is seen (sometimes a scarcely perceptible one), the "dap," or fatal bait, has vanished; you strike the trout as he turns, and almost surely find yourself engaged with a good fish. It is rare to get a small trout when fishing in this manner, if the weather be dull and rough, and there be much fly on the water. This lake, which is six miles long by three miles, abounds with fine fellows, up to even 10lb. and 12lb. Last year, to my knowledge, fish were killed up to 9lb.; but my biggest was 5½lb. exactly. On that occasion I sent four trout to London (part of a lot taken one afternoon) which weighed 20lb. (3½lb., 5½lb., 5½lb., 5½lb.) My average take last year was about 10 trout per day—all good fish from 2lb. to 5½lb. I got very few under 2lb. a-piece.

The Lough Sheelin trout are, as a rule, thick, well-fed fish; they cut deep pink like salmon, and are delicious eating. They give play like the salmon.

I had fair sport this season, but was too early for the big ones. I arrived on the 26th, and would have done better had I followed my friends' advice and waited till the 31st May. As it was, I got 53 trout in seven days, several going about 1½lb., a few from 2 to 3lb., and only two fish which scaled 4½lb. each. The small fish are usually the first to rise to the fly, and the big fellows were coming on as I left (3rd June). I am sure some good specimens were since landed.

So pleased have I been with my two visits to Lough Sheelin, I intend, if spared, paying it an annual visit when the May-fly is up. I hope next season to have you with me, and if even a party of 20 English friends can be made up there will be room for all and plenty of sport, too. I will "Cook" them, if they like, there and back, first-class and saloon, for 10 days, at £1 per head per day, and find everything needed (the *dripping* to be mine!), and promise the finest fishing they ever had. I know friends who spend more money than that going to Windsor in the vain attempt to catch that one Thames trout "we so often read of but so seldom see." Why not put some of the loose sovereigns by till 28th May, and go in for some really grand sport such as I have attempted to describe? I want to benefit Ireland and benefit the English angler as well, and I can tell him there is no place where he will meet with better welcome and better sport. If friends cannot leave their business in May, they will get the finest white trout and salmon fishing at Connemara in August, by going straight to the Glendalough Hotel; but as you have fished in Ireland yourself, you can tell them these things and a good deal more.

If special information concerning the great Westmeath lakes be desired, I would advise anglers to procure the "Tourist's and Angler's Guide" (price 1s.), issued by J. Ward, Esq., Manager of the Midland G. W. Railway of Ireland, Broadstone, Dublin. I have also heard that this gentleman, who is known to be most courteous to strangers, is always willing himself to give every information regarding the fisheries of Ireland. With many thanks for granting me so much space,—I am, &c.,

James Callaghan.

The Priory, Lawrie Park, Sydenham, June 24.

[It was with great reluctance we had to decline a most pressing invitation to join Mr. Callaghan last May. It would be very jolly to join his party next year, and we trust the fates may be propitious.—Ed.]

### WAXING GOSSAMER SILK—BLOCKS OF FLIES.

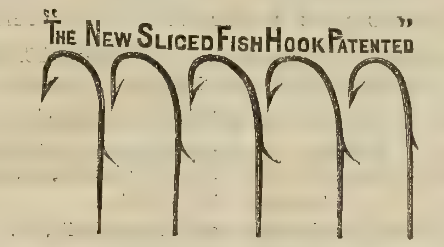
Sir,—Mr. Kelson, in the article of "Salmon Flies," recommends shoemaker's wax for use in fly-making. Does he not find this generally too soft, besides spoiling the colour of the silk? My plan of waxing is this: I cut the silk in lengths of from 14in. to 16in., break the wax into pieces about the size of B B shot; sit me down before the fire, take a piece of wax on first finger of right hand, warm it at the fire, place one end of the silk—beginning at the middle—on the wax, put the thumb on it, and draw the silk over the wax; warm this an instant again, then wax the other end of the silk. The best wax for the purpose I find is the one for which a recipe was given in the Gazette some twelve months ago. I always keep a quantity of different colours of silk waxed, as I find it impossible to make neat work with waxy fingers.

I am puzzled where to obtain electros of flies and fish for illustrating a price list. Can anyone tell me where I can get them? To have blocks cut would cost too much. I think, Mr. Editor, it would pay Messrs. Sampson Low, Marston and Co. to supply these. Under your supervision, no doubt correctly-shaped blocks could be produced.—I am, &c.,

S. Howarth.

## NOTICES OF FISHING TACKLE, &c

The Sliced Hook (Patent).—This is a little invention of Mr. R. B. Marston, which is so clearly shown in the accompanying illustration that much description is unnecessary. It has been very carefully carried out by Messrs. Milward and Sons, Fish Hook Makers, Redditch, and the principle applied to all kinds of hooks on which a natural bait of any kind is used—from the largest cod hooks down to those made for roach fishing. The object of the small projecting metal barb on the shank (in the larger sizes there are two) is to prevent any bait—such as a worm, mussel, gentle, wasp grub, &c., &c.—from slipping down on to the shank of the hook, as is the case so often in the ordinary smooth shank. This hook will be found specially useful in up-stream worm fishing, where the bait has to be cast frequently. The barb on the shank also aids materially in preventing a fish getting off the hook in its struggles. We have found them answer well for barbel fishing.


"The New Sliced Fish Hook Patented"

It will interest many of our readers to learn that Mr. Fairweather, the London manager to Messrs. P. & P. Campbell's dye works, has been successful with a few of the samples of dyed seal's fur for the standard colours for fly dressing. The gradations of the various tints are evenly distributed, and sufficiently distant and distinct from each other. One of the more valuable properties is that of every shade assuming the same appearance when immersed in water as it has when dry. Anglers are indeed indebted to Mr. Fairweather, for the careful consideration and pains he has taken, for having so far accomplished a task which has been burdened with hopelessness and disappointment. Perhaps there is not one among our national industries which adapts itself more directly to the requirements of the people, than the modern method of dyeing and cleaning adopted by this celebrated firm at Perth. We are aware that articles of house furniture, such as curtains, dresses, and all kinds of clothing, silk, and feathers are constantly being conveyed to these dyers, from members of the Royal Family down to the lowest class of the cleanly poor. Large quantities of unsaleable piece goods are also redyed by them to fashionable colours for the wholesale City houses. We venture to say that the large quantities of material sent to 39, New Oxford-street, the chief London office, to be despatched to Perth, is but a proof that the advantages offered by this firm are generally appreciated.

The Stores in Talbot-road, Bayswater, by Vale Bros., in the heart of angling clubs and all kinds of angling residents, deserve notice in this column. Fishermen are often "up a tree" about catering for lunch, and they willingly take anything provided by their servants. Curried chicken in tins especially and all other useful commodities are kept here, and sent to anglers or residents in any part of the kingdom. Vale Bros., having so large a connection, they are enabled to make a considerable reduction in their general price list, which may be obtained on application; and, their extensive premises admit of a large and varied stock of necessaries for anglers, &c. We specially notice Max Greger's Hungarian Carlowitz; which, owing to the extensive demand at this season of the year, they are offering at 3s. per wine flagon.

Fashions in sports as in pastimes, especially among the angling fraternity, are for ever changing. There is always a rare rush for anything newly designed which is really useful to fishermen. The fly fisher a few years ago could often be seen unrolling his housewife and sharpening his crumpled feathers on the banks of a brook, and otherwise making ready for a coarse and probably bad imitation of the natural insect which he had just carefully lifted from the surface of the steady running stream. True, we may have caught a glimpse now and again of Bernard's hackle book, which is highly spoken of because it is cleverly arranged. But what is the salmon fisherman to do with his large family of hooks in all sizes, his hundreds of tackles, his bustard, teal, toppings, summer duck, and numberless expensive provisions which he stands in need of—indeed, necessaries now-a-days, if he wishes to compete with his compeers and have the least chance of success? Brown mallard may now be kept free from moth and insect, and improve in shape rather than be damaged by imprisonment. We call attention with much pleasure to Mr. Rollason's new fly maker's tin cabinet. It is admirably adapted in all detail to preserve every requirement for dressing salmon, trout, and other flies. Being divided and subdivided, it has in its trays separate and suitable places for scissors and spring tweezers, for every hook, and for every feather. The space in the lid is utilised, and protects a partitioned papier-mâché box containing the various shades of seal's fur. They are inexpensive, and no amateur should be without one properly stocked, when he would have within arm's reach material for making any new or standard patterns.

George James Eaton, of Starkholmes, Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required, from gentlemen who can fish, to prove whether they may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—(Advt.)

SALMON & TROUT-FISHING.

CHAS. FARLOW & Co.,
**191, STRAND, London, W.C.,**

MANUFACTURERS OF FIRST-CLASS RODS AND TACKLE, SALMON AND TROUT FLIES, SUITABLE FOR ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD.

**Mahseer Tackle in Great Variety.**
**Makers of Split Cane Rods.**
**Improved Folding Trout Landing Nets**
(Very Light).
**New Patent Lever Salmon Winch**
(Can be regulated to any stiffness at will).
**Brown's Phantom Minnows.**

CATALOGUES GRATIS. PRIZE MEDALS. IMPORTERS OF SILKWORM GUT.

JAMES OGDEN,
28, WINCHCOMB STREET, CHELTENHAM,

PRACTICAL ANGLER, FLY DRESSER, AND MANUFACTURER OF EVERY DESCRIPTION OF FISHING TACKLE.

**James Ogden's Newly-Invented Premier Spinner,**

Regd. Nov. 13th, 1883. This Bait is constructed upon an entirely new and improved principle. Salmon, 6s. 6d.; Trout, 5s.; smaller do., 3s. 6d.

SILVER OR GILT.

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## RIVER REPORTS.

### TIME OF HIGH WATER IN THE THAMES.

To find the time of high water in the Thames at any of the following places, to the time of high water at London Bridge (given below).

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Add | 30 | minutes for | Chelsea. |
| | 40 | „ | Putney. |
| | 45 | „ | Hammersmith. |
| | 50 | „ | Barnes. |
| | 55 | „ | Kew. |
| | 75 | „ | Richmond. |
| | 80 | „ | Twickenham. |
| | 85 | „ | Teddington. |

Example:—If it is high water at 2 o'clock at London Bridge, it will be high water at Teddington about 3.25, or eighty-five minutes later; but it must be remembered that a strong wind accelerates or retards the tide very much.

For Times of High Water at London Bridge.

| | | | Morning. | Afternoon. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Saturday, | August | 9 | 3.17 | 3.35 |
| Sunday, | „ | 10 | 3.54 | 4.12 |
| Monday, | „ | 11 | 4.31 | 4.51 |
| Tuesday, | „ | 12 | 5,10 | 5.29 |
| Wednesday, | „ | 13 | 5.49 | 6.13 |
| Thursday, | „ | 14 | 6.39 | 7.7 |
| Friday, | „ | 15 | 7.35 | 8.8 |

Note.—Izaak Walton born August 9, 1593.

### THE LOWER THAMES.

General Remarks.

The river, and especially in the tideway, is again suffering for want of rain, but the country is, on the other hand, requiring a continuance of fine weather for the harvest. On Monday last, being Bank Holiday, the anglers on the banks were very numerous; indeed, it was found impossible to count them, so completely was the shore lined with them, and, being so many, there was not much chance of catching fish. The punt anglers could not do much through the vast amount of pleasure traffic. The recent convictions—three for laying fixed or dead lines, and two for unsizeable fish—should prove a caution to anglers generally, and affords evidence the keepers are on the alert to put a stop to illegal offences. The attempts that have been made to lay fixed lines by the bank anglers in the daytime will have to be severely checked after the present convictions; and if it is true, as has been reported, it has been carried on at night, the offence will be the more serious. The following are the principal items of sport:—

**Richmond.**—C. Brown, during a period of six days, has taken 60lb. weight of roach and dace. Henry Wheeler, in a couple of days, 40lb. Henry Mansell records a satisfactory result of six days' fishing, 120lb. of roach and dace, two carp, twelve barbel, and one brace of perch. Job Brain, during the week, makes a total of 80lb. of roach and dace and twenty barbel. Henry Howard, in six days, 120lb. of roach and dace and six barbel. The bank anglers during the week have done fairly well.

**Twickenham.**—H. Spiers, in seven days, fifty-one dozen of roach and dace and thirteen barbel. J. Spong, in five days, forty-two-dozen of roach and dace. Samuel Cole, in seven days, fifty-six dozen of roach and dace and seven barbel. Edward Finch, during the week, seventy dozen of roach and dace and ten barbel. C. Hennessey, in five days, thirty dozen. James Coxen, with Mr. Bicknell, in two days, eighteen dozen of roach and dace and two barbel; and, in two other days, sixteen dozen of roach and dace and three barbel. Richard Coxen, in one day, eight dozen of roach and dace. Joseph Dobbin, in four days, twenty-four dozen of roach and dace and two barbel. Joseph Dunn, in half a day, three dozen and a half of roach and dace. George Coxen, in four days, thirty-two dozen of roach and dace and two barbel. W. Spong, in three days, with Mr. Walker, twenty-one dozen of roach and dace, and another day 7½lb. Pert Hammerton, in five days, forty dozen of roach and dace and three barbel. One of the bank anglers got a nice bream and a fine barbel of 5¾lb. The roach are reported to be working up, and some fine ones have been taken.

**Teddington.**—J. Stevens, in one day, three dozen of roach and dace. B. Stevens, during the week, eighteen barbel. Joseph Baldwin, in three days, eighteen dozen of roach and dace, seven chub, and two barbel. C. Baldwin, in one day, five dozen of roach and dace. Mr. Wetherall, fishing off the Weir on Tuesday morning, caught two jack, weighing respectively 11lb. and 4lb. The water is now very bright, and wants rain badly.

**Kingston.**—John Johnson, sen., writes, "I have been getting a fair share of fish this week, my best day has been seven bream, one barbel, and five dozen of roach and dace; all good fish. In three other half days, from four to six dozen, and a stray bream or barbel. My son John has been getting some dace, his best take being six dozen and three barbel. There has been a quantity of fish taken by the bank fishers at the Sewers, consisting principally of roach, bream, and barbel. I saw a barbel and a jack up to 6lb. each. A few jack have been taken by the private boats in trailing, and a couple of nice chub. The water is very bright, and fine tackle is the thing for those who can use it."

**Hampton Court.**—William Milbourne, in two days, twenty dozen of gudgeon and twelve brace of perch. Thomas Milbourne, in two days, seven perch, a jack of 2lb., seven dozen of gudgeon, four dozen of roach and dace, and one barbel; and in two other days twenty-two dozen of roach and dace. John Smith, in four days, twenty-five barbel, three brace of perch, eight chub, and two dozen of roach and dace. Thomas Wheeler twenty-eight barbel, four dozen of roach and dace, and four dozen of gudgeon. The records of takes at the Island Hotel include twenty dozen of roach and dace, six fine chub, and a jack of 3lb.

**Sunbury.**—Edward Clarke, jun., with Mr. Cooper, in three days, sixty-seven barbel, twenty-three bream, four perch, four chub, a jack of 3lb., twenty dozen of roach and dace, and twenty dozen of gudgeon, altogether weighing 230lb. H. Clark, in three days, twenty dozen of roach and dace, ten dozen of gudgeon, two bream, one chub, and a roach of 1lb.

**Walton.**—D. Walford, one day, eight dozen of roach; another day, six dozen; and another day, nine dozen and nine bream. George Stone, jun., one day, three dozen of gudgeons and six bream; another day, five bream of 3lb. each; another day, four dozen of roach; and another day, eight dozen. The visitors at the Swan Hotel have killed some good fish. Mr. Williams, at the tumbling bay, with a large grouse fly, a nice trout of over 5lb. Mr. Kirk, with minnows, three splendid perch, over 2lb. each; and another gentleman, four barbel and five bream from the bank.

**Halliford.**—J. Strudwick, one day, nine bream and eleven dace; another day, ten bream and five perch; another day, eight dozen of roach: and another day, ten dozen of gudgeons.

**Weybridge.**—H. Cam, one day, twenty dozen of gudgeon and two dozen of roach; and another day, five large chub and one brace of perch.

**Shepperton.**—F. Purdue, in one day, ten dozen of gudgeons, a brace of perch weighing 1½lb., and a jack of 2½lb.; and W. Rogerson, one barbel, a brace of perch, two eels, and three dozen of gudgeons.

**Staines.**—G. Osman, one day, two barbel, one chub, one perch, and two dozen of roach and dace; and another day six dozen. John Keene, one day, a barbel of 3½lb., and another day, 10lb. of roach and dace. The angler hooked a very large barbel, and after playing it for half an hour, lost it. John Keene, jun., in four hours, got some fine roach.

## UPPER THAMES.

The river is as clear as unadulterated Old Tom, and, let anglers fish as cleverly as possible, the various denizens of the river decline to leave their umbrageous homes amid the various sorts of weeds which now abound in all the chosen haunts of the finny tribes. Barbel are very shy, and will only nibble at the most tempting of lobs at daybreak and sunset. Perch are biting somewhat up to the mark, and gudgeon may be had for the asking. Roach seem to be feeding in the most shy manner, and chub will only look at a fly of the most approved "masher" pattern. At Maidenhead, three trout have been had, and a few miscellaneous baskets of inferior types of fish. At Marlow, many men have been out on the war path, but I only know of one trout being "instructed" to fall a victim to a man of law. At Hurley, on the 3rd inst., Messrs. Kidd (of the South Hornsey Angling Club), Parry, Keats, and Tongue, by fishing from early morn to dewy eve, obtained some 12lb. of roach and perch; and again on Monday did creditably, considering the blazing sun and the clear water. At Medmenham, a barbel of 2½lb. has been had by a banker, besides a pretty sprinkling of perch and roach; all had with my favourite tail of lob, legering. Thursday evening; weather simply scorching. River low and bright—gudgeon being the only midday certainties.—MARLOW BUZZ.

### Datchet.

Water lower than ever, dace and gudgeon biting; perch, in the evening; had a good turn with the barbel on the 3rd with lobworm; have not been able to get any worms since, although the present weather forbids any hope of catching them. Have seen them lying mid-water to-day by hundreds, apparently in a sinking condition. J. Hoare took a very handsome bream on the 3rd, 7lb.; a trout caught in the flat on the 3rd, with lobworm, 5lb.—G. LUMSDEN.

### Dockett Point.

Water low and bright; still, with fine tackle, fish to be had. Mr. D. Brunton, on Tuesday, 5 barbel, 1 perch, 1 bream; the same day, J. Haslett, jun., fishing with Mr. P. C. Hatfield, 6 bream, 3 barbel, roach and dace; legering, one day last week, 6 dozen of gudgeon, 3 perch put back.

### Thames (Goring).

Water in good order for perch and gudgeons; roach not on much; jack are in the weeds still. Best day: twelve dozen of gudgeon, two jack, and two dozen of very good perch.—JOHN RUSH.

### Walton-on-Thames.

The fishing here has, with few exceptions, been bad, some of the punts doing little or nothing; G. Hone, jun., and D. Walford are, however, the exceptions. G. Hone, jun., from Rosewell's boathouse, has had several good days' fishing—one day three dozen gudgeon and five or six dozen roach, and another day five large bream of 3lb. each, besides a good basket of roach and dace of good size. D. Walford has been very successful, and is a very attentive fisherman; he made some very good takes of large roach, bream, and barbel. Being late for post I cannot give you the details. A gentleman staying at the Swan Hotel was very lucky in killing a large trout in Tumbling Bay of 5½lb. with a large-grown hackle fly with orange pig's wool to-day, and he (Mr. Milburn) must be complimented on his capture. This fish has been hooked several times previously and made his escape. A spectator, who went up to look on, said he never saw a salmon make such frantic efforts to get away, but the old North-country salmon fisher was too much for the hitherto invincible trout after twenty minutes' desperate encounter in rapid and rather shallow water—a more difficult place to kill a fish does not exist in the Thames. Mr. Kirk is another of the Swan Hotel patrons who has shown his angling skill, killing three splendid perch upwards of 2lb. each. The fish are getting too numerous and well-fed.—GOLDFINCH.

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### Ancholme District.

There is now some capital sport to be had among the coarse fish in the waters of the Ancholme navigation. At Brigg, and lower down the river, the takes of late have been good. Among those who have done well at the place named was S. Stokes, of Sheffield, who got upwards of 15lb. of fine roach. At Appleby another angler landed 28lb. 3oz. of roach, perch, and bream from the same river. Since the Sunday fishing at this place has been stopped a better class of anglers have patronised the water.—X.

Many excursionists visited the Ancholme on Monday last, and obtained varying results. Some did badly, others well; but the best sport is now to be had early in the morning or late in the evening. The trout streams are so low and choked with weeds that but little is doing on them. Rain is much needed to cleanse the bed and to put the fish on the feed.—THOMAS FORD.

### Ballynahinch.

These are the takes for week ending August 5th:—Col. Biden, 59 trout; Mr. Power, 44 trout and 1 salmon, 8lb.; Mr. Smith, 42 trout; Mr. Taylor, 12 trout; Mr. Middleton, 18 trout and 1 salmon, 12lb.; Mr. Hone, 24 trout; Mr. McNeil, 61 trout; a party of three, the Right Hon. the Earl of Malmesbury, Col. Harris, and Mr. Gould, 63 trout and 1 salmon, 6lb.; Messrs. Debham and Dalton (in two days), 48 trout. Total for the week, 331 trout and 3 salmon. Some days very bright and trout not taking well.—WALTER BLACKADDER.

### Bure.

Some extraordinarily good luck has been experienced on the pretty stream at Horning Ferry, Host Thompson. I am informed that on Monday two anglers caught nearly a comb sack full of bream, &c., whilst many others had good, and in some cases, first-rate, success. At Wroxham, I am told, numerous good catches were made, but I cannot report any in particular, as what I have heard is not authenticated, and rumour is proverbially a "lying jade." At Host Rose's, Acle Bridge, excellent sport, as far as numbers are concerned, have been the usual luck, whilst in one or two instances some very fine roach and perch have been captured. Any of these stations are within easy reach of either Yarmouth, Lowestoft, or Cromer, but in the case of Horning Ferry it is necessary to write to Host Thompson to meet you at Wroxham Station. Prospects:—From Coltishall down to Acle the river is alive with fish, which only await the follower of "Old Isaac" to be taken out of the wet.—ROBERT MOLL.

### Dove.

The weather has continued very bright and hot all the week, and the river has become very low and clear. Anglers have been numerous, but all have been more or less nonplussed. The best results have been obtained at night, when rodsters have done moderately with the coachman, the dun cut, and the caterpillar. Now and again an odd fish has been captured in the face of the glaring sun with the gold-bodied dun. The reflection of the fierce sunlight thrown out by this little tinsel affair, doubtless attracts Master Speckle when otherwise not inclined to feed. The bottom fishers have done better than those on the surface, though not much, as the water certainly requires a shade of colour. The best bait has been the wasp grub.—THE SPLODGER.

### The Dove (Ilam).

The river is very low and bright, but the fish rise fairly well, especially in the evening. Several good grayling have been taken, with the minnow chiefly—spun very slowly and pulled against the stream—it must be small. Mr. R. B. Marston has had some fair sport with the fly; five brace of trout on Saturday with olive and honey duns; on Tuesday two and a half brace of trout and a grayling, 1lb. 3oz., with same flies; on Wednesday with "Hofland's fancy" he had a nice dish of six brace of trout and one grayling. There has been a good rise of fly at sunset—a mottled-winged brown.—CAPERER.

### Exe (Exeter).

Bank holidays took most of our piscators to the delightful seaside resorts of this charming county; but some mustered at Turf and caught some perch, the most successful anglers being Mr. Albert Chamberlain and a gentleman from the College, who captured a fine perch of 2lb. Weather fearfully hot, water low, and prospects not bright till the weather cools and some rain falls.—J. A. KELLY.

### The Exe (Tiverton).

The river is again very low; nothing doing only at dusk. In the evening trout sport very well; flies taking best, blue upright and red ant.—WM. MUDFORD.

### Fens (Boston.)

The Fen Drains have not had the usual number of excursionists this week to feed the fish and make them sick with groundbait; still, there has been plenty of sport, and on most of the drains the craft have done well. Up the Hobhole at Leake and at Frieston, there have been anglers who have done well among the roach with here and there an occasional tench, and a few good bream. On the Cowbridge Drain there have been anglers who have done well, and particularly on the Aqueduct water. From the Kelsey Drain, also, anglers have made up good baskets; one of note that I have heard of was that of Henry Cawthorne, who had a splendid level lot of roach, few under ½lb., and the best running to 1½lb. each. From other places nice fish have been brought, and also the local anglers have done fairly in the river, and at more distant spots than those mentioned. The water in the drains is now in first-class condition and colour, but the return of dry weather will have a tendency to reduce the total weights brought to land.—Y. B.

### Ilfracombe.

Sea Fishing.—Several boating parties out daily, but their catches of fish have not been so good as the previous week. I think it has been in a large measure owing to the clearness of the water, the bottom showing very plain at three and four fathoms, so but small strings of bream, whiting, and pollack were caught off the Torrs; and on Wednesday some dabs and whiting were caught off Rillage. Those fishing with rod and hand-lines from the pier head and jetty have had very little sport. Several lobsters have been caught. The weather at present very fine.—E. COMER.

### Kempton Park Lake and River.

The fishing here is in first-rate condition. Several members of the Beresford Society were here on the 3rd inst., and had some fine sport. Mr. Sames took some nice bream and a very handsome perch; Mr. Blackman three brace and a half of fine bream, and other members roach and bream. On the following evening, I killed a brace and a half of bream in 30 minutes kicking the beam at 4½lb. from the same spot where Mr. Sames had been fishing the previous day, perhaps the most fishy spot in the lake. As I walked along the bank of the river in the afternoon, I saw some very fine bream, tench, and pike basking in the sunshine, which fairly made my fingers tingle. I tried them; but they seemed to say they preferred to stay till another day.—G. ATTWELL.

### Lea (Tottenham).

Notwithstanding the water continues low and bright, some capital bags of fish have been got during the week. On Monday, Mr. Bennett, jun., whipping with artificial fly, killed five dozen of roach and dace. On Wednesday, Mr. Beresford, bottom fishing, took 16lb. of roach, and on Thursday Mr. Bennett, sen., whipping, filled his creel with roach, dace, and chub. Anyone who is at all sceptical about the quantity and quality of the fish in this reach of the river should run down now. "Old Sol" is in the ascendant and the fish are on the surface. Big bream and roach are showing themselves literally in hundreds.—HACKLES RED.

### Leicester.

Fine weather has prevailed now for some days. Owing to the Bank Holiday a very large concourse of anglers have been fishing. On Monday there were over 200 at the Leicester society's preserves, and in addition to these over 400 were booked by the Midland and Great Northern Railway Company to the various other waters in this locality. Some idea may, therefore, be gathered of the large number of people who indulge in the sport hereabouts. Of course, it could not be expected that the takes would be in proportion to the number of anglers out, although in many cases some really good baskets were obtained. Among the most successful were Messrs. Bird, H. Barrows, Creeland, and Thomas, who each showed fine lots, varying from 10lb. to 15lb., taken from the home waters, most of which were taken with creeded wheat and malt. Of the out-of-town anglers, Messrs. Bonner, Jarvis, Burgess, Wells, and Carpenter brought home some heavy lots of fish on Monday and Tuesday, whilst other good takes came under my notice during the week. Thursday was exceedingly hot. On this day, Mr. Hardy, the secretary to the local angling society, with a friend, caught a fine lot of roach from some distant waters weighing over 20lb. The waters are now in first-rate condition, and prospects of fishing remain exceedingly good.—ALERT.

### Littleport.

The following is a list of a few of the best takes since last week's report:—August 1st, Dr. Cooper, President of Cambridge and Ely Angling Society, with Mr.

J. E. L. Whitehead, Cambridge, 11 bream, 28lb. in all; largest, 4½lb. August 2nd, Mr. F. Duchesnes, fishing with Messrs. J. and J. Cutlack, Ely, 12lb. good roach. August 4th, Messrs. S. Ratcliffe and H. Holt, three stone very fine roach; Mr. W. Purchas, sec. C. and E. A. S., 50 roach going 14lb., in four and a half hours; Mr. M. Ellison, London, 11lb. good roach; Mr. H. Lee, Cambridge, 8½lb. Several other anglers out, and all had fair sport, Mr. H. H. Heading, Ely, taking honours. August 6th, Mr. Trafford, Peterborough, 7½lb. good roach; Messrs. F. G. Tuck, New, Barnes, Ely, and R. Long, Shippera, 10½lb. August 1st, Mr. W. Rowton, Cambridge, and Mr. F. Drew, Cambridge, each had a very nice basket of roach, which it appears I have neglected to jot down. Keeper Brenton gives me the following:—July 30th, Mr. R. S. Hall, Ely, 107 roach; three largest, 1½lb., 1¼lb., and 1lb. respectively, and all others very good roach. August 1st, Mr. Turner, lay clerk, Ely, a nice catch of roach. August 2nd, Mr. T. Allpress, Ely, a brace of pike, going 9½lb. the brace; Messrs. J. Cooper and C. Brown, Ely, a nice pike each.

### Lodden.

The weather is so very hot and bright, the river low and very clear, that sport is not obtainable. We started, as I informed you in my last report, at six o'clock on Thursday morning for trout. It was quite a thick fog when we started. We were soon at work on the tumbling bay water, but no signs of a rise. The mist began to disperse, and the sun came out with scalding heat. Chub and dace at every cast, but no trout; and then the flies, confound them!—they literally drove us off the water. Between nine and ten o'clock they were intolerable. The result of the four hours' sport was twelve chub, as many roach and dace, but only one trout of ½lb. weight.—F. Gosden.

### Lugg and Arrow (Leominster).

There is little to complain of in the state of these, except that they are rather lower than suits some of the anglers who periodically visit these streams. Fishermen have made some very fair baskets this week, and both these streams have been well patronised both in top and bottom fishing. We have not heard of much being done out Bodenham way, but a gentleman near Ford's Bridge caught some very nice trout on Monday with the large black ant. Up the Kingsland waters several nice catches were had on Bank Holiday with the wasp grub; one gentleman, who had been up the Shobden district, near Aymestry, caught on Monday eleven trout, six perch, and four grayling with the grub—the trout averaged about 1lb. weight each. A gentleman, who has been using the grasshopper several evenings this week, has had some very good luck each evening. The Arrow has afforded some good fishing. A gentleman, on Saturday, went down the Ivington waters after four o'clock, and tried the red spinner for half an hour, but not a fish would bite. Being well provided with wasp grub, he went higher up the stream, when the fish began to take the bait splendidly; in a short time his basket contained twelve trout (good ones), four grayling, and two small eels. Up Stanton way, on Monday, a gentleman caught several fine fish with the grub, principally trout. At Eardisland, on Tuesday, a gentleman fly fishing caught a trout which weighed over 2lb. On Monday, I understand, a party visited Monkland, and had some very good sport until all their bait (wasp grub) was exhausted. They then tried the worm, but not a single bite did they get amongst them. Some nice fish landed from the Pinsley.—Gwynne.

### Moy and Loch Conn (Ballina).

Very poor sport to be had on river and loch at present. Although the river rose to a fair angling height more than once in the last fortnight, the fish will not rise to fly freely.—Frank Hearns.

### Nene (Northampton).

Fishing in this river has been tame since last report, but during the past few days large numbers have been trying the canals in this district, and some nice bags have been taken. On Monday last, C. Westley killed one dozen tench and half dozen roach; C. Eyte has managed to bag 40lb. of eels and some nice roach and perch; A. Adams has been taking about six dozen gudgeon and minnow; G. Hind and Master Slip killed three brace of pike. Our two crack anglers, E. Bullock and Bill Singlehurst, have been trying the roach in the Borough free water, but no luck.—T. F.

### Ouse (Huntingdon).

Anglers have been very busy among the bream and roach. This last week several good takes have been had owing to the splendid bright weather, which has brought the fish to the bait. On the 1st inst. I took 23¼lb. roach, 15½lb. bream. On the 3rd inst. 29¾lb. bream, 7½lb. roach. On the morning of the 6th inst. 49lb. of bream, 10lb. roach. On the 7th 54¾lb. bream. Roach were very quiet, so during the last week I have had some splendid takes. On the 4th and 5th inst. good takes were made by some gentlemen. From what I have heard two of the gentlemen took between 3 and 4 stone. It is a fact that the river is well stocked with fish, but not visited much by London anglers, nor any others from distant places.—H. Rout.

### Severn (Shrewsbury).

The weather now appears to have settled down, and the banks of this beautiful river are certainly looking at their best. With the water in good condition, good baskets of fish have been by no means uncommon during the holidays. On Monday last, being probably the most popular Bank Holiday throughout the year, the river was studded every few yards with anglers of all descriptions; there were bottom fishers and fly fishers, as well as here and there a troller; there were old and skilful Waltonians, as well as many who were receiving their first lesson in the art. One gentleman who came from Manchester, and visited this water for the first time, said that he was tempted to this neighbourhood by having read several accounts of the district, and the good fishing there is to be obtained in the neighbourhood, and he was highly pleased with the results of the sport. On Monday he caught a good basket of fish, which consisted chiefly of trout and grayling. In fact, so pleased was he with the water that he said he should certainly advise the members of his club to take a turn in this locality. Mr. Sayce had a good afternoon's fishing on Friday, taking one nice trout and about 6lb. of dace and chub. Mr. Lewis, fishing on Saturday, below Shrewsbury, 1 trout, 5 fine grayling, and 16 dace, &c. Three anglers, on Wednesday, fishing near Montford Bridge, had some grand sport—one took 40 good roach, another 30 odd, and the third 25. Dry fly is the the most killing at present on the still water; on the fords, the addition of a maggot is very enticing. —Severn Salmon.

### Teme (Ludlow).

During the whole of the week this river has continued in a somewhat low state, the tributaries all being in a similar condition. Angling has been indulged in in all the streams, and fishermen have been, on the whole, very fortunate. Of course the wasp grub is all the rage at present, and top fishing has almost been deserted for bottom, and few fishermen using the grub have returned at night without something to boast of. The wasp grub appears to be a more successful bait this year in the tributaries than it is in the Teme; at least, so say the anglers who have tried both streams. On Tuesday large numbers of anglers paid the rivers a visit, it being Bank-holiday here (instead of Monday, which is market day, as I before stated). These fishermen had the average luck of amateurs. Mr. T. Hodges, the well-known fly maker, caught seven splendid trout the other night up the Park-waters, with the wasp grub. A gentleman, on Monday evening, near to Ashford, landed with the grub seven trout, three grayling, and three perch. A gentleman, on Tuesday, caught several nice fish with the grasshopper, in the Ludford waters. There has been some good trout caught in Lord Windsor's waters during the week. The Clun keeps low, and little has been done in this stream. In the upper part some few fish have been caught with the wasp grub and the grasshopper. In the Corve good catches have been had towards night with the grub. On Tuesday eleven trout were caugut by a gentleman, near the race-course, and, on Wednesday, seven more. The waters of the Ledwych are low, and not many fish have been landed from this stream of late. Up the Onibury waters some good sport has been had. A gentleman named Matthewson, caught, one evening near Bromfield, with the wasp grub, four brace of trout, three dace, and one chub. One trout was over 2lb. weight.—S. Ludlow.

### Teme (Tenbury).

The waters continue in a pretty fair state for anglers, and visitors to the waters are rather more numerous, preferring the cool sides of the river banks to the dusty streets of the busy town. Two visitors on last Saturday landed some very nice fish with the maggot up the Burford district; they secured twenty-nine trout between them, seventeen of the fish weighed a pound or more each, they also caught several more fish of different sorts. A gentleman landed some very good fish on Monday, above where the Corn Brook joins the Teme. Some nice fish were caught near Rochford on Tuesday with the wasp grub, and some dozen trout in the Eastham waters with the red-spinner. There are large quantities of fish about here in all the streams affording excellent sport for the angler. On Monday, a gentleman showed me, towards dusk, a fine basket of fish which he informed me he caught that afternoon, at Little Hereford, with the wasp grub. Up the Rea to Neen Sallars some excellent fish have been landed. While fishing in these waters, on Monday, I could distinctly hear the sound of the bugle in the camp of the 1st Shropshire Rifle Volunteers, who were camping in the beautiful grounds of Mawley Park, the seat of Lady Blount. I hear of some very nice trout being landed on Monday by a well-known M.D. up as far as Stoddesden and Dudlick with the wasp grub. Near the Clevebury North district local anglers have been successful this week. In the Kyre a few trout, I am told, were caught on Saturday, near Kyre Park, and some few on Tuesday, in the Burntlands quarter. Most of the fishing in these quarters has been in the evening.—Worcester.

### Torridge (Torrington).

River getting very low. Some good fish have been taken late evenings with the fly. Also a quantity of large dace with paste. Float fishing and mullet fishing were good last week, and we were expecting good sport; but some fellows came up the river with their small mesh nets by night and scared the fish away. These net fishermen will never be pleased until they have driven away all the fish. I wish one of the conservators would bring the case up at one of their meetings. That would be the best way to deal with it.—Practical Angler.

### Trent (Alrewas).

River very low and fine, and fish very hard to get at, although a few good bags have been secured with the maggot. Some fine chub have been taken during the past week, and those who want to be successful must fish a long way off, also early and late. A large quantity of weed still remains in the water, and a good flush would materially help to cleanse the swims. In last week's report, for "Pan and Pig" read "Paul Pry."

### Trent (Lower).

Anglers on the lower waters of the Trent have done well again this week. A goodly number came down on Bank Holiday, and at several spots had good fun. Flounders continue to give diversion, and also eels. At Littleborough, near to Cottam, a Mr. Stevenson showed a basket of over 22lb., made up of flounders, roach, and eels. At Durham some very nice roach were had, and among others H. Landells had a basket of them scaling 11lb. Most of his fish were ¾lb. each. Bream, I fancy, have been quiet; still, they, as well as barbel, are yet to be had. The water is in fine condition, and those fond of chub-fishing should soon seek their opportunities. —Ware.

### Trent (Newark).

The water is very low and clear and not at all in bad condition for angling, if it was not for the vast accumulation of weeds on the bottom. Being Bank Holiday week fishermen have turned out in goodly numbers, but somehow or other sport has not been of a good general character. 'Tis true some few experienced men met with fairish sport, but in the majority of cases "very indifferent" may be written opposite their names and catches. The reason of this, in my opinion, is not very far to seek, because we, most of us, know that after a very long, dry summer, when week after week the river runs very low and clear, and no heavy floods sweep down the valley of the Trent to clear away the deposits, the vegetable and animal life at the bottom of the river increases and multiplies to such an extent that the fish are clean gorged up with it. This being their natural food, and plenty of it within easy reach, we cannot wonder at not enticing large shoals of fish into the various swims, no matter how judiciously we ground bait. But still, as I said at the outset, the week has been far from being a blank. A very few barbel have been grassed, the lump of scratchings seeming to be the best bait in this instance. Bream have also bit at worms and died; roach and dace have been secured with gentles and paste, while a few eels and flounders have been brought home from the lower waters. I must not forget a bag of half a dozen nice chub, being taken with wasp grubs, and a dozen of the same fish taken from under the boughs with the fly. I have heard of an odd pike or two being had spinning, but not very big, as far as I can learn. Water very low and fine; weather very fine and dry; prospects do not seem to me to be very brilliant until we get an alteration in the water. In last week's Gazette notice of the Anglers' Tournament I see my address is given as Nottingham; it should be Newark-on-Trent. Please correct.—The Trent Otter.

### Wharfe (Yorkshire).

The river is at present very low and clear, and even the evening fishing is productive of little sport. On Monday (Bank Holiday), there was a nice breeze upon the water during the whole of the day. I fished upon the Ottley Club length, and did well considering the state of the water. I had 15 good fish when I gave up at 4.30 p.m. They were in the height of condition, and gave excellent sport. On the same day, the seventh annual fishing match, promoted by Mrs. Greenwood, Marquis of Granby Inn, Leeds, took place at Skipton-bridge, near Thirsk. The amount of £25 was given in money prizes, and 250 anglers competed. The first prize was won by Mr. Wm. Brumfitt, of Otley, with 2lb. 9oz. weight of fish, while the weight of 1lb. 6½oz. obtained the eighth prize, so that it will be seen that the catches ran remarkably close. The best flies to employ at the present time are stone bloa, orange partridge, August brown (or dun), and knotted midge, or tail to tail, as Mr. Aldam styles it. The fly that I rose most fish with on Monday was one hackled from a landrail and orange silk body; it was dressed by Mr Brumfitt, of Otley, who, by the bye, makes a most excellent fly, true to colour and size, which, I may add, is everything on a river like the Wharfe. The weather at the time of writing (Wednesday) is simply glorious. We have had no summer like the present for the past six years.—Francis M. Walbran.

### The Wensum (Norwich).

Extraordinary Catch of Roach with a Fly.

At Fakenham last Monday a member of the Wensum Preservation Society (Mr. Yelf), an old London fly fisherman, was fortunate enough to catch, with "the soldier palmer," nearly 3st. of very fine roach, the largest, which he showed at our club-house (Norwich Angling Club) weighed 1¾lb.; the average of the catch was about 12oz. I received a letter from him this morning giving me all particulars, and I am sorry that the largest fish of all, about 2lb., he carelessly put into the grass too near the river, and it escaped back to its native element. He informs me that the roach were feeding about 20 yards from his bank, and that as he hooked them he led them a good distance away, so as not to disturb the others. Another member of the same society had some very fair sport on Saturday at the same place, catching some good large dace, and also a few very fine roach; these were taken by Mr. Howitt, of the Norwich Angling Club.—Robert Moll.

### Witham.

The anglers on the Witham have not been so numerous during the present week as last, owing to the fact of no specials having come down, and possibly owing to the counter attractions of Bank Holiday. There was a goodly number, however, at most of the stations, and these, on the whole, did pretty well, it is thought. At some points there were only a few anglers, yet good baskets were to be seen returning. There were not many features about the takes seen that would prove interesting; nevertheless, I may mention one—that of an angler named Stringer, who had a nice bream of 3lb. in a basket of 17lb. odd of roach and perch. Some of the visiting anglers only came as far as Lincoln. On the Fossdyke fair sport was had for the water. At Saxilby, G. Leeman got 3lb. 2oz. of roach on Monday.—The Yellow Belly.

### Witham (Dogdyke).

We still continue to be favoured with many anglers from Bradford, Halifax’ Manchester, Sheffield, and other large towns, most of whom have been very fortunate indeed, having made very good baskets of roach, perch, eels, tench, and a large quantity of very good bream, weighing from 2lb. to 3½lb. each. Mr. Ashton, of Manchester, caught 10lb. of fine bream and 5lb. of roach; Messrs. Mitchell and J. and G. Hill, of the same place, scaled 36lb. of bream and 12lb. of roach. The river Bain, which flows into the Witham at Dogdyke, behind the flour mills, has yielded some very good sport, for two gentlemen from Halifax have caught some very good chub, from 1lb. and upwards, with the ordinary large meat flies, commonly called in Lincolnshire, "bluebottles."—Packet Hotel.

### Wye and Derwent.

All our Derbyshire rivers are exceedingly low and clear for this time of the year; in fact, it is over 30 years since it was as low as it is at the present time; in fact, I heard of a great deal of poached, netted fish being hawked up and down this district—the fish supposed to have been taken off of various parts of the Darley Dale Club waters lately. This I do not wonder at, as the honourable secretary, Lieut.-Colonel Rawlings, of Matlock Tower, is not at all liked, either by the members of the club he belongs to, or the landowners or gentlemen fishers in this district; in fact, men speak of the Colonel as a complete nuisance. If the Darley Dale Club does not get another secretary at once, they will lose a lot of the land they now hold, and give it to the Matlock Bath new fishing club, just started. Sport during the last week has been very bad with the artificial flies in the middle of the day; morning and evening are the best times, and baskets from 4 to 7 brace per evening are being made. The killing flies are black gnat, Eabor's light dun, sand fly, and light evening duns. The Bottom fishers only fish late at night, and their takes are very small. Eels are now running well; several fish up to 3lb. each are being taken on night-lines between Darley and Matlock-bridge.—G. J. Eabor.

### The Yare (Norwich).

At every station on this river, anglers have been having a good time. From Surlingham, just below Norwich, I hear that some excellent sport has been experienced during the past week, whilst at "Flowers" Station at Brundall, and also at Host Brown's, Coldham Hall. Visitors have had some good fun amongst the roach and bream at Buckenham Ferry (Host Garrett's), the catches of roach have been both numerous and fine. I am pleased to say that small fish are not as frequent this summer as they have been in seasons past. At Cantley and Reedham good bream and roach fishing are to be had, as well as good accommodation. This last remark applies to Brundall and Buckenham Ferry especially. I have had the pleasure of meeting several London anglers lately, and have received the greatest kindness and many useful hints from them. Amongst some I have been fortunate enough to meet are Mr. Wheatstone, president of the Stanley Angling Society (a very jolly angler); Mr. Cliff, of the Friendly Anglers' Society, who visited the Norwich Angling Club at their club-house last Tuesday evening, and in response to his health gave some very useful and practical information to the members of this old Society. I also have at Yarmouth two London gentlemen who are on "Piscatorial ventures" bent, and who applied to me to advise them. I am happy to say I met them at Yarmouth on Saturday, and feel sure I have made two friends. We want more of this social, kindly intercourse among anglers throughout the kingdom, and then we should be confirmed in our good opinion of our brethren of the rod.

The Norwich Angling Club holds its annual match at Buckenham Ferry next Tuesday, and I trust they may have as good sport as the Champion Club had—nearly a stone a man is fair sport on a match day. The weather is everything that could be desired, and I strongly advise those who think of paying a visit to Norfolk to do so as early as possible, before a change sets in. They cannot do better than try the Yare or the Bure, not forgetting the Thurne, Ant, &c., nor Oulton Broad for Lowestoft sojourners, and Fritton Decoy should come in for a fair share of patronage (visitors not forgetting that they cannot obtain anything stronger than Bohea at this favourite spot). Prospects never better.—Robert Moll.

## THE DEE AND DON SALMON FISHINGS (ABERDEENSHIRE.)

The grilse season, now practically over, it is safe to say has this year proved the worst on record so far as the Dee is concerned. Than the continued drought in June and July, with its attendant low waters, no greater disappointment could have been experienced by anglers. Nor are matters yet improving. The rise in the river which took place about a fortnight ago, came all too late to benefit the frequenters of the salmon pools. The season for the run of grilse was past, and they and the salmon and sea trout had in a measure, and for a time at least, moved off the coast. Along the coast, especially between Nigg and Stonehaven, the shots of salmon and grilse of late have been very small. For about a week previous to the first of last week some fairly good shots of salmon and grilse—the salmon, mostly good and heavy—were got at the Nether Don and the Harbour fishings. Apart altogether from the low state of the rivers, the bright, fine weather, and the quiet glassy nature of the season, combine to keep the fish from running. The low state of the water this year has made manifest one important point, and that is, that the upper proprietors must either allow their rents to decline or else have more nets removed from the river, as the leases of the various netting stations expire. When the grilse sought up this summer, the nets captured all and sundry, except a few that straggled up on Sundays. Such is the state of matters on the Dee from 11th to 26th August (whenever the river is small), and will remain so till some important netting stations disappear before the financial resources of the Upper Proprietors' Protection and Improvement Association.

To return to the fishing, we may mention that though the season, so far as gone, has been poor, there is now a generally good appearance of fine heavy old salmon along the coast, and if wind and weather prove suitable a good make up may yet be had before the season ends. The shots at all the stations in this locality during the past fortnight varied from 10 to 50 salmon and 12 to 60 grilse. The higher shots were got about the harbour. At the Nether Don Fishings the shots varied from 30 to 100 salmon, 40 to 120 grilse, with some good sea trout. In the Dee the nets are doing poorly, and for a month or six weeks now have been in the same condition. The last fortnight in July only produced 12 salmon 261 grilse, and 319 sea trout—a poor return indeed, scarcely a fish being got at present at any of the Don river stations.—W. M.

Angling Contest at Crowle Wharf.—Mr. Sanderson's Annual Sweepstakes for the best gross weight took place at Crowle Wharf, on the Keadby Canal, on Monday. It was a great success, and a somewhat severe contest was the result. J. Hirst, with 2lb. 10oz., took the first prize; R. Brown, with 2lb. 5oz., the second; and E. Cowley, with 2lb. 2oz., the third. The money prizes, nine in number, ranged from £13 to £1; and there were a large number of others, the gifts of friends. About 380 competitors entered, and the day was very enjoyable.

## THE DEE (ABERDEENSHIRE)—GRILSE FLIES.

Third Article.

Before proceeding with description, it may be just as well to state that we intend completing in the present article our list of grilse and salmon flies suitable for day-time fishing during the summer months. These, be it understood, will be strictly within the range of those we deem the best. Keeping in view the advantage our readers will derive from a separate description of our evening lures and sea trout patterns, we will devote after attention to these. The evening lures will be represented by four or five of the best killing patterns after 8 o'clock, or sooner or later according to the length of the day, in June, July, and August. The flies we have done best with since we commenced taking observations will be included in our sea trout list.

It may look a piece of supererogation to mention, as most Dee anglers will know already, that a considerable number of the better known standard patterns, if dressed about the size we have indicated, will be found very suitable during the summer time to angle with in the Dee. Given a clear canopy above, and the angler will find that the Silver Doctor, as a grilse lure, well deserves its high reputation. When the sun "comes out in all his majesty," the Childers, of all the lures we know, is the best for grilse when the water is dyed a peaty brown. The Jock Scott is a pretty sure killer. In June last year, when angling on Kineskie, the writer hooked with a small specimen, No. 8 double iron, and safely landed the largest grilse (8¼lb.) got on the Dee during the regular grilse season of 1883. Of the other standard patterns, we may state that on several of the reaches a Butcher at certain times does very well, and a Popham at command is not undesirable.

After these prefatory observations, we may now describe

### No. 9.—The Dusty Miller.

Than this fly, perhaps, no better specimen can be found wherewith to angle in the Dee on a clear day, especially if the water has a slightly brownish tinge. As a grilse lure, it is very deadly. It is equally suitable for the Teugh and Dye. Description :—

Tag : Silver twist and yellow floss.
Tail : Small topping.
Butt : Black herl.
Body : Embossed silver tinsel.
Ribbed : Silver flatform.
Wings : Mixed-white tipped turkey, pheasant's tail, pintail bustard summer duck, blue, red, and yellow swan, topping over all.
Hackle : Guinea fowl, only at shoulder in small specimens.
Cheeks : Jungle fowl, small.
Head : Black.

Limericks, sizes 5, 6, 7, 8, double irons. In the smaller sizes, the silver flatworm and turkey to be omitted.

### No. 10.—The Clunie

Has this year been used with much success in the upper reaches of the Dee, and in the stream from which its name is derived? Specially as a salmon pattern, it has attained great popularity from Ballater upwards. To appearance, it seems a likely grilse pattern. Description as under :—

Tag : Silver twist.
Tail : A small topping.
Butt : One turn black herl.
Body : Black silk floss.
Ribbed : Silver tinsel, 5 turns.
Wings : Double strips, distinctly marked teal.
Hackle : Guinea fowl, only at shoulder.
Head : Black.

Limericks, 6 and 7, double irons.

### No. 11.—The Logie

Is virtually a plain "Gordon," as in the body it is almost identically the same. This fly stands unrivalled in the Aboyne and Ballater districts during the latter half of April and the month of May, if the water is anywise small. As no fly can approach the "Gordon" for general use from Banchory to Ballater, so this small representation of it occupies, during the period we have stated, a like unique position. Limericks, sizes 6, 7, and 8, used for salmon and grilse. The Logie is described thus :—

Tag : Silver thread.
Tail : Small topping.
Body : Yellow silk floss one third, claret silk floss to head for the rest. The yellow to be of the same shade as yellow swan.
Ribbed : Embossed silver tinsel, 4 turns.
Hackle : Blue, only round shoulder.
Wings : Yellow swan under ; mallard over in strips.
Head : Black.

With the Wasp and Dark Bumble, we complete our list, as the best Dee patterns for summer use will then have been described.

### No. 12.—The Wasp.

Tag : Silver tinsel.
Tail : Small topping.
Body : Yellow mohair, well picked out.
Ribbed : Black twist, 5 turns.
Hackle : Cock-y-bondu.
Wings : Double strips of mallard.
Head : Black.

Sizes, 6, 7, and 8, suitable for salmon, grilse, or sea trout.

### No. 13.—The Dark Bumble.

Tag : Silver thread.
Tail : Small topping.
Body : Yellow and claret mohair, well picked out ; the claret to preponderate slightly and be nearest to head.
Ribbed : Silver flatworm, 5 turns.
Wings : Double strips of very dark mallard.
Hackle : Black, only at shoulder, longish likewise and spare.
Head : Black.

This hook we prefer single—Limericks, 4, 5, and 6, suitable for grilse and salmon.

Nos. 9, 11, and 12 are old Dee patterns ; 10 was shown to us by Mr. Garden, Aberdeen ; and 13 is the production of Mr. Frank Farquharson, head keeper, Blackhall Castle, than whom few can tie a neater fly. W. M.

# CLUB REPORTS.

### ALEXANDRA SOCIETY OF ANGLERS.

Our members had a very good show of fish on the 3rd inst. Mr. E. Hunter, ten very handsome perch; Mr. John Wilson, 16lb. 13oz. bream; Mr. E. Wicks, roach; Mr. C. Wicks, roach; Mr. Wells, roach and perch. The members will dine at the Five Horse Shoes, at Hoddesdon, on the 10th inst., being our annual dinner. Several of our members did not arrive in time to weigh in.—F. WAGNER, sec.

### AMICABLE BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

On August 3rd, Mr. Moir had 5lb. 1oz. of bream and 1lb. of roach from Dagenham; and Mr. Harding 1lb. 1½oz. of roach, dace, and perch from the Lea. We start from the club house on Saturday, August 9th, at 12 o'clock sharp, for Dagenham.—J. WORLEDGE, sec.

### ANCHOR AND HOPE ANGLING SOCIETY.

Several members of the above society have been out during the holidays; the following members weighing in:—Messrs. D. Davis, J. Bowling, T. Bowling, bream and roach from the Arun. Mr. A. Shakel, roach from the Thames. Messrs. C. Watkins and A. Davis, bream from Wimbledon Lake. On the 10th inst. we fish for a prize given by Mr. Dipple for the heaviest weight of roach, go where you please.—D. DAVIS, sec.

### BATTERSEA FRIENDLY ANGLING CLUB.

The members of this club fished on the 3rd inst. for three prizes presented by Mr. Grant, in any waters, and was won by Mr. G. Mumford with bream and roach, from Amberley; Mr. H. Martin second, with perch and roach from Woking; Mr. R. Tarling third, with roach from Amberley; Messrs. Ford, Crook, Sampson, Newton, and Pepal also weighing in fish. One of our members, Mr. G. Butterworth, fishing at Woking, had the misfortune to fall in ten feet of water, and being unable to swim was in great danger of being drowned but for the prompt action of Mr. F. Newton, a club member, and Mr. James Smith, who threw him his rod and drew him to the bank, and so landed him. I have to thank Mr. Smith on behalf of our members for the kind assistance he rendered. Our next contest for three prizes, presented by the host, Mr. Edwards, will take place at Egham, August 24th.—GEO. MUMFORD, president.

### BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT AMALGAMATED ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

The members were out in force on Bank Holiday, but many of the clubs have not sent their reports as yet. I and other members fished the Mease on Monday, but the water was very low and the fish very shy. Mr. Butter had a fair basket, and this was the only catch of any good—he had three pike, two eels, one over 3lb., and a few perch and dace; Mr. T. Duddleston had perch and dace; Mr. Callagan, dace and gudgeon; myself, roach, dace, perch, and gudgeon. In returning home I came across Mr. T. Coles, our president, and Mr. T. Hands, of the Leopold, and they had got the best catch of roach I have seen this season—they had quite 30lb., and nothing under half a pound. Mr. Clem Wainright, of the West-end Club, 25lb. 14oz. roach and bream in private water. The contest of Hearts of Oak took place on Monday, and was won by Mr. H. Attwood. I will send you the full particulars of this contest next week. The Old Green Man Piscatorials fish their annual contest on August 18th, at Westwood Park, and any member of any club who belongs to the Amalgamation can go with them and have the day's fishing. I will send you the time of starting next week.—JAMES T. ALLEN.

### BORDESLEY WALTONIANS.

The members of the above club held their opening match of the season on Aug. 4th, at Binton Bridges, when, although the catches were not so good as could be wished, owing to want of appetite on the part of the fish, a most enjoyable day was spent by them, the result of the contest being as follows:—Mr. H. Kendall, 1st; Mr. Bagot, 2nd; Mr. Pares, 3rd; Mr. Seymore and Mr. Tildesley tying for 4th place; Mr. J. Kendall coming next, but no prize was taken, owing to an experimental rule passed by the club as follows:—In order that a larger number of the members may participate in the prizes offered in fishing matches, no member shall take more than one prize, except specials, in one season, the order of merit to be determined by the gross weight at end of season. No fish under 3oz. to weigh. A record of each match to be kept by the secretary, and endorsed by the chairman or vice-chairman for the time being.—E. TILDESLEY, sec.

### BROMPTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

Mr. Ducker, on the 30th, a very handsome show of bream; on the 3rd Mr. E. Saunders coming to the front with some good samples of bream; Messrs. Dutton and Burbidge showing some good bream and roach.—W. DUTTON, sec.

### CITY OF LONDON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The following had fish on the 3rd:—Mr. Castell, roach, dace, and perch, from the Roding, 3lb. 2oz.; Mr. Chambers, roach, dace, and bream, from Amberley; Mr. Nitz, roach from Dagenham; and Mr. Bowyer, perch from Kingston.—CAS.

### CLAPHAM JUNCTION ANGLING SOCIETY.

On Monday, July 29th, Messrs. E. Wilson and our host, C. Speed, got among the barbel and roach (18lb.) at Staines; Mr. Westbrook, 16lb. bream, from Ormesby Broad; and, during the week, fair shows from Messrs. Starsmere, Banfield, Thomas, Moore, and Maslin. Mr. R. Wellman, had 17lb. 3oz. of bream from Wimbledon Lake. Mr. Moore came in first, at our first match at Walton, other prizes not taken. Mr. Wilson and friend (Mr. H. Smith) again got amongst the barbel and roach, at Staines, on Saturday last, taking about 20lb. of good fish. Bank Holiday, Mr. E. Wilson a very pretty take of tench, 22lb.; Messrs. Westbrook, Favell, Boisseau, Wakeford, and Starsmere also had fish. We are open to enrol a few more gentlemen, resident in neighbourhood preferred.—W. MASLIN, sec.

### EUSTONIAN ANGLING SOCIETY.

The following gentlemen had a good show of bream on Monday last, 4th inst.:—Mr. Comley, 15½lb.; Mr. Jones, 10lb.; Mr. Richards, 10lb.; Mr. Maynard had one bream on his tray scaling nearly 4lb. Taking the members all round, they did well.—R. NEALE, sec.

### GREAT YARMOUTH EASTERN COUNTIES ANGLING SOCIETY.

A well-attended meeting in connection with this society was held on Tuesday evening, the 5th inst., at the Duke's Head Hotel, Quay. It was resolved that in the future the meetings be held on Tuesday evenings at nine o'clock p.m., at the Duke's Head Hotel, Mr. Seaman, the proprietor of this convenient establishment having kindly granted for the society's use a handsome and commodious room. It has also been arranged that anglers coming from a distance who may wish to attend the society's meetings will be accommodated in every way by Mr. Seaman at reasonable rates, and that, should anglers call at his house for information regarding the fishing grounds, or any other subject pertaining to angling in this district, he will do his best to enlighten them. It was also resolved that cards of membership and books of rules be immediately published, and that the members be supplied with them forthwith. The president (Dr. Mitchell) was requested to call upon the managers of the different railway companies here with a view to making some arrangement by means of which members, when travelling to or from the fishing grounds, would be allowed to do so at a reduced rate. The question of having the first competition having been discussed, it was determined that a special meeting be called for Friday evening, the 8th inst., at 9 p.m., to make arrangements concerning it. Already, two handsome prizes have been offered by the president and vice-president, T. Freeman, Esq., to be competed for. We are pleased to note that close upon fifty members have up to the present time been enrolled. Considering that the society has been established but a few weeks, it is most gratifying to the promoters, their most sanguine expectations never leading them to such a satisfactory result. Several members have been angling during the week, and the following catches have been registered by the acting secretary, Mr. Seaman:—Messrs. Lee and Bonfellow, Ormesby Broad, 23lb.; Mr. Bunn, Filby Broad, 21lb.; Mr. Freeman, Ormesby, 21lb.; Mr. Lowne, Ormesby, 15lb. Weather magnificent, and water in good condition.

### GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

The ordinary weekly meeting of the above society was held on Tuesday evening at the Mason's Hall Tavern, Mason's-avenue, Basinghall-street; Mr. Crumplen in the chair. The minutes were read and confirmed. Notice of a special delegate meeting on Friday next was read from the central association. A letter was also read from the Fisheries Preservation Association, inclosing a copy of specimen by-laws drawn up by Mr. Willis-Bund for the guidance of angling societies and fishery boards. The chairman reported on behalf of the committee that they had decided, for various reasons, to recommend the society not to make an offer for the Alresford Pond. After some discussion the recommendation was unanimously agreed to. Messrs. Crumplen, Bentley, Godwin, and Chambers each reported the steps they were taking to procure a suitable piece of water for the use of the members. In all probability at the next meeting one or other of these gentlemen will be in a position to make a definite proposal to the society on the subject. The meeting closed with the usual vote of thanks to the chairman.—H.

### GLOBE ANGLING SOCIETY.

On the 3rd inst., the following members weighed in roach, bream, and dace:—Messrs. D. Thomas, 6lb. 3oz., one bream scaling 3lb. 6oz.; C. Ellis, 1lb. 8½oz.; C. Franklin, 3lb. 5oz.; H. Jeffries, 3lb. 12oz.; G. Brown, 1lb. 7½oz.; W. Brown, 15oz.; T. Howell, 1lb. 13oz.; J. J. Holmes, 1lb. 1oz.; J. Ballard, 2lb. 8oz.; and H. Lane, 4lb. 3½oz. On the 4th inst., from Amberley, Messrs. S. Howell, 8lb.; J. J. Holmes, 6lb. 10oz.; H. Jeffries, 9lb. 5oz.—J. J. HOLMES, sec.

[The report of the annual dinner of this society is unavoidably crowded out.—ED.]

### GUILDFORD ANGLING SOCIETY.

On the bright morning of Thursday, the 7th inst., between five and eight o'clock (three hours), two expert anglers, Mr. C. H. Buckland (hon. sec. of the Society) and Mr. J. Clark (steward of the County Club) caught from the river Wey, an enormous quantity of jack, giving a total of 51lb. 10¾oz. The respective weights of Mr. Buckland's fish are as follow:—1, 10lb. 13oz.; 2, 7lb. 8½oz.; 3, 7lb. 7oz.; 4, 3lb. 1oz.; 5, 2lb. 3½oz.—total, 31lb. 1oz. Mr. Clarke's: 1, 8lb. 4oz.; 2, 5lb. 12¼oz.; 3, 4lb. 1oz.; 4, 2lb. 8½oz—20lb. 9¾oz.; total of both catches, 51lb. 10¾oz. It should be mentioned that the whole of the fish were taken with fine gut tackle and No. 8 perch hooks. The largest jack (10lb. 13oz.) occupied three-quarters of an hour before it could be landed; the sport was magnificent. Mr. Buckland the provious day caught eleven perch weighing 7lb. 9oz. and a jack of 3lb. 12½oz. The total quantity of fish weighed in by the members of this flourishing society at this date far exceeds the total at the corresponding period of last year.

### HIGHBURY ANGLING SOCIETY.

The display of jack, perch, roach, bream, dace, and gudgeon in our trays on the 4th inst. greatly exceeded the most sanguine expectations, the gross total being very close upon 1cwt. Mr. Frank Temple, barbel and dace, 16lb. 10½oz., heaviest single barbel scaling nearly 5lb.; Mr. White, bream, roach, and dace, 16½lb.; Mr. Higley, bream, 15lb.; Mr. Devonshire, a fine pike of 14½lb.; Mr. Shipley, bream and roach, nearly 8lb.; Mr. Anthony, bream and roach, 6½lb.; Mr. C. Lewis, barbel and perch, 5lb.; Mr. S. Howell, jun., roach, dace, perch, and gudgeon, 5lb.; and Mr. Edwards, roach and perch, 3½lb. Several other members were out and added to the show, viz., Mr. Edward Wheatley, Mr. George Price, Mr. Ricketts, Mr. Kenneth Middleton, Mr. C. Otway, and yours faithfully,—J. E. WHEATLEY. sec.

### HOXTON BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

Our members have been getting some good shows of fish the last three weeks. On July 20th, J. Osborne had 30lb. 13½oz. of fine roach. On August 3rd, A. Pollard had 39lb. 10oz. of English carp. Messrs. Gillett, Merrick, Dean, and G. Hunt had roach and bream; W. High and G. Swinerton, roach; and R. Ghurney, jack.—R. GHURNEY, sec.

### INDEPENDENT BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

On the return of our members that were out on the 3rd and 4th inst. our trays presented a grand appearance, nearly every kind of fish being placed upon them. Mr. Roberts had pike, perch, and roach; Mr. T. Leader had a pretty barbel, besides roach, dace, and perch; Mr. H. Moore had bream, roach, gudgeon, and perch, one perch turning the scale at 1¼lb., and a nice lot of slippery eels; Mr. R. Clark, roach, dace, and a large show of good gudgeon; and Mr. G. Coomes dace and chub. There were also others out. We beg to remind all brother anglers and friends that our return visit will take place on Tuesday, August 26th, at the Club-house, Bird in Hand, Long Acre, W.C. (Host, Mr. Waldock), when we shall be most happy to have the company of all those who can make it convenient to attend.—H. MOORE, hon. sec.

### IZAAK WALTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The shows have been very good during the past week. Mr. A. Bass had some nice roach and perch on the 3rd inst.; Mr. H. Butt had roach on the same day; Mr. N. Martin has weighed two lots of handsome roach during the week. On Wednesday, the 6th inst., Messrs. G. Rolt and G. P. Rolt had some beautiful bream and roach; Mr. W. Wilkinson, bream; Mr. H. Butt, bream; Mr. T. Goodwin, bream; Mr. G. W. Wood, roach. Three special prizes are to be fished for on the 17th inst. at Dagenham Lake; those who intend to compete will greatly oblige by being present at the meeting on Wednesday evening next.—H. B.

### LEICESTER ROVING ANGLERS.

The annual competition of members of this club for money prizes, for roach and perch, took place on Bank Holiday, when some good fish were weighed in. The successful competitors were: 1st, W. Berry, 1lb. 6¼oz.; 2nd, W. Holmes, 1lb. 2¾oz.; 3rd, W. Pratt, 12½oz. For perch—1st, W. Holmes, 1lb.; 2nd, H. Limbert, 8½oz.; 3rd, J. Godfrey, 8¼oz.

### LIVERPOOL ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

We mustered over thirty strong at Llanymynech on Bank Holiday, to fish in the Vyrniew for a variety of prizes. We assembled, as usual, at Mr. Baugh's, Cross Keys Hotel, there from whence a start was made at 11.30 a.m. The water was very low and clear, and soon after the commencement the sun broke through the clouds which had previously obscured him, and shone with a brilliancy and warmth that was well-nigh overpowering, and certainly most fatiguing, and put an end to the already poor prospects of good baskets being made with the fly. However, the great majority of those angling stood to their colours, and were more or less rewarded for their perseverance under difficulties. On reassembling at 7 p.m.—weighing in time—the scales gave the following results:—Best trout, Mr. Bloomfield and Mr. Harrison; best grayling, Mr. Boulding (too late); next best, Mr. W. Francis (too late); third best, Mr. Ellinger (winner); heaviest basket, Mr. Cardwell; second ditto, Mr. Bloomfield; third, Mr. Don. Best roach (special prize), Mr. Cardwell. Mr. H. Burrows had some especially good chub, but was not competing. Trout and grayling taken in this competition rank for Messrs. Ellinger and Boulding's Silver Challenge Cup. It is most regrettable that Messrs. Boulding and Francis were too late to weigh in, as they both had some very fair grayling, but the line as to the time of weighing in must be adhered to, or there would be endless bother and confusion. After partaking of one of Host Baugh's famous dinners, the party returned home, tired, but in the main contented mortals.—Rd. Woolfall, hon. sec.

### NORTH-WESTERN ANGLING SOCIETY.

There was a good number of members out on the 3rd, and the trays in the evening showed a fair return. Mr. Underwood had a very nice take of bream and a very pretty carp of 5lb.; Mr. Stead, jack and bream, Messrs. Marshall, Pearce, and Hillier, bream; Mr. E. Cross, a brace of tench. Mr. Stead was amongst the bream again in the week.—W. Hillier, sec.

### PHŒNIX ANGLING SOCIETY.

On Bank Holiday, four prizes were angled for by the members of our society, the result being that 132lb. 12oz. of bream, roach, and perch were weighed in, Mr. C. Slater being 1st, Mr. Garner 2nd, Mr. Townsend 3rd, Mr. Keen 4th, Messrs. Packer, Grist, Burnett, Baillie, Bartrip, Elbourn, Milton, Bentley, Reed, and the Brothers Ashley all coming in with bags, making it hot for some of the leaders.—W. Elbourn, sec.

### THE PRINCESS OF WALES ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of the above had a very fine show of fish on Bank Holiday. The following members weighed in:—Mr. C. Ney, 13½lb. roach and bream; Mr. A. Porter, a handsome jack and roach; Mr. Cooper, 3½lb. roach; Mr. W. Ney, 30lb. bream; Mr. Maynard, 20lb. roach; Mr. Layzell, 11lb. bream. Members are requested to attend next Thursday, as business of importance is to be brought forward.—G. Attwell.

### RODNEY PISCATORIALS.

On the 3rd inst. Messrs. Smith and Grant visited Amberley. They managed to get some nice bream and perch. Messrs. Pyne, Dodd, and Friedel had some sport at Taplow; but the complaint is "Brightness of water." On the 4th inst. the Medway was well represented with some nice roach and bream, all in splendid condition. Several members visited Wimbledon, but met with little sport. Some friends punt fishing at Richmond, for a few hours in the afternoon, managed to get a nice lot of roach and dace. At the meeting, held on the 6th inst., it was decided that the August competition take place at Taplow, on the 17th; conditions same as previous competition. Mr. H. W. Flowers, of Hillery-road, Walworth, was proposed as a member this evening.—Pixey.

### SMETHWICK ANGLING CLUB.

Several of our members were out on Saturday, but had poor sport, the river being very low and bright; but on Monday we had some very fair baskets of roach, perch, and dace, plenty of the dace running up to 10oz.—Thos. Bannister, hon. sec.

### STANLEY ANGLING SOCIETY.

The following are the weights of fish registered by our members during the past month:—Mr. W. Ellis: carp, 1lb. 10oz.; perch, 1lb. 1oz., 10oz.; dace, 5lb. 5oz.; roach, 10lb. 1oz. Mr. W. Humby: roach, 10lb. 7oz., also seven weighing 6lb. 4oz.; perch, 7oz. Mr. Lupton: dace and gudgeon. Mr. Pistrucci: four roach, 4lb. 3oz., and eleven roach, 6lb. 1oz. Mr. Roset: roach, 1lb. 4oz.; four ditto, 2lb. 2oz.; one ditto, 15½oz.; ten perch, 4lb. 2oz.; one chub, 2lb. 5oz.; one pike, 2lb. 6oz. Mr. Scull: eighteen roach, 10lb. 15oz.; forty-nine ditto, 17lb. 4oz.; ditto 6lb. 4oz., and 4lb. 13oz. Mr. Wrightson: two perch, 1lb. 7oz.; 23 ditto, 13lb. 6oz.; five ditto, 4lb. 14oz.; one ditto, 1lb. 3½oz.; eleven ditto, 4lb. 6½oz.; one ditto, 14oz.; heaviest perch, 1lb. 12½oz.; one roach, 1lb. 7oz.; twenty-three roach, 15lb. 3oz., and 4lb. 7¾oz., and nine ditto, 8lb. 11oz. Amongst these roach were two splendid specimens, each fish weighing 2lb. 2oz.; two bream, 4lb. 15½oz.; two ditto, 5lb. 13oz.; one ditto, 3lb. 4½oz. Many other of our members were out during the recent holidays, but owing to distance and want of success, were unable to contribute towards the general show.—G. E. W.

### WALTONIANS.

On August 3rd Mr. Jukes had 2lb. 4¾oz of. jack, and 13lb. 5oz. of bream, &c. On August 4th, Mr. Phillips had a trout, 4lb. 13oz., and barbel, 19lb. 12oz.; Mr. Morris, roach, &c., 8lb. 3oz., and one dace, 11oz.; Mr. Burton, roach &c., 18lb. 15½oz.—A. J. Marriott.

### WEST GREEN ANGLING SOCIETY.

Mr. Guyver's prizes are to be fished for on 10th inst. Go where you please—roach only to weigh.—J. Guyver, sec.

### WELLINGTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The following members have weighed in on the 4th, 5th, and 6th inst.;—Messrs. Phillips, Wright, Jenner, Hills, Newbury, and Locket, roach and dace; Messrs. Hill and Wright, bream. Messrs. Wright, Locket, and Harris, fishing in the Medway, had a good take of roach, but in consequence of the warm weather could not weigh in; the same may be said of Messrs. White, Crocker, and Alexander, at Shepperton. Mr. Andrews sent up a basket from Brundall, containing two perch, 2lb. 2oz.; one rudd, 1lb. ¼oz.; and roach, 26lb. 11oz.—total, 29lb. 13¼oz.—W. W. Alexander, sec.

## STATE OF THE RIVER LEA BELOW TOTTENHAM.

The following letter recently appeared in the *Times*:—

"Sir,—I beg to ask you to allow me to call attention to the terrible state of the river Lea below the outfall of the sewage at Tottenham. I am sure the state of affairs is becoming seriously dangerous. On Sunday evening I walked from Lea-bridge for a mile along the left bank towards Tottenham, and then crossed and went back to Lea-bridge down the other side. I never had such an unpleasant walk in my life; it was like walking by an open sewer—in fact, the river is now nothing but an open sewer from Tottenham to the Thames. And yet this horrible, fetid stream passes through a thickly-populated, poor district, and is frequented by thousands who go for recreation in boats and on the banks. These people are almost without exception of the lower classes, and are doubtless in too many cases used to bad drainage; but the one thing I heard talked about both by young and old was the horrible smell. At Lea Bridge, close to the open filtering-beds of the East London Waterworks, is an immense rubbish deposit, apparently from dustbins, and coming on to this after having such a dose on the river almost sickened me, and I was glad to get some brandy at the publichouse by Lea Bridge. I said to the man who served me, 'Something ought to be done to stop the stench from the river.' He replied, 'Indeed, you are right, sir; it is awful." I asked if it was often so bad as then, and he said, 'Oh, to-day is nothing to what it often is; a fortnight ago we could hardly stop in the house.'

"If the authorities of the Health Exhibition wish to deal practically with the sewage question and experiment on a large scale, there is every opportuuity at the Tottenham sewage works, which are utterly powerless at present to deal with the increasing stream. The Lower Lea Valley could not be improved upon as a field for cholera and other diseases less feared but more fatal.

"I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

"July 30. "R. B. Marston."

## THE "BREAKING OF THE MERES."

A correspondent writes:—"The curious phenomenon known as the 'breaking of the water, is familiar to all residents in localities where there are large sheets of fresh water as at Ellesmere, Shropshire. The water in such cases gradually becomes quite thick and turbid from the extreme abundance in it of a minute green freshwater algæ. This turbidity only continues for a brief period, after which the water gradually clears again as before. A small piece of water, known locally as the Ox Leysher, and lying parallel to the river Dee, near Radley, is just now in this peculiar condition. The whole of its water is thick, and of a dull pea or almost blue-green colour. On holding a bottleful of it up to the light this colour is seen to be due to the presence of very tiny but enormously abundant bundles of filamenteous green algæ. This is generally diffused through the main body of the water, but in the adjoining ditches which connect the Ox Leysher and the Serpentine it is as thick as though dark green thick grease had been stirred into the water. These ditches are evidently the great nurseries of the algæ, and from them it spreads into the water of the Ox Leysher; but why it should become so abundant in that piece of water and not also in the Serpentine is not easy to say. A microscopic examination of the algæ shows that it is a species, but of which I am not certain, of Oscillatoria, the filaments of which are producing the peculiar enlarged reproductive cells called heterocysts. These filaments lie side by side, and so become aggregated into small bundles, the individual plants slowly gliding backwards and forwards over each other. The average size of the filaments is about 1-40th of an inch long by 1-250th wide. Yet, in spite of this extreme minuteness, the whole depth of great sheets of water, as at Ellesmere, Oulton, or that now referred to, are rendered as thick as soup by its abundance. Apparently, this is the vegetating and fruiting season of the plant, and in a few weeks it will sink again to the bottom of the water, where all, except its reproductive cells, will decay and disappear. The reproductive cells will then remain dormant until next year, when they by their activity will again cause the 'breaking' of the water."

Thames Fishery Convictions.—Robert Randell was brought before the Brentford Bench on Saturday last on the charge of taking out of the river Thames at Twickenham a large quantity of unsizeable roach and dace by means of a large landing net made of muslin. Mr. W. H. Brougham prosecuted on behalf of the Thames Angling Preservation Society, and referred to the action of the society in successfully protecting the spawn of roach in that neighbourhood during the close season as one of the means of increasing the stock of fish. The evidence of head river-keeper, Alfred Thompson, went to prove he found in the possession of the defendant upwards of 200 small fry, which were principally roach, and that he saw him using the net. His assistant, Edward Wright, gave similar testimony. The defence which the defendant set up was that the keepers were mistaken, and put a boy in the witness-box to swear that he committed the offence, and that Randell had nothing to do with it. The magistrates considered the boy had been trained to make the statement he did, and the defendant was fined in the sum of twenty shillings, including costs.—J. R. Brooks was summoned before the Kingston Borough Bench on Wednesday last for laying a fixed line in the river Thames, at the back of the premises in the occupation of Mr. Harding, dyer, Kingston. Mr. W. H. Brougham prosecuted on behalf of the Thames Angling Preservation Society, and the case was proved by head river-keeper, Alfred Thompson. Mr. Harding addressed the Bench, and said that the boy had laid the hooks at his request to catch some eels, and was entirely ignorant of its being wrong, but that he would take care it should not occur again. The Bench submitted in that case it should be dealt leniently with, and Mr. Brougham concurring with that view, the defendant was fined five shillings, including costs.

Salmon in Newtown, Montgomery.—Fishermen and others residing on the upper part of the Severn, above Newtown, Montgomeryshire, have been complaining, and not without cause, of the scarcity of sport in that part of the river owing to the low condition of the Severn, and the depth of the weirs below Newtown, to which place the sport has been confined. We are glad to be in a position to state that the Salmon Fishery Association are now employed in erecting a new fish pass to the weir at the Craigfryn Factory. Should the erection of this pass prove successful, a greater number of salmon may be expected in the upper waters of the Severn than has yet been seen, notwithstanding the vast improvement which has taken place during the year.

Charge of Fishing Without a License.—Prosecution by Severn Fishery Board.—At the last Petty Sessions at Llanfair-Caereinon, before R. D. Pyse and H. Hilton, Esqrs., Richard Morgan, Llanllugan, was charged by Mr. A. George, superintendent, on behalf of the Severn Fishery Board, with unlawfully taking fish without a license. Mr. T. A. Lort, Vrongoch Hall, deposed that he was near the Rhiew River at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, June 18th. Saw defendant in a brook fishing with his hands, taking by groping: was only a few yards from him. Defendant had his sleeves turned up, and was carrying about twenty small trout threaded on a string. The defence was an *alibi*. Mr. Edward Jones, Nantwylit, said defendant was his servant. On Wednesday, June 18th, he was ready to swear that the defendant was at home working in the turnip field. He was quite positive as to the fact. Witness was uncle of the defendant. They worked together from two till six o'clock. He knew it was the 18th of June because the Voel Association was held next day. The case was adjourned for a month.

Black Bass Fishing Extraordinary.—The black bass fishing at Gogebic Lake, Wis., is indeed remarkable. A party of three anglers, viz., Messrs. Henry T. Drake, J. W. Ormsby, and Wm. H. Thurston, of Milwaukee, visited the lake recently, and in three hours caught one hundred and fifty black bass, using common "spoon hooks." The fish were of good size, ranging from 2lb. to 4½lb. each. Gogebic Lake is about eighteen miles in length, by three to four miles in width, and the surrounding streams are well stocked with brook trout.

Illegal Possession of Salmon Fry.—Before Sheriff Robertson, at Forfar, on the 24th ult., George Lowson, a factory worker, Forfar, was charged at the instance of the District Fishery Board of the South Esk, Forfarshire, with having contravened the Salmon Fisheries (Scotland) Act, 1868, by being in possession of eleven smolt or salmon fry at the River South Esk on the 7th July ult. It was stated in Lowson's behalf that he had caught one or two trout and also a number of smolts, between which and trout he did not know the difference, and had kept them in ignorance. The Sheriff remarked that Lowson had no right to go fishing for these things, and imposed a fine of 5s., with £1 15s. 5d. expenses, the alternative being a week's imprisonment. He also warned Lowson against a repetition of the offence.—P. McG.

We notice that the summer number of *The Topical Times*, to be published on August 12th, will contain a clever, tinted cartoon by "Pilotell," entitled "Footlights and Foam," in which will appear portraits of most of the leading actresses of the day. The contributors to the number will comprise many writers of ability and note. The paper will be in a wrapper, will contain twelve pages, and the price will be 4d.

## AWARD OF HEAVY DAMAGES FOR INJURY TO THE RIVER ERNE EEL AND SALMON FISHERY.

(From our Correspondent.)

At the Donegal Assizes, Baron Dowse and a special jury have been engaged hearing a traverse of the award of the Government arbitrator, Mr. E. Murphy, in relation to the injury done to the River Erne Salmon and Eel Fishery by the drainage and navigation works executed on the lake, and up to the falls at Belleek by the Drainage Board. For the traversers it was alleged that the greatest injury was done to the eel fishery, and also to the salmon fishery, by the removal of the falls at Belleek and the substitution of sluice gates which, when opened, suddenly raised the river by five and a half feet in twenty minutes. On the other hand, it was contended that the works, when completed, would be a benefit rather than a disadvantage to the fishery, and the arbitrator had not been aware of the facts when he made such a large award. In 1882 the take of salmon had been unprecedented, and in 1883 the eel fishery had been more productive than ever—and this, while the works were in progress. The drainage board had bought out a weir owned by Lord Ely on the river, and the result was to send all the eels formerly caught there, and the value of which was estimated at £300 a year, down to the weirs of the traversers. The jury awarded the Erne Fishery Company £14,248 in respect of the injury done to their eel and salmon fishery in the River Erne, from Belleek to Ballyshannon. This exceeds the Government arbitrator's award by about £3,000.

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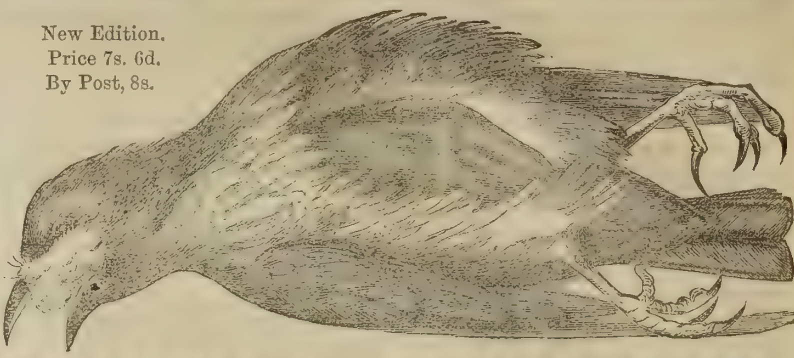

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# The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 16, 1884.

## AN AMATEUR ANGLER'S DAYS IN DOVE DALE.—(No. 3.)—JULY 29.

I THINK I told you in my last that the open-mouthed trout were waiting for me. They were ! It had been a fine, bright morning ; but when I got down to the water, the water came down on me, as usual, in torrents.

I started about three o'clock, well covered as to my back with my new mackintosh ; but my poor feet and legs were badly off, and were soon in a sloppy, floppy state ; but what cared I ? I began down at the bridge, and worked up stream, casting three flies. I had a notion, derived, I believe, from such an experienced mentor as yourself, that it was the proper thing to do. Fish, you know, generally lie with their heads up stream ; so if you throw a good way up and let your flies float gently down, they naturally fall into the open-mouthed trout. Well, I tried that plan all yesterday afternoon ; this time I did not hurry along. I followed the great master's advice. Unlike Peveril of the Peak, I took heed to old Izaak Walton's recommendation to "fish the streams inch by inch" ; but, nevertheless, I gave preference to the spots "where the stream broke sparkling over a stone, or where, gliding away from a rippling current to a still eddy, it streamed under the projecting bank, or dashed from the pool of some low cascade." Ah ! those "low cascades"—there are scores of them in the three miles winding of the Dove ; how fondly I fished those "rippling currents." I was not in the least discouraged by getting no nibble—not the least indication on the part of the fish that they were conscious of the tempting flies I put before them. I had met a venerable old man with an immense fish basket, landing net, and all the other needful impedimenta. He might have been Izaak himself, so deftly did he handle his tools. He asked me how I fared, and I told him that I had caught nothing, but I meant to persevere. He, too, had not been blessed with a nibble. Further on I encountered that young fellow and his charming bride. They had fished all the morning and were now returning triumphant, having had four rises and two bites ! But this successful young angler rather despises trout fishing. "Salmon fishing is the sport I like," said he. "A thirty pounder at the end of your line, you know, that's the sort of thing for me !" I felt encouraged, determined, in spite of pelting rain, to persevere, and so I plodded on. I should tell you that my genial friend the keeper had put me up to a dodge. You will remember that just above the point where the stepping-stones are, and opposite to where the old woman keeps her donkeys, the left side of the river is fenced off by a strong iron gate, with notice-board warning intruders to go away ; but I had the right (useless without the key) to pass this barrier at any time. "The gate is not really locked," said he ; "it sticks in a peculiar way, and it can only be opened by a secret trick," which he imparted to me. Unluckily it happened that I had not quite learnt the trick. I thought he had told me to lift the gate lightly off its hinges and so pass through, deftly dropping it on again. So I marched up to the gate and tried the little dodge ; but, alas ! the gate is made of iron, and must weigh, at least, half a ton ! I lifted and strained with all my might, but not a bit would it move. I had imagined from the way the brawny keeper spoke of it that I had only to touch it with my little finger and up it would go ! But brawny and muscular as he is, I defy him and another man to boot to lift that gate off its hinges ; and yet he could not have intended to deceive me. I must have mislearnt my lesson. Chagrined and disappointed, I had to return to the stepping-stones and recross the stream. I was disappointed, because that left side is level and easy travelling, whilst the right is rugged, rocky, and unequal ; besides, on the left, the wind would have helped me to lay my flies just where I wanted them to go, whilst on the right it only baffled me. In my perplexity the donkey-boy came to my assistance. "If you want to go to the other side I can open the gate," said he. "Certainly I do," I replied. My donkey-boy, without key or other appliance, had only to cry "*open sesame*," and open it flew. I rewarded him so handsomely that he voluntarily exclaimed, "I shall be gone before you return, but I will leave it open for you," for which I thanked him, and went on my way.

Above all others, the Dove certainly is "the brook" which everlastingly sings—

> "Men may come and men may go,
> But I flow on for ever."

Men do come here now as they did in Izaak's time, and as he himself came ; and, alas ! men do go, as he has gone. I, too, must leave soon ; but before I go let me pause for a moment to remind those of your readers who know not this lovely spot, that the Dove is not like other rivers. It runs in a perfect zig-zag —straight from each zag to each zig—then suddenly turning an abrupt corner straight on to another zag, and so on, each stretch running for two or three hundred yards, each side lined with rocky or wood-clad hills coming sheer down to the water's edge, leaving only a narrow space varying from one to ten yards for Piscator's operations. In each of these stretches are two or three cascades, which extend quite across the stream like natural mill dams, forming pretty waterfalls of 3ft. or 4ft. deep. It is at the foot of these little cataracts that the hopes of the experienced angler lie ; here, if anywhere, will you catch your wary trout. It was here, in one of these musical swirls, that I, the youngest disciple, hooked and landed my *first trout*. Ah ! the excitement of that happy moment, when to my utter astonishment I felt a heavy tug at my rod ! "Pooh ! another weed," I cried. But it moves—it dashes down the stream—it dashes up again to the cascade—it shows now and again in the frothing water a lovely pink and yellow belly. It is *not* a weed, it is a splendid trout ! Shade of Izaak ! what shall I do ? How am I to keep hold of him ? He dashes away here and there, now under the rock, now away off, and for a second or two he lies under some thick flowering weeds, then off again ! What ought I to do ? All my theoretical lessons have gone out of my head except this solitary one, "Keep the point of your rod up." I kept it up. I gradually wound up, but let out again as my fish displayed a disposition to come in or go away. I had, on a previous occasion, found a landing net a quite unnecessary encumbrance, so now that I sorely needed it I had not brought it with me. By degrees my trout seemed to become exhausted by the unequal struggle, and for a moment lay up on a tuft of grass nearly out of the water, apparently to take breath. I thought it best not to give him time to regain his strength, so I gently lifted him straight up from his grassy bed and threw him on to another not quite so congenial to him ; but I had him safe. I had got him only by the skin of his teeth, for he fell on *terra firma* freed from the hook, and I was puzzled to know which of my doughty flies had performed the deadly deed. Thus encouraged—I may say, perhaps, unduly elated—inch by inch I flogged that pretty pool, but with no more success, so on I went to another cascade, and there, to my perfect bewilderment, I hooked and landed another trout, under circumstances so exactly like the first that it would be waste of words to redescribe them. Need I say how proud I was ? I saw a party of ladies coming along on the opposite side in mackintoshes and under umbrellas (for rain does not keep ladies indoors in these parts), so with pardonable vanity I laid my brace of trout on a conspicuous bank where they could easily see them, and no doubt remark, "See, there is a true Waltonian ; he knows how to do it !" Well, now I perceive a wet and dripping angler coming down the other side. "What sport, my friend ?" cried I. "I have toiled all day," he replied, "and have caught nothing. Not a rise, not a bite ! How fares it with you ?" "Oh," said I, "poorly, very poorly, only these two half-pounders. Nice little fish, are they not ?" Then he asked the name of the fly I was using, and I at once told him, for I am not selfish in such matters, that my little "honey dun bumble" had done these deeds, and I advised him to go over to Foster's, of Ashbourne, who would furnish him to his heart's content. And now I started homewards ; but—could one believe it ?—that rascally donkey-boy had *not* left the iron gate open ! What in the name of Izaak am I to do ? I cannot get over it, it is lined with spikes. I cannot get round it, there is a high stone wall, and the water is 6ft. deep on one side, and the rock rises abruptly for a hundred feet on the other. I cannot get through it, for how am I, a weak old man, to lift a gate of half a ton ? Why did I not pay more attention to the keeper's instruction ? Why did I not watch that donkey-boy's "*open sesame*" ? I must puzzle out the secret for myself ; and I did, after endless exertion, find it out. It is very simple when you know how. But I don't intend to betray my friendly keeper's secret—not I.

How I astonished my friends and my neighbours, and especially how I aroused the admiration—not to say, the envy—of that young fellow and his beautiful bride, when I dangled my beauties before their eyes, I need not relate. Two hours after my trout had been disporting themselves in the Dove were they placed before me at dinner, cooked in a way they only know how at "The Izaak."

I have tasted trout from all parts many a time, but never before have I tasted anything to equal the delicate, delicious flavour of these of my own catching. I must say that the strangers in the hotel respected my prowess far more than did my own familiar friends ; even the wife of my bosom slyly inquired if I had caught them with a "silver hook." I rejected the imputation with scorn.

## IMPORTANT IRISH FISHERY INQUIRY.

(FROM OUR DUBLIN CORRESPONDENT.)

MR. T. F. BRADY and Mr. W. Johnston, Inspectors of Irish Fisheries, held a meeting at Swords Court-house, near this city, on the 6th inst., when several magistrates, landowners, and conservators attended. The notice convening the meeting was to the effect that the Inspectors of Irish Fisheries had been called on to inquire into the expediency and necessity of defining the mouth and estuary, and also the boundary between the tidal and fresh water portions of the Broad, Meadows Water, and Ward or Swords River, in the counties of Dublin and Meath.

Mr. T. Fitzgerald, civil engineer, in support of the application, deposed that in his opinion the mouth of the river should be defined by a line drawn across the Ordnance Map from the course of the spot between Prospect Point on the north, to the shore under Seatown Castle on the south side of the river, and that the boundary between the tidal and fresh water should be defined by the line drawn across the map below the spot marked as the Big Marsh.

Mr. John Neill, the water-bailiff, also gave evidence in support of the application, and as to the injury done by nets for want of a proper definition of the mouth of the river. Gaffs, he said, were used illegally, and anglers did not require gaffs.

The Inspectors made an order defining the mouth of the river, and the boundary between the tidal and fresh water, on the lines laid down by Mr. Fitzgerald ; and Mr. Brady explained that the effect of the decision practically would be to preclude the present netsmen from using nets inside the mouth of the river, or within half a mile outside the mouth of the river. The Inspectors also made a by-law prohibiting "gaffs in possession" on the banks of the river.

ILLEGAL FISHING IN THE TEME AT LUDLOW.—At the Ludlow Petty Sessions, on Monday, James Rowlands was charged by John Jackson, gamekeeper to J. L. Parkinson, Esq., Ludford House, with illegally fishing in the river Teme on the 24th July, in the parish of Ludford, where Mr. Parkinson had a private right of fishing. John Jackson stated that on the 24th July, about six o'clock in the evening, he saw James Rowlands fishing in a stream below Steventon. Witness went to the defendant, and asked him if he had a ticket for permission to fish there. He said he had not, but he had seen Mr. Parkinson that morning, and he had said he might go there as he was going with another gentleman who had got leave. There being a gentleman fishing just below, witness asked him if he was with him. The gentleman said he knew nothing about him. He asked defendant his name, and he gave the name of "John Dobbs," but he afterwards saw his license with the name of James Rowlands on it. Defendant had not seen Mr. Parkinson that morning. Fined 6d. and 8s. 10d. costs.

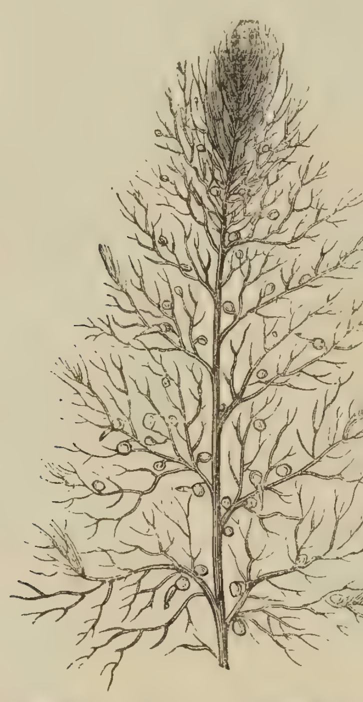
# THE FISH-EATING PLANT.

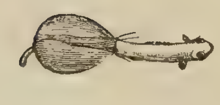
(Illustrated.)

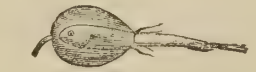
The Utricularia Vulgaris (Fig. 1) is distributed over the British Isles, growing freely in stagnant water.

It is local in its habits ; but wherever it is found it is very destructive to animal life, catching and killing immense quantities of aquatic larvæ, worms, crustaceans, and other invertebrates.

Mr. Darwin, in his "Insectivorous" plants, mentions that in plants received from the New Forest in July, most of the bladders contained prey, and in a second lot obtained in August, from unusually pure water, the greater proportion of the traps were empty. On an examination of the contents of some of the bladders, the first all contained prey of some kind, and eight of them included entomostrocan crustaceans, three larvæ of insects (one being still alive), and six remains of insects so decomposed that it was impossible to distinguish their species. Five more vesicles were picked out, and there were found in them four, five, and eight crustaceans, and in the fifth a single elongated larva.







In five other bladders selected because they contained remains, but not appearing very fresh, there were one, two, four, and five crustaceans.

How the plant manages to attract so many creatures of various sorts is rather difficult to determine, especially as its action is a passive one, and even when placed in water at a temperature varying from 80° to 130° Fahr., and then brushed with a fine camel's hair pencil to imitate the crawling of minute crustaceans, the valve could not be induced to open.

The general supposition is, and I take it to be extremely probable, that the insects which get entrapped are attracted by the hairs outside the mouth of the valve ; but this would not account for the entrance of animal feeding crustaceans, unless, as I would suggest, they are lured to their doom by the other animals already in the trap.

In the case of fish, I imagine it is simply due to the restless, prying habits of the tiny creatures, which go poking their noses into every nook and corner they come across, and attracted by the spot of light made by the colourless membrane of the valve, they touch one of the branched processes, and the more they struggle the further in they go.

This is, I think, conclusively proved by the fish also being caught by the tail, and in more than one instance by both the head and the tail, the latter being caused by the struggles of the fish to release his tail, bringing his head in contact with the processes of another vesicle. By reference to the woodcut, Fig. 2 shows a fish taken into the trap by the head, and Fig. 3 one caught by the tail.

I was hoping before this to be enabled to give a paper on its powers of destruction in a state of nature, by placing several plants in the midst of some hatching roach spawn, the last and only ova with which I am cognisant just at present. Unfortunately, in my case, the old proverb *l'homme propose mais le bon dieu dispose* is only too true, a sharp attack of illness having intervened, so I am perforce compelled to defer my experiments until a more convenient season.

In conclusion, I sincerely hope this discovery will be of great use to the pisciculturalist, for I think it shows the innumerable perils surrounding the denizens of our rivers and lakes on every side, and it clearly demonstrates that the life of a young fish from the moment he emerges from the egg and begins life on his own hook, till the time he finishes it on that of an angler, must be a perpetual battle for existence.

G. E. Simms.

37, Broad-street, Oxford.

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**Dee and Don Fishery Boards.**—The proprietors and lessees of the fishings have elected as their representatives at these Boards for the ensuing year the following gentlemen—viz. :—For the lower district of the river Don, A. T. P. Hogarth, Esq., Duncan Forbes, Esq., of Balgownie, and G. Davidson, Esq., of Messrs. G. and W. Davidson. For the upper district, Lord Forbes, Castle Forbes ; R. F. O. Farquharson, Esq., of Haughton ; and Henry Gordon, Esq., of Manar. These six gentlemen, with the proprietor, holding the largest rental (Aberdeen Shipmaster's Association), constitute the Board. For the lower district of the Dee, Treasurer Walker, Aberdeen ; A. P. Hogarth, Esq., ; and Geo. Davidson, Esq. For the upper district, Most Noble the Marquis of Huntly, Aboyne Castle ; Sir Robert Burnett, Bart., of Leys, Crathes Castle ; and Col. Farquharson, of Invercauld.

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# ON THE DESCRIPTION OF SALMON FLIES.

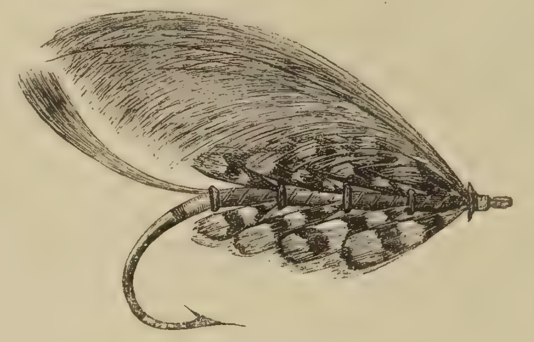
By Mr. Geo. M. Kelson.

## Major Traherne's Patterns *(Continued).*

### No. 10.—The "Jungle Don."

Whether it be in fly dressing or other pursuit in life, blighted hope, if not failure, is well within the bounds of probability, unless we can conveniently secure a fairly good start. Amateurs who have followed me so far should, I hope, be able to manage the tag and tail successfully. Perhaps it is as well to say that in adjusting toppings at the tail, though I scarcely thought it necessary to refer to them here, the tying silk should extend up to (not over) the fibres, and after two turns, the quill end of the feather, which should have been inclining rather towards you, is lifted up and placed straight along the top of the hook before proceeding. If this feather is not put in a diagonal position at first, the silk in unskilled hands is almost sure to drag it over—beyond the hook ; consequently, the dent in the shaft of the feather is made out of place, and spoils all chance of its posing well when offered its proper seat afterwards, leaving no remedy but to shorten it, or keep it for a smaller fly. Prior to my getting these feathers under control, I used to make the dent beforehand with a spatula, and found it answered well.

As we require double the amount of scraggy or spare herls for butts, select those dyed a good black, and with short, close filaments ; for the fewer coils we have of them the better, as a salmon's tooth often effects so much mischief here. Always try the strength of them. The dye, if hot, weakens them considerably ; but if cold, and the feather fresh from the bird, they will keep for years stored away from light and air. The hairy fragments should always face the tag. Wool butts are becoming popular only because they last much longer. They should have a symmetrical oval outline, which is not difficult to get if you dishevel and unravel your wool well, make a "pea" of it, and roll it a little between the palms of your hands, as a plumber would his putty ; then lay it down and give it a skin-deep pull right and left to form a double taper, say an inch long. Apply one end behind the tying silk, under and against the hook, and press it there with the first finger of the left hand. Guide it alongside the silk, if it requires guiding (but it generally hangs down sufficiently straight), and by taking that end between the thumb and forefinger of the right hand with the silk, you can twist both together, and they will unite if you hold the left finger as directed. In repeating the twisting motion, which you have to do when the thumb which started at the first finger-joint reaches the end of that finger, take care, before you leave go, to drag them both down the whole of the tying silk to maintain the twist throughout, otherwise your work will retreat, fly back, and then you will have to begin again. And here I may mention there are other qualifications expected of butts besides long life ; so even if herls have a "touch-and-go" reputation—if they are minute in importance—they are more attractive and enticing while they last.



It is astonishing how fishermen delight in building their recollections upon some basis of reality, and although there may be little else to urge beyond the function of imagination, why we fancy this and that in preference to the other, it is no less true there are other facts to all appearance equally insignificant—verities, though only gathered in twilight by degrees which should not simply be unveiled to hover around us, but should assuredly concern and, undoubtedly, direct us. Undoubtedly—perhaps too strong an expression this—for how often, how very often, between the desire and its fulfilment lies only the briefest space of time, and the desire remains for ever unfulfilled ! The sad and sudden death of the king of anglers, Major French, surrounded—poor fellow—by little else but his feathers and fishing gear, in which he manifested such pardonable pride, is so remindful how the joys and sorrows of this world may be strikingly mingled. I trust any, or so brief an allusion is not entirely out of place ; but, indeed, salmon fishermen have lost a true, noble-hearted man, who was always most happy when he could in any way contribute to the happiness of others. I hope I may be excused for this digression.

. . . . . . . . . .

In returning to our subject, perhaps I need not say much now of the tinsel tribe. The first turn of the tying silk beyond the butt should be over the substratum of oval tinsel which is tied in here for ribs. I have previously suggested how and why it is to be "peeled ;" but at this point it requires a little different management.

An extravagant, still, a good plan, for manœuvring a taper for the body—one which I used to adopt, because in my early days I found it difficult to gradually and regularly increase the amount of outside material—is to divest sufficient tinsel to allow enough of its internal silk for the purpose. It may be waxed with cobblers' wax for a seal's fur body, then one turn only of the tying silk is enough by the butt. Spread out or widen the first coil or two considerably, and from there with ordinary management you have an area every atom as firm to work upon—a foundation that answers admirably.

In my opinion, there is no wax so good as this for salmon flies—nothing, in fact, approaches it ; bodies are stronger and more durable over its clinging grasp, and it alike strengthens all parts of the fly. Dressers who are very familiar with its use know exactly when to drop or shift it to avoid waxing their fingers ; and those less *au fait* would do well to put a small quantity in a piece of kid or thin leather the size and shape of a five-shilling piece, which should be kept doubled, as exposure is detrimental. When waxing thread, it is unnecessary to open this wad all the way, but merely down to where the wax has spread ; the pressure is with the forefinger above the gossamer silk, on the four strands which you hold horizontally after having put them twice over the "fly-maker's peg." When the wax is soft it works best. As to "spoiling the colour of the silk," if the correspondent last week meant the colour of his floss when worked over the waxed tying silk—and we may fairly assume he intended to convey that idea, because it is immaterial what colour the tying silk turns, as it is hidden from the tag to the head—he should either be more sparing with wax, or more generous with his floss silk. If there is a scarcity of the latter, it will be sure to turn a bad colour *in*, if it does not *out* of the water.

I need not resort to the sophistry of foreign phrases—a fashion, frivolous and fast fading away—for the object of apparently fortifying any observations in favour of the "Don." However perfect this fly appears (and the harmony as usual reveals superior skill, and must be commendably acknowledged), though it derives its origin from so authentic a source as "to make assurance doubly sure," we can but draw an inference only of its certitude. With such startling prominence in the composition, it bids fair to run many of its precious predecessors uncommonly hard.

All fishermen know that "Jungle" is most conspicuous, and when once salmon become accustomed to it, there is always a special demand for the feathers, which may well be attributed to their captivating qualities and exercising influence.

There is a very general opinion current that this useful bird is rendered more valuable when the spots are black and brown. In presence of this mistaken spirit of toleration, may I ask (and I do so with a deal of confidence), Is there an experienced fisherman living who makes his own flies that will not condemn such utter fallacy? We use it because it is easily and clearly seen in the water: the greater the contrast the greater the attraction, and is there not a wide difference between black and brown and black and white? Want of faith is an unenjoyable hindrance to success. If anyone is, therefore, in doubt about Jungle fowl, let him be persevering with the larger feathers in rough, deep pools, reserving the more diminutive for steadier flowing streams. To enjoy is to live in the instant we grasp, and how can we be hopeful if we are deficient in faith? There may not be much in anticipation, but it invariably lends encouragement, even though it frequently forgets to fulfil what it promises. The forecasts of fishermen are, however, often frustrated—proved void—though the water and weather be never so favourable: uncommonly suggestive that "that which is least expected will be sure to transpire" is about our only safe and sound matutinal prediction.

In preface to the description of our illustration, I may mention that we cannot absolutely depend upon the "rights" and "lefts" of these feathers, which with others (golden toppings omitted) is important. Upon more than one occasion I have come across necks when, from the unusual—I may almost say deformed—shape of the shaft, utterly precluded the idea of fixing those on that side of the fly for which they are presumably intended. I am given to understand that this anomaly arises from the constant habit some of the birds have of always roosting with the head under the same wing; but we can fortunately fit all their feathers to advantage somewhere, and whether large or small, so long as they are velvety black and a pure white, they are most useful and invaluable to salmon anglers.

Tag: Silver twist, and silk the same colour as toppings.
Tail: Topping.
Butt: Black herl.
Body: In four sections, butted, and with two jungle feathers back to back, top and bottom, as shown. No. 1 division: Green silk, same shade as the green feather of the macaw. 2: Tippet-coloured silk. 3: Dark blue silk, same tone as an enamelled thrush. 4: Black silk.
Ribbed: Oval tinsel.
Wings: Toppings.
Horns: Blue macaw.
Head: Black herl.

## A DAY'S TROUTING.

By the "Medway Dace."

SIXTY miles an hour, and then not travelling fast enough; but you must know I was leaving for a time the smoke, bustle, and din of the metropolis of the North ("canny" Newcastle, as they are pleased to call it up there) for a nice quiet week's trout fishing in water that was seldom whipped to death. So there was every excuse for my being eager to reach my journey's end. Certainly I was leaving good fishing behind, but I was going where former experience had taught me that the trout were there (and "smarmers," too). The only thing to be done was to catch 'em.

"York: ten minutes here," was shouted by a porter who could easily have given the fat boy in "Pickwick" five stone, and then weighed against him successfully. Out I jumped to get a stretch. At the same moment a tall, thin lady emerged from a carriage in front of me, and immediately busied herself by shouting "Porter!" in a voice and manner that led me to think I would rather remain single than be "spliced" to such a one. Finding her call entirely ignored, she walked briskly up to the fat official above mentioned and prodded him in the back with a substantial umbrella, asking at the same time:

"Did you not hear me call you, porter?"

"Certainly I did, marm!" retorted that individual. "And I should just like to know how *you* would like to be called 'porter' if you was 'stout'!"

Arrived at King's Cross, I indulged myself in four miles of danger at eightpence, got on another line of rail, and was soon at my destination.

The two first days I only had average luck—2½ brace, 4lb.; and 3 brace, 2lb. The third day I had a grand catch—14 brace, 18lb. It was this catch that led to the day's fishing—the subject of this paper.

My friend R——l goes in for coarse fishing, and a very good hand at it he is, too; but he is not used to handling a fly-rod. Nevertheless, we had arranged to have a day together during my stay, and when I got home with my big catch he had just arrived, and you may be sure his eyes sparkled at the sight, and his hand itched to get at them himself.

We had a jolly evening together chatting over old times, and turned in early, and next morning started early as blithe as a lark, and as fresh as a daisy. R——l being eager to begin, I assisted him in fitting up his tackle, and he was soon flogging the water in a style that bid fair to drive all the trout far away. Leaving him a good stretch of water, I walked ahead, and was soon busy at it myself. I put on a blue dun and started at a deep curling eddy. At my second cast I rose, and was immediately after deep into a good fish, which I succeeded in landing safely. Five minutes or so after, I noticed a whacker just ahead of me rising beautifully. Twice I threw over him. On each occasion he eluded my snare; but the third cast that trout was doomed. He rose, I sent the cold steel home, and soon after had the pleasure of creeling him. He was a well-conditioned fish of about 1¼lb., and proved to be the largest I took that day.

I was just loading my pipe, preparatory to moving onward, when the loud and excited cries and frantic movements of my esteemed, but somewhat headstrong friend, R——l, attracted my attention. He appeared to have hooked a fish, and I immediately hastened to render such little assistance as I was able to do. Before I reached him, however, my services were dispensed with, for he shouted:

"I've got him! I've got him! No!—I'm d——d if I have. He's gone!"

I endeavoured to console my friend with the reflection that he was by no means the only angler who had lost his first trout, and was turning to resume my fishing, when he requested me to give him a few more flies, remarking:

"I've *used* the six you gave me: two are in the back of my coat, two are in that bush over there, another is in a root just below, and the last has just departed in that fish!"

Truly, he had proved himself at least a "powerful fisher." I knew a parson once who was considered a "powerful preacher." If knocking the "innards" out of a bible every sermon constitutes such a man, *he* was a double-pressure, copper bound, "powerful preacher."

I cut the flies from R——l's coat, and gave him some others "to go on with," observing:

"You'd be a little fortune to the fly-dressers, old man, if you'd only be a 'leetle' more energetic!"

"Yes," he returned; "I guess the price of blue duns will go up after this little festival has ended."

I then left him and went ahead some distance, returning after an hour and a half's fishing, during which time I had added three nice trout to my catch. I found R——l sitting on the bank under a tree, busily discussing a large Melton Mowbray pie. He was having what he calls "just a little snack." He invited me, with his mouth full of "mystery," to join him, by saying, "Have some." Some people don't know how to go a-fishing, do they, Mr. Editor? You and I do, though, and so does my friend R——l.

I found he had "used" the rest of the flies in odd bushes, &c., had caught one nice trout (quite by accident, I told him), and being somewhat tired in the right arm, had started the boy back for some liquid.

I hope my readers will pardon a little digression at this point, while I make the inquiry, "How is it our wives have such a strong objection to our fishing excursions?" Truly, they show it in different ways; but all manage to show it somehow. Luckily, I have a "cooking" wife, and, therefore, I have only to keep her cooking well praised to be supplied with pies, cold meat, &c., &c., *ad lib.* It is otherwise with my friend R——l. He has a "house-cleaning" wife, poor devil, and has to put up with No. 3 Melton Mowbrays and stale sausage-rolls. How our poor angling friends whose wives fairly "set their face against it altogether" get on, I can only surmise. Mr. Editor, can't we have a "round robin"? Or, how would a compromise answer—say we go in for women's suffrage, and our wives go in for angling? (Even then we should have the worst of it, I am thinking, for I vividly remember taking the present doubler of my joys and halver of my sorrows roach fishing on an occasion *before marriage*. After a bit she considered things were rather too slow, and commenced shying pines into the water. It was soon "wind up" with me, you may safely bet. I had to bear it *then*, but *now* ———. Heaven forgive me for having taken one of the superior sex fishing once. It spoiled a good day's fishing. I'll never do it again!)

To resume. After our "snack" we lighted up our pipes, and leaning back, contemplated the beauties surrounding us on every side. The greater proportion of my readers will agree with me, I believe, when I say that no one appreciates the mighty works of Nature more than the angler. He is constantly in close companionship with all that is grand and good, and being so, cannot but be impressed with the importance of his surroundings, and the insignificance of himself. This teaches him the great lesson of life, and is, I believe, the reason of all anglers being good men and brothers. The humble man is wise, the conceited man is ignorant, and an ignorant man is no fit companion for a good angler. And then, again, angling teaches us forbearance, patience, and how to appreciate good tobacco. Therefore, I say to the unenlightened, "Become anglers!"

But, stop! I am running away from my subject again; so to turn to fishing. After a while, during which it turned fearfully hot—the sky being almost without a cloud—I, having caught no fish, determined to have a rest and wait for a "rise." Once more I resort to the angler's boon companion—his pipe—and lying under a tree manage to fall into a delicious slumber, soothed by the rippling of the stream, the whirring of the countless dragon and other flies, the twittering of the birds (mostly sparrows!), and the sighing of the gentle breeze among the trees.

I awoke with a start and found that two or three good trout were feeding just ahead of where I lay. I was soon at them, and in a quarter of an hour had grassed four trout that would average ½lb. The water above me being not much good, I retraced my steps, having a cast here and there as I went along. I succeeded in picking up another brace, and then ran against R——l, who had been hard at it, and had taken three very decent fish. What will not perseverance do? Together we walked down stream, and as I missed the boy, I asked what had become of him.

"Oh!" said my friend, "I told him to wait for us at the bridge. I propose we make a line for that bridge."

I agreed, and we walked rapidly in that direction. We soon reached the spot, and there found an awful example of the effects of beer upon any but good anglers. The boy, it appeared, by the emptiness of the bottle, and the few incoherent remarks we ultimately managed to get from him, had imbibed the whole of the liquor, and was lying on the grass, spread out like the letter X, plaintively explaining to Mother Earth that he "felt orful bad."

This sight, combined with the loss of the beer, exasperated R——l. He seized the boy, and was soon busy immersing his head and shoulders in the stream. This treatment soon brought his victim round, and he made frantic efforts to escape the clutches of my friend. Eventually he broke away and started running towards the village as though ten thousand fiends were at his back, followed by the energetic remarks of my friend.

"Well, what are we to do now?" inquired R——l. "The fish have given over rising. I propose we pack up."

This I assented to, and we walked quietly back to the village.

We were soon sitting comfortably at home, and when the trout made their appearance, nicely cooked, and swimming in butter, we made a good meal. Afterwards, my landlady's daughter (who had been very obliging during my stay) regaled us with a little very good music. R——l has an excellent voice, and he kindly obliged with a few stirring songs. Sitting back in an old-fashioned but comfortable arm-chair, smoking a long churchwarden, I thought my lines were for the time laid in a very good swim, and that this was a proper and Waltonian way of finishing my day's trouting.

GEORGE JAMES EATON, of Starkholmes, Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is re[illegible]d, from gentlemen who can fish, to prove whether they may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—(ADVT.)

## JOTTINGS—PROSPECTIVE AND RETROSPECTIVE—REGARDING THE DEE AND DON SEASON, 1884.

Many anglers are already anxiously asking, "How is the 'back-end' fishing to turn out?" To such a query we reply that any answer at present is more or less risky. If we were asked to gauge the prospects six weeks hence by the present state of the weather and water, we should say, "Poor, poor, indeed!"

Though bound to admit that matters at present wear a somewhat cheerless look, we are hopeful that a brighter aspect may soon become apparent. That there is room for improvement, those prospecting will join us in admitting. Our remarks are applicable to both Dee and Don.

The net fishing ceases on 26th curt., and should wind and tide be propitious, there will likely be a few "drappit" fish for a week or two, prior to the commencement of the general run. On the lower and middle sections but little sport can be calculated on till the 20th of September in an ordinary year. The upper sections are practically valueless in the autumn: the fish got are soft, dark, and thought of little account. Between Aboyne and Kingcausie there are a number of good beats; but all outside these limits may be classed as inferior—seaward, at least, as uncertain.

Reports coming in tell of the abundance of very heavy old fish along the coast from Stonehaven to Ythan mouth. A few of good weight—30 to 40lb.—are occasionally got in the stake nets. The too clear and quiet nature of the sea, however, prevents, and the scarcity of the fresh-water outflow from the rivers into the sea does nothing to encourage, their coming closely in shore. On the contrary, though along the coast, they are keeping pretty well off. When the wind is favourable, they approach more inshore, and good hauls are then got. All those we have seen in the fishmongers' windows were finely shaped and firm: would have been good fish in the river, we should say, for a couple of months to come.

The nets at all the river stations on the Dee have been worked very industriously the whole season through. That the most of it has been made by the fisherman, there cannot be room to doubt; but whether legally or illegally in some instances we will not venture to say, pending a decision in the Aberdeen Law Courts. A reward (we believe by a gentleman angler) was some time ago offered for information concerning illegal netting in June and July. The Improvements Association, too, are ever watchful. For the first month or two, small salmon were got quite plentifully, and in the grilse season some fair shots were obtained; but otherwise, in consequence of the low, limpid, and warm state of the water, the fishing, so far as gone, has been poor—far, far behind that of last year. In the earlier months, anglers were well rewarded for their perseverance; but since then, nothing of any account has been got. With a scarcity of water, and a scarcity of fresh-run fish, what could have been expected? The Don, if anything, was possibly worse: on it as yet, not over 30 fish have been got by angling. The cruives and dykes doubtless interfere with the spring and summer sport. The riparian amenities of this river have no need to be curtailed. Notwithstanding its disadvantages, the Don, if a good steady flowing water during the latter half of September and the month of October, affords excellent sport, particularly on its lower reaches. As a trout stream, it is unequalled in the North.

"If they won't take the fly, they'll get nothing else from me," was the remark last spring of as good and gentlemanly an angler as has fished the Dee for many a year. We repeat the words: they are worth repeating. They form an exact index of our own sentiment, and of many more besides. Last spring, prawn, natural minnow, eel-tail, "devils," and a whole paraphernalia of such-like abominations were extensively used, to the utter disgust of all lovers of genuine sport. Protestations by "our old friends" were made against these imputations: wranglings ensued, and other points cropped up and were disputed. Several of these, if we mistake not, are yet unsettled. On this point, we have just to add that on two beats of equal merit, but fished differently (the one with the natural minnow, the other with the fly), the sport on the latter, after the first week or two, far exceeded that on the former, and was of much longer duration. At the end of the spring season, the weight of the fly fisher almost doubled that of the minnow fisher.

"Better small fish than none" has passed into a proverb—a proverb whose literal fulfilment it would not surprise us to hear of during the coming autumn. Our reason for this surmise is that the numerous shoals of grilse and small salmon which hovered about the coast in June and July, but did not take to the rivers, owing to the low waters, are almost certain to again appear and force upward ere the autumn fishing has progressed. Fish of the orders alluded to coming up thus late take more readily than "potted" fish, and, besides, are superior in every way. All things considered, we are of opinion that in a moderately strong, regular-flowing volume of water, the autumn takes of *mixed* fish will be quite up to an average. Even in as fine a water as the most fastidious could wish, there, as yet, has been nothing to indicate, or lead us to expect, more than ordinary returns. A small water would dash our hopes completely.

An Angler.

(*To be continued.*)

## HOW I SPENT MY HOLIDAY.

Of all the public holidays of the year, there is none like the August one for the angler, and knowing this, I had made up my mind to enjoy myself in the best possible way, considering I was debarred the pleasure of going with three of my pals to a very good trout stream, through being, unfortunately, blessed with a small family ranging from 12 years to 12 months old, and being in duty bound obliged to give them the benefit of one holiday out of the four. I had arranged some time before with the landlord at our fishing quarters for the use of his horse and trap to take them all (wife and children) to a quiet spot on the banks of the Severn, where I could have pursued my favourite sport, and the rest have enjoyed themselves upen the green sward in the shade of some large elm trees; but this was not to be, for some monster posters announced that a fête on a large scale was to take place on Bank Holiday, and then, one by one, they gradually backed out of going with me for this lovely country ride—a day in the pure air—and made me promise to take them to the fête, which, of course, I could not refuse; but there was still the old hankering in my mind to be off to the silent stream, and all day on Sunday kept thinking how I could manage the two—viz., take them to the fête and have an hour or two fishing. Ultimately, my better half decided that if I would be home by six o'clock, and meet her at the field as soon after as possible; I had better go fishing, as she could see I should be like a fish out of water if kept at home. Just the very thing to suit me. So I went and found a pal to go with me early in the morning, so as to have as long a time as possible, and at 7.50 off we started by train to our rendezvous; but on arriving at the stream, we found, to our disgust, that the mill-hands were holiday keeping like ourselves, and, consequently, the water was in a state of coma, which was no good sign for the angler; but as luck would have it, we had two chances, the brook (which at present was no use), and a canal close by which we had to take advantage of. I posted myself by one of the locks, with the determination not to move till my time was up. I began fishing with wasp grub, and soon had six or seven fair-sized gudgeon on the grass behind me, but not feeling inclined to be satisfied with my sport, I resorted to gentles as bait, and then found myself amongst the roach, but very small; thus I went on till 1.30, when my appetite told me it was dinner-time, and opening my basket (one of Warner's, of Birmingham, that acts as a seat) I produced a napkin, bread, and cheese, half-a-dozen good-sized onions, with salt, and a flask of old Scotch to swill it down, and seating myself on the grass, with my back resting against a stay post, I enjoyed myself to the best advantage. My line was still in the water, and when in the midst of my lunch my float gradually disappeared from sight. "Hallo!" thinks I, "whatever is that?" so catching hold of my rod, with a gentle twist of the wrist (for I was fishing with a single horsehair bottom, obtained from Hanlon's) I found there was something more bulky than what I had been landing before, so with careful manipulation, brought my captive to the top of the water, and to my surprise it was a bream, in my estimation about 3lb. How am I to get this fish? the thought struck me. I had no landing net, and I was afraid of the hook (a No. 12 crystal) or the hair giving way, and not a soul to be seen near. I did not worry myself, because I knew, with a little patience, the fish would be mine, so I gently walked it up the canal and landed it at one of the overflow passages by keeping my line taut with my left hand, lying down on my stomach full length and grasping the fish with my right hand close under the gills. I disengaged the hook, and flung the fish on the grass, and I guessed it then at 1½lb. Having rebaited my hook and put in, I sat down and finished my meal in peace. About 2.30 the master of the local Union come down, accompanied by one of the inmates carrying a stool and water can. On coming up to me, he stood gazing on the fish lying on the grass. "That's a fine chub you got there," says he. "Did you catch that out of this pound?" "I did," said I. "But you never saw a chub like that, I am sure." "Well," he said, "I am no angler; but I have seen some big fish like that knocking about here, and I put them down to be chub." "That's a bream," I said; "and if you say they are here, then by all means bait a hole with some boiled rice or grains, if you can get them, and then leave your bed just before daylight in the morning and come down and angle with gentles, your bait two or three inches on the bottom, and I'll be bound to say you will have some of them." "Thanks," he said; "blowed if I don't try it." This pompous individual, who was attended by one of Nature's unfortunates, kept me company for an hour or so till my pal came up, then feeling almost dried up by the broiling sun, we decided to be off home, which we did, two hours before the time expected. Well, I went to the fête, met missus and bairns, treated them to rides on the roundabouts, &c., saw the fireworks, and took them safe home. Then I wended my way to our fishing quarters, and was just in time to see my three pals (that was to have been) arrive home. One of them (our president this year) had 10 brace of trout, averaging ½lb. each, and 10lb. of dace, all fine fish; another had 7lb. of dace and a few trout and roach; and the other 4lb of eels, with some dace and roach. After having a parting glass together, we left for our homes very tired, but thankful to think we had the privilege of a Bank Holiday in August. I wish we had another in September.

W. L.

## TROUTING IN ABERDEEN, BANFF, AND KINCARDINE SHIRES.

Sport is fast declining, and the season, at any rate, is near its end. On a number of the strictly preserved streams, sportsmen now arrived at their lodges for the season may yet enjoy fair sport—their chances, at all events, are much superior to those practising on open, well-thrashed streams. Taking advantage, the other day, of the much-prized standing permission of a courteous and generous proprietor of Dee fishings, we tried a nice piece of streamy water, and within half-an-hour succeeded with the black spider (smallest size) in basketing some six or seven plump, well-conditioned trout. The brighter the sun, the more freely they rose. At present nothing but the finest tackle need be used. We waded in and fished up stream. On the Don the takes are not so good by a long way as they were a fortnight or three weeks ago. On the reaches attached to the hotels at Alford some sport is still agoing. Valetudinarians and holiday-makers are always having fair takes farther up the Don; but after the 12th it would be well that they should recognise that the lessees who pay for the sport should be allowed, as a matter of courtesy, if not of right, to have it all to themselves. Kintore is still resorted to by a few fishermen, and the natural minnow is even yet doing some havoc among the big trout. The tidal waters of the Dee and Don are just now well stocked with sea trout and "finnock." Parties returning usually report good takes. One or two of the experts have been fortunate in securing several pretty large sea trout. At Ythan mouth the catches this year are not quite up to that of an average season. We have not heard of much being done by Col. Fordyce or Col. Ferguson, and their guests of late among the Loch Leven trout in the Bruckley Castle and Pitfour House private lakes. When fishing on the former, occasionally we, as a rule, had grand sport about this season. Sea trout are taking to the Philorth, the Ythan, the Bervie, the Ugie, and the Cruden Water—in fact, they and finnock are nearing the frsh water the whole north-east coast round. A spate, if it should come, would induce them to ascend in shoals, and sport in the Ebrie, &c., the above named streams would then be first-rate in a good flow of water.

The Deveron and Bogie are still yielding trout anglers fair returns for their pains. The trout got in these streams this year have been goodly-sized on the whole. The silting up of the former river by sand, where it debouches into the sea, is little improved, and the consequence is that salmon anglers are feeling a good deal of uneasiness in view of the autumn fishing.

W. M.

## DEATH OF THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON.

By the sudden death of the Duke of Wellington at Brighton, on Wednesday last, the art of Pisciculture has lost one who took very great and practical interest in it. We trust that the fish-breeding establishment of the late Duke, which has been so ably managed by Mr. Frank Gosden, will be carried on. The Duke was a vice-president of the National Fish Culture Association of Great Britain and Ireland.

Four Trout at One Cast.—Mr. George W. Dillingham, of G. W. Carleton and Co., Publishers, New York, while trout fishing at "the outlet," Moosehead Lake, Maine, had the remarkable luck to strike four trout at one cast, whose united weight was 10lb., and he was so fortunate as to succeed in landing them all. There were with him at the time as witnesses of the wonderful feat, Messrs. R. L. Keatch, of Providence, R. I.; P. O. Vickery, of Augusta, Me., and G. R. Geer, Jr. of New York.

# CORRESPONDENCE.

[*We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.*]

### THAMES FISHERMEN.

Sir,—Referring to the complaint made by Mr. Edward J. Powell in the correspondence columns of last Saturday's issue of the Gazette, I agree with him, it is quite right that such conduct should be exposed. I am at present labouring under an inconvenience owing to the dilatory conduct of George Hone, at Walton.

About a month ago I wrote to him, inclosing stamped directed envelope, requesting a note of what his charges would be for attendance on self and friend for a few days. Not having received reply, I, on the 7th instant, again wrote requesting an answer; but up to this time have received none. It is very annoying to be treated like this. My friend leaves town on Sunday, and I was to have joined him later on, and we trusted that by giving an ample margin of time our arrangements might be completed before his departure; but now probably not only shall I be deprived of my friend's company, but be unable to procure the services of another fisherman at such short notice. I addressed the letters thus:—George Hone, Fisherman, Walton-on-Thames, which, I presume, is sufficient—at any rate, they have not been returned.

If you will give this letter insertion in your next issue I shall be obliged, and glad to hear from any of the fishermen at Walton, including George Hone (to whom, in deference to my friend's prejudice in his favour, preference will be given, even unto the eleventh hour), if he will condescend to reply to me at once.—I am, &c.,

John J. Harris.

51, Great Marlborough-street, London, W., Aug. 13.

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Sir,—Will you kindly allow me to give an explanation of my conduct in answer to Mr. Powell's letter. I had a swim baited with worms where my patron fished on the 3rd; the hot weather killed so many of the worms I was keeping, and when I went on the 4th to buy some I failed, so I could neither feed them again nor get a worm to bait a hook with. I asked Hoare to meet him, as he had two or three swims baited; meanwhile I went dace fishing with another gentleman, as I could not have conscientiously taken the other barbel fishing, as I had not bait to give them. The above is the sole and only reason for my not going, as I am not very partial to sending my patrons to another, and if there had been time I should have sent word by post.—I am, &c.,

G. Lumsden.

P.S.—I hope I have not yet got the customary title of fishermen for telling lies. I think everyone that writes to me knows better than that; but I thought my excuse would not want the least explaining.

### FISHING AT DEAL.

Sir,—As many lovers of the gentle art are now taking, or about to take, their annual holidays, I thought it might be of use to some of them to know that the pollack are running well here now, and will be likely to do so up to the end of September. They may be taken in the morning and evening from the pier head by fishing near the surface with artificial bait, and during the whole day on the bottom with cockle, &c. There are also many other kinds of fish to be taken bottom fishing. Many good bags have been made here lately; amongst others, a visitor little used to angling took five nice fish weighing just over 7lb., between 8 and 10 in the evening. I have taken over 20 fish since the middle of July, fishing occasionally of an evening, largest 3lb. There is also some very fair freshwater fishing within easy distance for jack, perch, tench, roach, &c.—I am, &c.,

Squatter.

### FISHING TRIPS.

Sir,—Will you allow me, through the medium of your paper, to make known my desire to join one or more gentlemen on a fishing and boating trip to the Norfolk Broads for a fortnight in September? Perhaps also some of your readers could give me some information as to the best localities, hotels, &c., in Norfolk.

Is there any pike fishing to be had there, as well as bottom fishing? Should like expenses not to exceed 10s. to 12s. per day, including boating, &c., if possible.

I should have no objection to vary this trip by a visit to the Angler's Paradise in Sutherlandshire, described in the meeting of the London Gresham Angling Society in your issue of the 2nd inst.—I am, &c.,

Samuel Horton.

16, Woburn-hill, Stoneycroft, Liverpool.

### LANDING NETS.

Sir,—I agree with "Fly Fisher" that a landing net is a nuisance. My plan is to use a small trout gaff, very sharp, with which any fish over 6oz. may, with practice, be easily struck; but, of course, sometimes one or two are lost that might be taken with a net, as the fish must be steadied before attempting to strike. When using a net, I find nothing answers better for preventing the hooks sticking in the meshes than good green paint. Of course, at night your eyes must be very good to land a trout with either a gaff or a pair of tongs.—I am, &c.,

Watchett.

---

Sir,—In answer to "Fly Fisher's" letter, *re* "Hooks Catching in the Net," if he writes to the Manchester Cotton Twine Spinning Company, 51, Corporation-street, he will get a waterproof net, at a reasonable price, in which hooks catch very seldom. —I am, &c.,

A. Benn.

August 12.

### CRAYFISHING.

Sir,—Boys born and bred in London among the middle and working classes (though all work!) have necessarily far less opportunities for learning how to angle, and even to catch crayfish, than your country town youngsters, who goes down to the "cut" or mill-tail, or other stream where the fishing is free, partly from inclination, but chiefly from emulating what the other boys do, with rod and line and the crayfish net. Boys teach boys without any of the jealousies and reserves of after life, and mutually congratulate each other when a bright dace, a half-pound roach, or other fish is safely landed. Now, I have often thought what a blessing it had been to piscatorial posterity that a certain young "haberdasher" had not suffered his mind to be dwarfed and dulled by serving bodkins and buttons, pins and needles, tapes and trimmings, if not also garters, stay-cords, and, perhaps, even braces—though the "Argosy" had not then arrived in town. Neither did the temptation of the "City" prevail even the immortal "Izaak" in keeping him in after years from the daisy-dotted meadows and the pastures where the dappled and the duns, and the strawberry-coloured cows were awaiting the coming of the pretty dairymaids "a-going a-milking, sir," hard by the banks of the pellucid rivers and streams away in beautiful rural England. While giving due credit to Mr. Oscar Wilde for the pictures and the partial displacement of the old "willow pattern," with its little Oriental romance, on our domestic crockery, for the rushes and the "black heads" and the long-legged birds, some of which are trying to swallow impossible fish, it must not, however, be thought that there were not many thousands of unobtrusive admirers of our water-meadow and marine plants and the stately forms of growth, with the familiar birds and the voles in our river-valleys long before the sunflower was degraded in the current literature by persons who probably could not have told a heron from a handsaw.

Your country-town resident, happily now restricted as to time for catching and the length of crayfish to be retained, knows the favourite free fishings, and when moonlight serves, a lot of boys will have occupied a good stretch of the local canal or stream. Dread of exposure in "the papers" and a fine will doubtless keep most crayfishers pretty close to the legal length of fish to be kept, though an occasional official turn out of a "bag" might be advisable. It is not, however, in main rivers that the best crayfishing is to be got; rather in quiet streams, and even in some obscure and narrow waterways, well overgrown in places with marine plants, and the water connected with the main stream ever so iudirectly. In private streams the crayfish should not be fished for on more than two or three nights in the same length of water; for crayfish, like coveys of partridges, even when more or less depleted by the sportsman, stick pretty close by the spot where they were hatched, and over-fishing, like over-shooting, is detrimental to the stock. Happily, immature and early-bred crayfish can no longer be legally taken for garnishing dishes of cold lamb, chicken, and such like; and therefore many more better-sized fish can now be fished for by owners of private fisheries and by the people where the water is open to them.—I am, &c.,

Rusticus.

### *RE* FISHING AT AMBERLEY.

Sir,—Perhaps the following items may interest some of your readers. There are plenty of good fish this season in the Arun. For instance—C. Elliott, fine carp caught on Bank Holiday; a number of good bream, one a 4lb., caught yesterday by Mr. Fletcher, was a real beauty; there have also been taken a fair quantity of fine roach —I measured one caught by a female angler yesterday morning, 17in. extreme length, or 14⅜in. eye to fork, weight 2lb. ¼oz. I believe Mrs. Malcom intends sending it to Cooper's for preservation; I hope she will do so, for it was a handsome fish. On Bank Holiday several good catches, mostly bream, were had by men who fished all night, one London angler getting 40lb.—he took his swim at 7 o'clock on Saturday evening and never left it till he packed up on Monday to return home (this angler does not belong to any club). A Mr. Lee, another angler who stays out all night, had a good show of fish on the 10th August, about 18lb. bream and roach, worm fishing. I have been staying at Houghton some days, but the weather was too hot to fish after breakfast time.—I am, &c.,

Rambler.

### LIVERPOOL ANGLERS.

Sir,—If the Central do not rent any pond fishing the members have misled the public. It is, however, a matter of so little interest that it is childish to make a point of it. Firmness is a valuable quality, and I congratulate "Quill Float" in having sufficient of it to enable him to refuse the "dozens" of invitations to join us he says he has received. But his loss is our gain, and we are truly thankful for the narrow escape we have had of enrolling him. Fishing in the Vyrniew is taking a mean advantage of what "Q. F." calls a "flaw" in the Freshwater Fisheries Act. Must it not, therefore, be immeasurably more mean to take advantage of the said "flaw" by fishing in ponds for small roach and perch?

"Isaak" is not to blame, although he struck home; but it all arose through "Piscator" reporting that the Central was the *only* Liverpool Association which had observed the *spirit* of the Act with regard to close time—which was not correct, and was unneighbourly. As to proving or disproving sly hits, &c., why "Quill Float" only needs to refer to his inner consciousness and to the letters published in the Fishing Gazette by himself and *confrères* to find condemnation. Any *real greivance* I shall be glad to hear of direct, and I promise my best attention. *Au revoir.*—I am, &c.,

R. Woolfall,
Hon. Sec. the Liverpool Angling Association.

### WHOLESALE DESTRUCTION OF FISH IN THE RIVER LARK.

Sir,—Information of the most reliable character has within the last few days reached me of the wholesale and disgraceful destruction of fish by netting and poisoning in the beautiful little river Lark, between Isleham West Row and Barton Mills.

Two men present at the netting assure me that over 30 stone weight of splendid roach, dace, chub, and perch were taken at a staunch near Mildenhall. Another big lot were dragged out at Wamil Staunch, and, worse than all, a quantity of poison mixed with bread has been thrown in near Barton Mills, and numbers of large fish destroyed. This is a most distressing account for all lovers of the rod, but it is perfectly true; and after all the trouble several gentlemen at Mildenhall and other places have taken to preserve the fish for angling, it is a great pity that steps cannot be taken to stop these nefarious practices. I would ask any of the inhabitants, and especially the innkeepers, at either of the villages Barton Mills, Mildenhall, West Row, or Isleham, whether it would not be better for them to prevent the netting, and to preserve the fish for anglers, hundreds of whom would go yearly to each of the above-named places if they knew the stream was not netted, and, of course, they would all spend money. The value of the fish when caught is nothing, but the delightful ramble along the river bank and the beautiful surroundings of nature make a Paradise to the good and true angler. What I would suggest is, that every publican and inhabitant should use his best endeavours to preserve the fish; and, if possible, to form a society, which might be amalgamated with the Cambridge and Ely Angling Society, the committee of which would, I am sure, render all assistance in their power to further such a scheme.—I am, &c.,

William Howlett,
One of the Hon. Secs. and Treasurers for the Cambridge and Ely Angling Society.

Newmarket.

### THE EXTRAORDINARY CATCH OF ROACH WITH A FLY.

Sir,—Your heading—"The Wensum (Norwich)"—to the paragraph relating to the above is likely to mislead. The fish were taken in the waters of the River Wensum Preservation Society, at Fakenham, about thirty miles by rail north-west of Norwich.—I am, &c.,

West Norfolk.

London, W.

P.S.—I have also known the soldier palmer as a very killing fly among the roach there, and last year I saw some good fish caught with a big one, tied by a Norfolk county schoolboy.

## THE DEVERON NET FISHINGS AND AUTUMN PROSPECTS.

Since April this game little river, in the way of salmon, has produced extremely little. The water here—as did the Dee and Don—assumed unusually low dimensions in the early summer. The entrance to the sea got choked up; the outflow of the river, hitherto inclining pretty much to the Banff shore, got transferred to the Macduff side, with the result that there are now two beaches, the outer one formed by the sea, and the inner one by the river running through the sand and pebbles and being lashed by the sea at high tide. The river now being too complicated, and, moreover, spreading out and running too thinly over shifting sand, the fish disincline to seek upward in any number. The river nets, since the time indicated above, have fished a virtual blank. Even in the bay and along the coast the salmon and grilse season has been poor, and much loss to the lessees must result. Even supposing a spate were now to come on in the 10 or 12 days yet to run before the fishings expire, the tenants could not possibly be anything like recouped. The Macduffers have cheap fresh salmon whenever they want at a low figure the season throughout in consequence of having stipulated with Lord Fife, when the town's fishings were handed over to him, that they were to be supplied at all times at the price current in London. Summer visitors to Macduff were wont to remark about the cheapness of salmon and grilse in that small town. What is now wanted in view of the autumn fishing is a very heavy spate to clean out the river. The salmon that take the Deveron in the autumn are large for the most part, and the flies used for their capture generally sombre in hue. That sport may be better than we have reason to apprehend is our heartiest wish. Heavy fish are appearing on the coast in shoals.

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WANTED.—Particulars and Prices of Second-hand Books on Angling and Fish Culture. Must be in good condition.—Address Editor, Fishing Gazette, 12 and 13, Fetter-lane, London, E.C.

Schweppe's
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To the Queen.
TableWaters

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# RIVER REPORTS.

### TIME OF HIGH WATER IN THE THAMES.

To find the time of high water in the Thames at any of the following places, to the time of high water at London Bridge (given below).

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Add | 30 minutes for | Chelsea. |
| | 40 ,, | Putney. |
| | 45 ,, | Hammersmith. |
| | 50 ,, | Barnes. |
| | 55 ,, | Kew. |
| | 75 ,, | Richmond. |
| | 80 ,, | Twickenham. |
| | 85 ,, | Teddington. |

Example:—If it is high water at 2 o'clock at London Bridge, it will be high water at Teddington about 3.25, or eighty-five minutes later; but it must be remembered that a strong wind accelerates or retards the tide very much.

For Times of High Water at London Bridge.

| | | Morning. | Afternoon. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Saturday, | August 16 | 8.44 | 9.26 |
| Sunday, | ,, 17 | 10.10 | 10.50 |
| Monday, | ,, 18 | 11.29 | 12.0 |
| Tuesday, | ,, 19 | 12.4 | 12.35 |
| Wednesday, | ,, 20 | 1.3 | 1.29 |
| Thursday, | ,, 21 | 1.52 | 2.15 |
| Friday, | ,, 22 | 2.36 | 2.55 |

Note.—New moon August 20; high tide August 22 and 23.

## THE LOWER THAMES.

### General Remarks.

The misdeeds of anglers are always published, and it is but common justice to those who do right to give them a word of praise. It appears the other day there were a large number of anglers fishing near the bridge at Richmond, when the head river keeper, Thompson, conceived the idea of watching and listening to their movements by concealing himself from their view. It must have been a pleasurable time to him when he found that each of the anglers, after catching a fish, either brought out a rule to see if they were the proper size or measured them from the bottom of the rod, and, when found deficient, immediately return them to the water, and his pleasure must have been wonderfully increased when he heard one of them exclaim, "How thankful we ought to be to the Thames Angling Preservation Society for what it does for us." It is not true the head river keeper afterwards went round with his hat to benefit the funds of the society, but he went home so delighted he at once wrote to the worthy President and reported what he had seen and heard. This is, indeed, the sunny side of an angling picture. Although the water in the tideway is very low and bright, it does not keep the anglers away, and the sport they get satisfies them.

**Richmond.**—Christopher Brown, in five days, has taken 60lb. weight of roach and dace, and twenty-six barbel. Harry Wheeler, during the week, 110lb. of roach and dace, and three barbel. F. Brown, in three days, 36lb. and three barbel. Henry Howard, in four days, 60lb. Job Brain, during the week, 34lb. of roach. Henry Mansell, one day with Mr. Bennett, 30lb. of roach and dace; another day with Mr. King, 20lb.; and in four other days, 60lb., making a total of 410lb. weight of roach and dace and thirty-two barbel. One of the bank anglers, on their favourite day, got four barbel, and the others had some good takes of roach and dace.

**Twickenham.**—Pert Hammerton, in one day, 35lb. of roach and dace, five barbel and one perch; and in four other days 58lb. John Coxen, jun., in one day, 12lb. of dace. James Coxen, in three days, thirty-eight dozen of dace and three barbel. George Coxen, in the same time, twenty-one and a half dozen of roach and dace. William Spong, in one day, eight dozen. John Spong, in two days, seventeen dozen. Joseph Debbin, the same quantity, and one perch. H. Spiers, in three days, sixteen dozen, and six barbel. Samuel Cole, in seven days, seventy dozen of roach and dace, eleven barbel, and three perch. Edward Finch, in four days, thirty-six dozen, and four barbel.

**Teddington.**—Joseph Baldwin, in four days, twenty dozen of roach and dace. Charles Baldwin, in the same time, twenty dozen, and a barbel of 5½lb. Alexander Kemp, seven small barbel, which he put back again. How greatly has the glory of Teddington fishing diminished from the time when it was a common thing to get twenty dozen of fish in the day. This was when the impurity of the river drove the fish to the head of the tide.

**Kingston.**—John Johnson, sen., writes: "I have done some fair fishing this week with roach, dace, and some good bream, the latter up to 5½lb.; barbel only three, and nothing over 3lb. Yesterday, three jack, the best 4½lb. I should say twenty-five dozen of roach and dace in the week, all good fish. Some private boats have been getting a few jack in trailing, the best 7lb., and a few good perch. The bank fishers have been getting some good roach and a few barbel, and a fair show of eels." John Johnson, jun., in three days, twelve barbel, fifteen dozen of roach and dace, and one brace of jack. B. Pope, in two days, eleven bream, the best 6½lb. If anglers, when they have done fishing for barbel, could see the fish put back again instead of going away and asking the fisherman to do it, they would do a good thing. There has been instances where another angler has come, and the fish having been left in the well of the punt, he has claimed them as his take, and it may he weighted them in at his club-house and got a prize ! This is not what it ought to be.

**Long Ditton and Thames Ditton.**—H. Buttery, in one day, four barbel, the best 4lb., a chub of 2½lb., and two eels ; and E. Tagg, seven perch and about five dozen of dace. The bank anglers have done good business amongst the roach, dace, and perch.

**Hampton Court.**—Thomas Davis, in three days, seven barbel and eleven dozen of roach and dace. C. Davis, in one day, four dozen of roach and dace and nine barbel. Thomas Watford, in two days, four barbel and three dozen of roach and dace. Thomas Wheeler, in three days, ten dozen of gudgeons, nine barbel, twelve dozen of roach and dace, and a fine chub. C. Stone, in a day and a half, four dozen of roach and dace and a fine barbel. The bank anglers, at Tagg's Island Fishery, during the week landed about twenty dozen of roach and dace. A gentleman, at Hampton, has taken in legering a nice trout of 4lb. 6oz.

**Sunbury.**—Edward Clarke, jun., in four days, twelve barbel, twenty bream (the best 4½lb.), four perch, and forty dozen of gudgeon. H. Clarke, in three days, six barbel, twelve dozen of roach and dace, fifteen dozen of gudgeon, six brace of perch, and eight bream (the largest 4lb). Edward Clarke, sen., in one day, six dozen of roach and dace.

**Walton.**—S. Rosewell, in one day, four dozen of roach, another day seven dozen, and another day six dozen. R. Watford, one day five dozen, and the same evening four dozen. John Hone, one day five dozen, another day five dozen, another day six dozen of roach and dace, and another day four dozen of roach and four bream.

**Halliford.**—E. D. Rosewell, in one day, five dozen of roach and dace, two bream, and three dozen of gudgeon.

**Shepperton.**—H. Purdue, in one day, six brace of perch, three dozen of gudgeon, and two bream. F. Purdue, three dozen of roach and dace and two dozen of gudgeon. W. Rogerson, in four days, twelve dozen of roach and dace, seven barbel, and one bream. W. House, in one day, four dozen of roach and dace, ten dozen of gudgeon, a bream of 3lb., and four brace of perch.

**Eynsham.**—We had a number of anglers down here for the Bank Holiday, and I hear of general good sport. Mr. Hobden was the most fortunate, as with a lot of other good fish he succeeded in landing a splendid barbel weighing 10½lb. It was 2ft. 9in. long, caught with a lobworm float, fishing near Pinkhill Weir. I believe there are plenty more such fish about here, as there were plenty seen sunning themselves in the early summer. Roach and perch are biting well, the former at boiled wheat and gentles, the latter at minnows and lobworms. Water all round here in good order.—W. B. Howe.

## UPPER THAMES.

The Thames angling seems to have gone out. Barbel will not bite ; roach fishing just now is more honoured in the breach than the observance, for the fish are simply *non est* (that is, they are in the weeds), and are not likely just now to be enticed therefrom. Chub may be had late and early with a fly, black or white palmer or Marlow buzz, the latter for choice, being the best allurements, to my fancy, as may well be imagined. Gudgeon are biting freely, sixteen or seventeen dozen to two and three rods being reported to me from Marlow, Cookham, Cliveden, and Bray. Jack are now well in the weeds ; but anglers would do well by trying the weir pools with live bait, especially if the pools result in eddies. Temple Hurley, Marsh, and Boveney are fair waters of this class to fish in. In the first-mentioned pool last week eight jack were taken therefrom, the best going 9lb., all had with live bait, in the quiet bail from the weir—that is, in the eddy caused by the overflow. At Medmenham, Bob Young has been busy with patrons ; and at Harley, Tom Street has been instructing piscators in the art of dabbing at perch with a landing net, under the difficult surroundings of a moving punt, weeds, and laughter. Tom, however, is all there ! Thursday Evening, Seven o'Clock.—Weather everything to be desired—river, in colour not everything to be desired ; but I think careful fishing, with some expense with regard to bait, and early and morning work, would produce fair baskets, and I am quite sure appetites and good health.—Marlow Buzz.

### Dockett Point.

Three days fishing, nine barbel, three bream, five perch, six dozen of gudgeon, four chub, roach and dace.—J. Haslett.

### Thames (Goring).

Water very low and clear, nothing much doing. Gudgeon biting very well, perch coming on better. My best day, fourteen dozen of gudgeons, one dozen of perch, and two jack.—John Rush.

### Thames (Oxford).

Last week I was fishing the upper reaches of the Thames between Lechlade and Inglesham. On Friday, one of the hottest days I ever remember, I tried the shallow reach above Inglesham Weir pool, and in spite of the heat, I bagged twelve nice roach. The bait I used was King's natural paste, and although I have no wish to give the inventor a gratuitous advertisement, I must honestly confess its attractive powers were far beyond my fondest expectations. Mr. Jaggard, of Lechlade, also succeeded in taking a very nice sample. A friend of mine, writing from the lower river, where he has been staying for a week, says—" On Friday we went out, and as a matter of course, took everything with us but the teacups ; but we rose superior to such a trifle, and drank it out of the maggot-box." On Saturday, I spun the Colne ; but unfortunately, from some fault of the triangles or my own, I only succeeded in pricking a brace and a half of trout. On the 10th the thunderstorm marred the sport in a great measure ; but on Monday, Mr. Moor, after an exciting struggle, brought a nice eel weighing 2lb. to bank, and although the day was frightfully warm, I managed to bag 6lb. of roach and a chub going 2½lb. The latter was a game little fish, and tried my drawn gut and fine Nottingham silk to its utmost. From Cricklade to Inglesham, the confluence of the Colne and the Thames, the river is in a terribly dirty state, owing to the dredging operations which are being carried out ; but from the Colne right away past Oxford, the water is low, bright, and in the pink of condition for roach, chub, and barbel. All along the river very large bags of chub and roach have been made, more especially in the vicinity of Hart's Weir and Radcote-bridge. Coming home, I met a gentleman who had been staying at Hart's, and during the time he had been there he had taken a brace of large jack and a quantity of perch and roach ; he also informed me that a stranger from London had caught several chub going from 3lb. to 5lb. I am glad to say trout are on the increase in the city waters. On the 7th, I had one just over a pound, but not large enough to take ; and on the succeeding evening I was fast in another, which went off with my float and part of my line. Judge my surprise when, in less than half an hour, I caught the float and tackle, but lost the fish. —Cherwell Otter.

### Ancholme District.

One thousand anglers visited the Ancholme on Bank Holiday, and nearly all had fair sport. A bream of 5lb. 2oz. was taken last week, and both this fish and roach continue well on the feed. We have had some thunderstorms, but they have not affected the colour of the waters. Trout fishing is at a standstill. Visitors at Croxby Lake have had good sport in the evenings amongst the eels and perch, whilst an occasional trout, now and then, comes to bank. Some gentlemen have recently caught several perch with the fly.—Thomas Ford, Caistor, 13th August.

Good sport has again been had upon the Ancholme, chiefly among the roach. The water is in good order, and in the morning and evening there are admirable opportunities of doing well. Among the takes I have note of two—24lb. chiefly roach, from Mr. Jenkinson, and 26lb. roach and perch from T. Stokes. Some of the local anglers are boasting of getting three, four and even six stones of fish in the course of two or three days, but I fear they are phenomenal. Some good bream are got hold of occasionally. Rain is now wanted, though the weather is splendid for th harvester.—X.

### Ballynahinch.

Since my last report the weather has been very much against angling ; still, some of the rods have done very fairly, as will be seen by the following takes :—Colonel Biden, in six days, 68 sea trout ; Mr. Bewer, in six days, 66 trout ; Mr. Smith, 70 trout ; Mr. M'Niel, 44 trout ; Messrs. Debenham and Dalton, 116 trout ; Mr. Hone, in four days, and Major Wilmott, in six days, killed 88 trout ; Major Malone, in four days, 30 trout ; a party of three (the Right Hon. the Earl of Malmesbury, Colonel Harris, and Mr. Gould) fished a few days and took 16 trout. The last three days we have not had so much sunshine.—Walter Blackadder.

### Bure.

During the holidays this river has been covered with anglers at all points. I am credibly informed that on the Bank Holiday as many as eleven matches were held on the Bure, either at Wrexham or Horning Ferry. The reports from Host Thompson, Horning Ferry, are as good as I have ever known them ; large bream, up to 4lb., are being taken every day ; six stone to the boat is no uncommon catch. Acle (Host Rose) has also been well patronised by the fraternity, and several matches have been held here with capital results ; the members returning to Norwich pleased with their sport, and also with Host Rose's good catering. Wrexham, of course, has come in for the lion's share of visitors, as it is so handy to get at, and, I am told, that both up to Coltishall and down to Salhouse, some fine fish have been caught, though hereabouts seem to abound with youngsters, and if you wish to avoid them cease to use gentles ; try boiled white wheat and white and coloured paste or pearl barley. At Ranworth downwards, and up the Thurne, good sport is being had. I can fully endorse what your correspondent writes regarding Host Lawes, at the Waterman's Arms, Potter Heigham ; this is a first-rate spot to stay at, though their accommodation as to number is unfortnnately limited. Above Heigham Bridge, near Kendal Dyke, are good reaches for bream, &c., and should be tried by those paying a visit. Prospects, both on the Bure and Thurne, are first-rate.—Robert Moll.

### Chichester.

Owing to absence from home last week, my usual report must be embodied in the present. At Chichester, during the past fortnight, some fair sport has been had, Mr. Young having some good takes of bream, especially during the later hours of the day. At Selham, Mr. Lane, late of the Chichester Angling Society, took a couple of fine pike ; while Mr. Young brought home an excellent basket of roach. Mr. Willison writes :—" This week fish are well on feed, especially in the evening. Local anglers have been doing well." At Chichester, fish are to be found nearer Hunston. In the basin, there are tales of a 15lb. pike, but up to the present no one has had the fortune to hook the prize.—George F. Salter.

### The Dove (Ilam).

The thundery weather of last Saturday did not result in any rain to speak of, and the rivers are still extremely low ; in fact, the bed of the Dove from Hartington to Load Mill is almost dry, With Hofland's fancy, Mr. R. B. Marston, who has been staying at the Izaak Walton, has continued to have good sport—on the 7th, 3 brace ; 8th, 3½ brace, and 1 grayling 1¼lb. ; on Saturday, the 9th, in about 2½ hours of thunder and lightning, 9½ brace, weighing just 10lb. ; on the 11th, 8½ brace ; on the 12th, 9 brace. Altogether, in eleven days he has had 55 brace of trout (several over 1lb.) and 1½ brace of grayling. The latter are not rising well yet. Mr. M. says the rivers are well stocked with fish, but more water is wanted, and only very fine upstream fishing is of any use.—Caperer.

### Eden (Carlisle).

There are plenty of whitings now, and very nice fish they are, many of them running three-quarters of a pound, or thereabouts. The river is so low, and the weather has been so brilliant, that the best sport is to be had at night. I have not heard of any very good takes in the Eden, but the Esk, below Longtown, has yielded some fine baskets. The fact is that the Esk is such a " beck," compared to the Eden, that the fish get more concentrated in certain places, and after dark it is sometimes " hammer and tongs " with them. You may catch half a creel full in an hour, when they are in the humour ; for they take fits and starts like all the salmon breed. As our well-known professional Dick Routledge says, " Fish and women are the queerest things going—you never know where you have them."—Silver Grey.

### Eynsham.

The river here is in good order, and fish are biting well. The rivers Evenlode and Windrush are also in capital condition. Mr. Geer and self had a nice take of perch and roach, in the Evenlode, a few days since with lob-worm. Mr. Hobden has again had some good sport in the Thames. On the 14th he, with several other nice fish, took one barbel, each 5 and 6lb., float-fishing. There seems every prospect of a lot of barbel being taken here this season, several smaller ones having been caught by local anglers.—W. B. Howe.

### The Fen Drains (Boston.)

Large numbers of anglers came down to Boston and other adjacent points this week for their sport. All the more popular swims were well patronised, and in some cases the patronage was of that holiday kind which is called pleasure, but which naturally much disgusts the regular fishermen. This applies to drains near to the town especially ; but further away, those who went farthest fared best. The Hobhole was well patronised, and among those who found the fish in a satisfactory manner, I may mention a take from Mr. Cawthorn, of Sheffield, of 31½lb. roach and bream. Three of Mr. Cawthorne's best scaled 7lb. At Old Leake, the angling was prime also. An angler, named Garner, got 32lb. ; and there were others of the same kind.—T. B.

### Ilfracombe.

Sea fishing good sport this week. Saturday, a large quantity of fish caught. Monday, J. Bedmore and party fishing off Popple Cove, caught 106 fish in two and a half hours, consisting of pollack, codlin, and whiting. F. Redmore, fishing off Popple Cove, caught 40lb. of bream, whiting, and eels ; J. Busher and party, to the eastward of the harbour, caught five cod and a quantity of whiting pout. Tuesday, R. Louch and party caught some fine bream and a lot of whiting ; D. Lovering, a large cod ; a gentleman fishing from the jetty, a large bass and some pollack. The trawlers brought from the bay some fine soles, turbot, and plaice. Wednesday, good fishing. F. Redmore's party fishing off Popple Cove Point caught between 40lb. and 50lb. of bream and whiting ; others had equally fine catches. E. German, fishing from the rocks, caught a fine tamlin cod. Lovers of fishing are now enjoying good sport, the fishing being good ; the weather fine, with just a nice breeze blowing.—E. Comer.

### Leicester.

The weather during the week has been of the most changeable character, and altogether unfavourable to anglers. One or two violent thunderstorms have visited this part of the country, and the heat has been occasionally intense. Notwithstanding the drawbacks to angling operations, a large number continued to pay attention to the waters hereabouts, but sport, as may be imagined, has been of a variable kind ; however, there has been individual cases where large takes have been had. The principal of the fishing in the Leicester Society's waters has been for roach, and although not well on the feed, they have afforded some moderate sport ; a few baskets containing from 8lb. to 12lb. of fish, among which specimens over 1lb. each were shown. Those having the best baskets were Messrs. Barrows, Hobbs, Owen, and Bird. To exemplify how fickle the fish are at the present time, I may mention that a gentleman hooked a chub weighing 3½lb. and a roach 1¼lb. in two swims, both with white paste. Some large chub have lately made themselves visible in the waters, and although almost every bait has been tried, scarcely any have been landed. Pike fishing has been at a standstill in the Leicester waters, the weather being unsuitable for this kind of angling. Visitors to distant waters have fared fairly well. On Tuesday W. S. Smith, and Mr. Austin took 120lb. of perch from Thornton Reservoir, and on Wednesday Messrs. Bonner, S. Smith, and Pole caught a very fine lot of roach, weighing about 40lb. I also heard of a chub 6lb. 3oz., and 14lb. of roach, the largest weighing 1lb. 12oz., being caught by Mr. J. W. Marwood, who fished with King's natural bait in the Aylestone preserves, near Leicester. Other anglers who had large lots of perch, roach, and bream, were Messrs. Benskin and Burgess. At Barrow-on-Soar but poor reward has fallen to the lot of rodsters who have tried their luck in the River Soar, but this may in some degree be accounted for owing to the large amount of duckmeat on the waters. A good, heavy flush is badly needed in this neighbourhood. At the Wreake there has been several nice lots taken. I am sorry to say one of the occupiers of land was using some trammels very freely on Bank Holiday, landing a large quantity of bream and other fish in a most unsportsmanlike manner. After the storm on Thursday morning, the weather became a little milder, and it being the weekly half holiday, a good many were out fishing.—ALERT.

## Lea (Tottenham).

The water continues low and bright ; but, in spite of this, capital sport can be had with the whipping rod. Mr. Bennett, sen., was down on Monday and Wednesday, and on each occasion succeeded in filling his creel. The black gnat, "Wickham's fancy," and the "Red Ant," dressed on No. 17 sneck bent hooks, are the most killing flies just now. On the 10th inst., a couple of anglers, fishing under the bridge close to the house, took about 10lb. of perch, and, on Tuesday, Mr. Beresford, bottom-fishing with paste, got about a like weight of roach ; Mr. Day got a nice bream of 3½lb. On Wednesday a capital tray of roach and dace was exhibited in the bar, taken by Mr. Wheeler.—HACKLES RED.

## Lugg and Arrow (Leominster).

Both these streams are now in good fishing order, and the anglers have visited both streams freely this week, but complain of the water being so low ; but some of them have had some very good sport, and have taken some very good baskets of trout with the wasp grub and fly. On Friday evening a gentleman tried the Lugg with the wasp grub, and landed a splendid dish of fine fish, some scaling 1lb. each. A good basket of trout and grayling was taken from the Arrow with the fly, and some very nice ones with the wasp grub. The Arrow was tried near Stanton, on Saturday, by a gentleman who landed a very good basket of trout, weighing 7lb. the lot, with the fly ; with the wasp grub a gentleman took eight very fine trout and grayling, all weighing over 10oz. each. In the Lugg, at Aymestry, a gentleman with the wasp grub took a splendid lot of fine trout. The streams were tried the same evening with the fly, and a gentleman took a good dish of grayling and trout, scaling 4lb. the dish. Some good sport has been had in the water near Ford's Bridge. A gentleman with the fly took, on Monday morning, a dozen very good trout, and a few nice grayling, all in prime condition. Fishing with the grub in the evening, a gentleman landed six very fine trout, some weighing 1lb. each. A very nice lot of trout was taken in the Arrow with the fly. Fishing near Eardisland with the wasp grub, a gentleman took a very good lot of fine fish. On Tuesday the fish were rising freely in the Arrow at the fly, one gentleman landed some very good-sized trout and grayling at Ivington. Some few very nice trout and grayling have been landed in the Bodenham waters this week. A very nice dish of trout was landed in the Bodenham this week. A very nice dish of trout was landed in the Monkland water on Tuesday evening with the wasp grub. The Pinsley is in good fishing order, but low ; the fish bite well in the evening at the fly and wasp grub, and some very good sized fish have been landed this week.—GWYNNE.

## Ouse (Huntingdon).

The bream and roach are still on the feed ; several takes have been made this last week. On the 8th, I took 23lb. bream and 10lb. of roach ; the 10th, 10lb. roach and 5½lb. of roach ; the 12th, 18½lb. bream and 7lb. of roach ; the 13th, 15¾lb. bream and 4½lb. of roach ; the 14th, 21lb. bream, and 3¼lb. of roach. Two gentlemen took, on the 10th inst., about 54lb. bream. Some other takes have been had, but I have not heard the weight. The water is in good condition, and the weather very favourable, which shows every prospect for fishing. The roach are still on the wheat bait, which is a very good one, and nothing is better at present.—H. ROUT.

## Pickering.

Continued hot and dry weather has prevailed in this district for the past three weeks, rendering angling a work of continued patience, with little or no reward. On Pickering Beck the fishermen who were wont to catch nice dishes of trout and grayling after the stoppage of the mill from 6 to 10 p.m., have this year had hard work to catch a fish apiece. We have been visited with very heavy thunderstorms for some days, whilst little or no rain has fallen in the immediate vicinity. It has been very heavy not far off ; in fact, a perfect deluge fell on Levisham Common on Tuesday morning, causing a flood in Newtondale Beck, and a wholesale destruction along the Levisham Beck Vally, the whole bed of that fine little trout stream being torn up, warped, and completely changed ; thousands of trout were picked up dead in the fields adjoining. The mill almost a ruin, the whole of the miller's poultry and pigs swept away, and a dead trout afterwards found amongst the mud deposited on the dairy shelf, will give some idea of the flood in this pretty little valley. There used to be a very nice rise of May fly on this stream ; the larvæ will now be undoubtedly swept away. Such has been the case on one or two other Yorkshire streams of the writer's acquaintance. If we remember correctly, the May fly disappeared on both of them the season succeeding the memorable flood of August 7th, 1857. On the other waters around but little has been done. On August 4 one rod did manage a decent basket—nine grayling, best fish 1lb. 15oz., and four trout ; all but one taken with fly, mostly with alder fly.—NORTH-EAST.

## Severn (Shrewsbury).

This river has been well fished for some time, and, although the water has been lower than it has been known for some years, some very good catches of rough fish have been had. One gentleman fishing near the Welsh Bridge caught 16 good dace, &c., with a dry fly, which has certainly become a very favourite way of fishing. Mr. Sayce who, I believe, is a member of the Angling Society, last week had a fair day's sport with the maggot, among the roach at Montford Bridge. Mr. Ellis, who is looked upon as one of the most successful anglers in this district, had a good day's sport at the Isle, on Monday.

## Severn (Kidderminster).

Not much news even now. Severn very low and fine, but full of nasty, flannel weeds, which makes it nearly impossible to fish either top or bottom. Best catches lately are : John Goode, 11lb. ; James Yeomans, 4lb. ; Frank Millington, 8lb., with a trout of 1lb. 9oz. from the Stour ; myself, 8lb., with bread paste for bait, from the Stour. While fishing for roach, on Monday last, with very fine horsehair and bread paste for bait, I had the luck to hook an eel of a pound weight. Of course, I never thought of landing it ; finally, it sawed the hair through and got away. I put another hair on ; the pellet of paste hardly reached the bottom when another eel took it, and I think a larger eel than the first—of course the same mishap befell me. Those *contretemps* spoiled the roach fishing in that spot, so I had to move on. I did no more good, for the mill ceased to work. The water ran down fine ; the bottom of the river was as visible as the grass I stood on. Four roach only fell to my lot, though they were good ones. The weather was almost insufferable from 12 noon until three, when I was glad to get back home. Though this weather does not suit angling, there is one class of the community it is especially convenient to, the farmers could not have a better time. The crops look especially good, and it is to be hoped it will be equally as well gathered.—E. EARP, hon. sec.

## Severn and Teme (Worcester).

The last two or three weeks the weather has been anything but favourable to the angler ; nevertheless, many good baskets of fish have been taken, those most successful have avoided the midday. As I said before, morn and night are the times to take fish. Let your bait be worm, grub, or fly (natural or artificial). The waters are low and fine, and the novice, as a rule, gets disappointed ; but I beg of him to persevere, for without patience and perseverance none will make anglers. These waters are well stocked with fish, and of description natives of these streams. Some trout have been landed over 2lb., many chub between 2lb. and 3lb., roach from 4oz. to 20oz. each, and perch from 4oz. to 16oz. I saw a few pike that were taken with the worm, but they ran small. The following brothers of the angle have been amongst the most fortunate :—Mr. Kale 3½ brace of trout, the best fish weighing 2½lb. ; Mr. Burges, a good basket of roach, the finest over 1lb., and all the others above ½lb. each ; and Mr. Russell a few good perch. There were many who took dozens of roach, dace, and chub within a few miles of the faithful city.—J. A. GRIFFEN.

## Sewardstone.

During the twelve years I have resided at Sewardstone I have not seen such fine takes of roach as have been taken during the past week, for any novice can catch them. Mr. Butler, of Sewardstone, on Monday evening, in two hours caught 7¾lb. of roach. On Tuesday evening some fine fish were taken by different gentlemen.—DASH.

## Shrewsbury.

Myself and two friends succeeded this (Thursday) morning in capturing, with the artificial fly, 27 roach in fine condition, averaging about ½lb. each. Such a take of roach with the fly has not been known in this neighbourhood. The river is now full of fish, and we are in hopes of having one of the best seasons known for many years past.—SANDFLY.

## South Level Cut (Littleport).

The floating weeds this week have been something cruel—cruel because if it had not been for them the roach were biting splendidly. The following, however, is the best I can do :—August 7th, Mr. W. H. Holt, London, 14lb. splendid roach ; Mr. W. Purchas, sec. C. and E. A. S., 6½lb. very good roach in two hours. August 8th, Mr. H. Holt, 7lb. very nice roach. August 10th, Mr. A. E. Toms, London, 10lb. very nice roach. August 11th, Mr. E. Fetch, Cambridge, 7lb. roach in three hours ; Messrs. E. and W. Fetch, Cambridge, 15½lb. roach during afternoon ; Messrs. S. J. and F. M. Miller, Cambridge, 6lb. good roach ; Mr. A. E. Toms, London, started well with 3lb. roach in half-hour, but was hindered of a good bag through floating weeds. August 12th, Messrs. J. Allen, Littleport, and E. Fetch, Cambridge, 6½lb. roach in early morning. Keeper Benton gives me the following :—Mr. R. S. Hall, Ely, Wednesday evening, sixty good roach ; Mr. J. Bickley, Ely, a very good catch of roach.

## Taw (N. Devon).

The fishing is wretched ; no water, and the net men having increased in numbers and their mesh made smaller, few, if any, I believe, now are taken. The river is too low to allow fish to run up. I have been out with the hounds up the Taw and Torridge, and was surprised at the lowness of the rivers. I do not think it possible many fish can live much longer, and next year they must be very scarce. A gentlemen told me in July and August he used to catch 100 peal ; this year only three, and those one day when the water rose two or three inches. Yesterday two grampuses were taken by the net men, and they say, although they shared £2 per man last week, these brutes have eaten hundreds of peal and salmon. At the estuary some good bass fishing has been got, and there the porpoises are very fine and plentiful, and indulge in the sport of chasing the bass when hooked, and about to be taken into the boats. If it were not for the harvest, and a desire that the farmer may be blessed with a little good luck, I should advise a day of prayer for rain. There can be no fishing without a very serious fall of rain.—RUSTY GAME.

## Teme (Ludlow).

The excessively hot weather has prevented many fishermen visiting the waters until towards evening. Some anglers have paid early visits to the tributaries, and have returned well rewarded for their early exertions. I am informed that the Teme, from near to Ludford Bridge down to the Steventon waters, has been carefully netted and all the "rough" fish taken out of the river. The "rough" fish here alluded to would gladden the heart of many an angler, had he the opportunity of catching them legitimately, and consist of perch, roach, dace, chub, &c. The trout and grayling are returned very carefully to the stream. There has been discovered down the Teme, in the Ashford quarter near the "Aqueduct," a splendid bitch otter with a fine lot of young ones ; they have been seen several times near the above spot. A gentleman, on Monday evening, landed from Burway meadow with the wasp grub, eight grand trout and five good perch—the trout turned the scale at 9½lb. Some thirty trout and ten grayling were caught near to Leintwardine, on Saturday evening, by two gentlemen with the grasshopper and wasp grub. The trout average nearly 1lb. each taken all round. A fisherman visited the Corve, at Felton, on Monday night with the grub, and after a couple of hours' fishing secured one grayling, six trout; and two small eels. The Onibury waters have produced some nice trout ; a gentleman fishing in these waters, on Tuesday, caught a chub which turned the scale at 2¾lb. A few fish taken from the Ledwyche water with the fly, but the fish were small. The Clun is pretty quiet, but a few good trout have been caught towards night with the wasp grub. One gentleman, one evening, caught thirteen fish with the grub. The weather remains hot—thermometer 103deg. in the sun at 1 p.m. on Monday. —S. LUDLOW.

## Teme (Tenbury).

This stream still remains in good angling order, but very low and clear. The fish are sporting well, and good catches have been had with the fly and wasp grub. Most of the best angling has been had first thing in the morning, and towards dusk in the evening. Near Little Hereford, on Saturday, some visitors, with the wasp grub, landed some very good trout, averaging ¾lb. each. The same evening, in the water a little below Tenbury, a gentleman with the fly landed a splendid dish of trout and some very nice grayling. The water near Berrington Court was tried on Monday morning with the fly, and, as the fish were sporting well, they managed to land some very good samples of fine trout and grayling. Near Corn Brook in the evening good sport was had with the wasp grub, and some nice fish were taken. Good sport was had in the water at Burford on Tuesday, one gentleman, with the fly, took a basket of 6lb. of good fish. Fishing near Eastham with the wasp grub has been very successful ; one gentleman showed me a splendid basket of trout he had taken there. Above the Teme Bridge some very good sport has been had in the evening with the fly, and some nice fish have been landed. There has been some good sport had at Rochford with the fly in the morning, and several lots of fine fish have been taken. The Kyre, Rea, and Ledwyche are all in good fishing order, but low. In the Rea, near Cleobury Mortimer, some splendid trout have been taken with the wasp grub and fly. Up Stoddesden way a gentleman from Ludlow has been doing good execution with the fly, and has landed some very fine fish with the wasp grub. In the Kyre the fish have been biting well at wasp grub. In the water near the Park some very good fish have been landed, Some very good trout were taken by a gentleman with the fly, on Monday evening, in the Bruntlands water. In the Ledwyche some very good fish have been taken with the wasp grub.—WORCESTER."

### Trent (Nottingham).

There is still a dearth of news in this district. The river continues as low and clear as ever, and the vast accumulations of "flannel" weed on the bottom do not enhance the enjoyment of the angler. Barbel fishing has been pursued with varied success at Shardlow and Sawley, and a few fish have daily been caught at Wilford. Colwick Weir has been heavily baited of late, but the takes have not exceeded half a dozen fish per diem. At Kelham the subscribers have been busy amongst the chub, and on Saturday last Mr. W. Hartshorne, of this town, landed at Kelham a splendid lot of fish with the wasp grub. Since my last Mr. G. Sills, an occasional contributor to the FISHING GAZETTE, has been found dead in the river above Killington, at a spot where, only a few weeks previously, he had killed a remarkably fine salmon.—THE MAN AT THE CLUBS.

### Trent (Alrewas).

The very severe storm on Saturday, August 9th, caused a good rise in the river, and some of the long accumulated rubbish has been removed. This ought to improve the condition of the water and cause the fish to feed freely. During the past week some good bags have been had, principally roach and dace. Perch have taken the bait more freely this season than for some time past, and some very good samples have been landed, the minnow proving more tempting than anything else.

### Trent (Lower).

Many anglers were to be found on the lower reaches of the Trent, and on the whole, taking into account the dryness of the weather, the river is much below par. But, low as it is, is in fine angling condition. The various points have been well patronised. At Torksey there were many anglers, and among those who did good business at that place, I may mention W. Newbold with 10lb. of roach, and W. Chambers, 15lb. 3oz., a miscellaneous lot, but he had, in addition, a roach scaling 1lb. 8½oz. At Cottam also, a gentleman made up a bag of 2st. of roach, perch, dace, &c., from the Trent. At other points good business was done. There was a sad accident on the Trent the other day, which it might be interesting to mention in reference to Lower Trent angling. Several persons went down the river from Gainsboro' for a bit of pleasure, when they were met by the "tidal wave" or "bore" and swamped. Those who do not know it and are unaware of the time to expect it, get nervous when they see it, and coming as it does like a great wave, it swamps them easily. Anglers should be careful if they take a boat to avoid such a catastrophe.—TRACE.

### Wharfe (Yorkshire).

There has been a slight influx of fresh water since my last report, but nothing to speak of; from eight o'clock to nine in the evening has been the best time, and even then up-stream-fishing was strictly imperative; knotted midge, pale blue bloa, august brown, and stone midge have been the best flies to employ. To-night (Wednesday), in an hour's fishing, I killed two dace and one trout, about ½lb. each, and hooked a lot of fish besides. One of the latter was a grand trout; I heard him rising and threw over him until he took my fly. It was very nearly dark, and I could not see either the fish or my line; he rushed about frantically for about three minutes, when to my disgust broke away. I witnessed a very curious incident on Tuesday evening: a friend and myself were eel-fishing, when we saw a fine water-rat running under the bank. I chased it, when he struck out across the river; he got exactly half way when a large pike came at him with a tremendous splash, and Mr. Rat immediately disappeared, I presume to rise no more. I never knew that there were any pike in this part of the river, but have no doubt upon that point now. Weather very close and sultry. I think we shall have thunder before long.—FRANCIS M. WALBRAN.

### Witham.

The Witham, owing to the excessively dry weather, is now running very low, but it is none the less good for the angler, except that he has difficulties in many swims. The fish bite pretty freely, and notwithstanding the fact that they or the water have no rest, the banks of the river are lined from end to end almost with ardent anglers, and travelling down the adjacent railway the scene is quite a novel one nearly every day. One would imagine a vast fishing match always on. Some rare sport has been had among the bream. This fish has been very plentiful at Kirkstead and other points, and some good baskets have been made. An angler named Bell caught over 35lb., nearly all bream, at this point, and at Tattershall A. Crofts was credited with 26lb., nearly all bream. At the same place Mr. Darwent got a basket of 28lb., mostly bream, and at Southery a visitor named Mimmach totalled 37lb. 7oz. of the same kind.—YELLOW BELLY.

### Witham (Dogdyke).

We still continue to receive a fair amount of patronage from our angling friends from the large towns of Lancashire and Yorkshire, also several from Nottingham. There have been some very good takes of bream and tench, and very fair baskets made of roach, perch, eels, &c. Mr. Wright, of Sheffield, caught four bream, scaling 8½lbs. A Manchester gentleman caught some nice bream from 2lb. to 4lb. each. I would advise anglers coming here to provide themselves with good strong lines if they intend fishing for bream and tench. Last Friday I saw four anglers have their lines broken with what they thought were tench, and they all had the disappointment and mortification to lose both lines and fish.—PACKET HOTEL, DOGDYKE.

### Wye and Derwent.

Last Saturday afternoon there was a very heavy thunderstorm passed over Derbyshire, the lightning doing a great deal of damage. The Derwent rose about 2ft. on Sunday night, and both on Monday and Tuesday it had a black, peaty-coloured water on it from the heavy rain which fell up in the woodlands. The bottom fishers did very well on Monday afternoon, also on Tuesday, and baskets up to fully twelve brace per angler were made. The Brothers Bucksley's, of Matlock-bridge, had a good catch of trout and 1 eel on Monday on the Derwent between Nowsley and Darley, all taken with wasp grubs for baits, and some good baskets of coarse fish—viz., chub, barbel, roach, and dace—have been killed on the Derwent between Crawford and Ambergate, by the aid of maggots and wasp grubs for baits. Eels have been running well lately. I hear of a good many being taken on night lines. Sport with artificial flies has not been very good on the Wye lately, only the last thing at night, then there have been a few brace landed. On the Derwent, sport has been much better, and some good catches have been had; in fact, I know of baskets up to 10 brace per angler being made on different parts of the Derwent. The small honey dun bumble, little red, black, and duns have all killed fish at the present time. It is very little use fly fishing in the middle of the day, especially while the sun is so bright and the weather is so fearfully hot. Early morning and late evening are the best times. I hear of a large otter being seen at Matlock-bridge by Mr. Joseph Clay, under the bridge, playing itself in the river Derwent. Very few anglers out just at present; most of the sportsmen have gone to the Moors, grouse shooting.—GEO. JAS. EATON.

### The Yare (Norwich).

If anything, the good report I sent you last week has been improved upon during the past week. At every station sport has been excellent, the number of anglers has been very great, and nearly all have returned satisfied. Of course here and there you are always sure to meet with some who do not succeed, but a few inquiries will usually elucidate the why and wherefore. In some cases actually they have never plumbed since commencing fishing, and then they grumble at not having sport. All visitors to these waters should bear in mind that it is absolutely necessary, in order to insure sport, to plumb every half hour, or at shorter intervals, as the waters rise and fall rapidly. At Host Garrett's, Buckenham Ferry, Professor Day is showing some London visitors how to snick the roach. I met our friend Mr. Skull, and also the Mr. Winters, who are so regular in their visits to this favourite spot, and who, I am informed, have all had first-rate sport. From Flowers's Station at Brundall, I hear that Mr. Ramsay (of London), with a friend, caught a bag of over 3st. of fine roach. This makes the third good catch this gentleman has had this week. The Norwich Angling Club had their annual match at Buckenham on Tuesday last, and twenty-four members weighed in nearly 16st. of roach (none under 6in. being allowed); the top catch was 18lb. 9oz. Prospects are as good as they can be.—ROBERT MOLL.

## CLUB REPORTS.

### ALEXANDRA ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of the above society dined at the Five Horse Shoes, Hoddesdon, Herts, and several friends, including Mr. R. Ghurney, also Mr. James Lane, Bailiff, of the Lea, and a most excellent dinner was served by the worthy host, Mr. Coombs, and the members one and all expressed their satisfaction of the dinner they enjoyed so much. Mr. West was chairman, Mr. Coxhead vice. "The Health of Mr. Ghurney" was proposed, who replied in a very suitable speech respecting angling societies and their doings. Several other toasts, including the healths of Mr. Pain and the secretary, who also responded. After dinner the members enjoyed the country walks, returning home by an early train after spending a very happy day. Mr. Wilson weighed in 11lb. 10½oz. bream, 1lb. 11oz. roach; Mr. Wells had a very good show of perch and roach.—F. WAGNER, sec.

### AMICABLE BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

The result of the pegged-down match was as follows:—Mr. Harding, 1st, 7lb. 13oz.; Mr. Carrington, 2nd, 5lb. 9½oz.; Mr. Moir, 3rd, 4lb. 14½oz.; Mr. Chevalier, 4th, 4lb. 1½oz.; Mr. Lake, 5th, 3lb. 8oz.; Mr. Medcalf, 6th, 2lb. 12½oz.; Mr. Wicks, 7th, 2lb. 11½oz.; Mr. Robinson, jun. 8th, 2lb. 0½oz. Messrs. Pealey, Taylor, Worledge, Squires, Farebrother, Arnold, and Austin also weighed in fish. Members are requested to attend the club on August 27th (general meeting night), to arrange a roaming match.—J. WORLEDGE, sec.

### BOSTONIAN ANGLING SOCIETY.

Our trays were well filled on July 27th by Mr. Brothers, with roach and dace from Amberley; Mr. Goodge, bream, from Amberley; Mr. Taylor, 6lb. of nice roach from the Thames; Mr. Jennings, roach and dace; and Mr. Elton, roach. On August 4th, Mr. Elton had a good show of roach and bream, from the Medway; Mr. Goodge and Mr. Brothers, bream from Amberley; Mr. Jennings, roach and dace from the river Avon; Mr. Jamieson, jack, from the Thames; and Mr. Chapman, roach.—J. J.

### BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT AMALGAMATED ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

The Old Green Man Piscatorials fish their annual contest on Monday next, August 18th, at Westwood. The train leaves New-street Station at 6.40 a.m. I had the pleasure of seeing a fine chub which was caught at Penkridge, by Mr. Thos. Williams, of the Brothers Well Met; it measures 23½in. in length, 15½in. round the girth, and weighs 4lb. 12oz. It is being preserved by Mr. Haywood, of Key-hill, Birmingham, and when it is cased up it will be on show for a few days at the Hen and Chickens, Spencer-street, Birmingham. Any angler who likes to see a fine fish will do well to pay the Hen and Chickens a visit and see it. Mr. Thos. Duddleston, in private water on Monday, caught over 40lb. of perch.—JAMES T. ALLEN, hon. sec.

### BROTHERS WELL-MET ANGLING SOCIETY.

The annual contest of the above club took place at Osborne's Reservoir, Earlswood on July 14th. There were twenty contestants, and they were successful in landing 560 members of the finny tribe during the two hours of the contest. Messrs. Hewir, 56; Sydenham, 41; and Barlow, 33 were the chief individual takers, and with the exception of three members all obtained prizes. A member of our club, Mr. Williams, angling in the river Penk, near Penkridge, landed a fine chub, 4lb. 12oz., after two hours' play on a tight line. He also succeeded in taking six jack, avereging 3lb. each; two perch, ¾lb. each; and one roach, 14oz.—A. CLEMENT, sec.

### BURDETT ANGLING SOCIETY.

The following members have weighed fish in the above club during the past fortnight:—On the 1st inst., T. Hammond, roach; D. Flint, roach. On the 3rd, Mr. Hopkins, perch; J. Hastings, roach; J. Kerry, rudd and carp; B. Smith, roach; W. Eaton, roach and dace; F. Shervill, jun., carp. On the 10th, J. Hadkiss, bream and roach; D. Flint, roach; B. Smith, dace and roach; J. Herring, rudd; H. De Cort, roach; F. Shervill, jun., rudd; and W. Eaton, roach.—T. G. WALKER.

### CALLANDER ANGLING CLUB.

On Monday last, 11th August, this club had a special competition on Loch Vennacher, with the object of killing as many pike as possible before the stocking of the loch with two-year-old trout. Few pike were caught, either on account of their being fewer in the loch than is supposed, or from their not taking well.—P. McG.

### CITY OF LONDON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The following members weighed in on the 10th:—Mr. Nitz, 3lb. 6oz. of bream from the Welsh Harp; Mr. Chambers, roach, dace, and bream from Amberley; and Mr. Castell, roach from the Canal at Brentford.—CAS.

### COBDEN ANGLING SOCIETY.

Several of our members were out on the 3rd and 4th inst., and some good takes of fish were weighed in. Mr. Dunn had some nice bream from Wimbledon, and Mr. Webley also had some very fine bream from the Welsh Harp. Mr. Stead had a nice bag of roach, several of them scaling over 1lb. each. On the 10th inst., the only fish worthy of mention that was weighed in were three bream taken by Mr. Webley, weighing nearly 8lb., and several small jack and perch taken by Mr. Hammans.—C. REEVES, sec.

### CLAPTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The ordinary weekly meeting was held on Monday last, Mr. Colls in the chair. The minutes of the meeting on the 28th July were signed. No meeting was held on account of Bank Holiday on the 4th inst. Mr. Chillingworth had a fine show of roach from the Yare, eleven fish scaling 14lb. Mr. H. Short, jack (small) and roach; Mr. Tidbury, perch and some fine gudgeon from the company's water at Sewardstone; Mr. Beck, chub from the same waters with the fly. Several smaller takes were reported. Mr. Chillingworth presented the society with a very handsome polished mahogany notice board for the club-room, and was thanked by the members for his useful gift. Three new members were elected, and a vote of thanks to the chairman closed the proceedings. Members visiting the society's waters at Tottenham and Sewardstone report "plenty of splendid fish of all kinds can be seen early in the mornings in these waters.—HENRY HOWSE, hon. sec.

### THE CROWN AND BUCKLAND UNITED PISCATORIAL CLUB.

The members of the above society were out in full force, but only a few had fish—the Messrs. Willcockson, rudd 5lb.; H. Long, roach and dace, 1lb. 14¼oz.; J. Penn, dace 1lb. 8oz.; S. Cavanagh, roach 1lb. 7oz.; and F. Johnson, roach. The members are competing for a prize given by Mr. Pratt for the gross weight of all fish taken in August. On Wednesday, Mr. Norris had bream 2lb. 14½oz. A match will take place at Dagenham Lake on August 31st, for five prizes ; given by Messrs. Burwash, a tea-service for the first ; Mr. Penn, a fishing-rod, winch, and line for the second ; Mr. Johnson, a prize for the third ; Mr. Noble, a pair of boots for fourth ; and Mr. W. Long, a prize for the fifth. A conveyance will start from the club-house at 12 p.m. on the day previous. All members wishing to compete must give in their names on or before August 27th to be eligible. N.B.—The new rules are printed, and in hand, and those members who have not got one, will oblige by attending next Wednesday to receive them.—W. H. Burwash, Jun., Secretary.

### GOOD INTENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

Messrs. George Hughes and H. Devon brought to the club-house on the 5th inst. over a hundred-weight of good bream. Mr. E. Holmes showed 30lb. of roach and bream on the 10th inst. Mr. Guntrip had a fine show of rudd. Mr. Maybury, roach and bream. Our dinner takes place on Monday, the 25th inst., at the Rye House Hotel. Mr. W. B. Wood has given a handsome plated cup to be run for, and also Mr. H. Courcha has done likewise, 120 yards handicap foot race, and many other prizes have been given for that occasion. The sports will be under the management of Mr. W. B. Wood and H. Courcha. I hope to see a large gathering of members on the day.—R. Murphy.

### GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

The usual weekly meeting of the above society was held on Tuesday evening at the Masons' Hall Tavern, Masons' Avenue, Basinghall-street, Mr. Lake in the chair. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. A letter was read from Mr. Chambers with reference to a piece of water about which he has kindly been making inquiries on behalf of the society. Mr. Crumplen and Mr. Field also reported the result of their endeavours to procure a piece of water. They will each make a further report to the next meeting. Mr. Charles King was unanimously elected a member of the society, and Mr. Crumplen made a very nice present to the library, for which a vote of thanks was accorded to him. Some very agreeable musical selections followed, and the evening was brought to a close by a hearty vote of thanks to the chairman.—H.

### HIGHBURY ANGLING SOCIETY.

Several members competed for three special prizes on the 10th inst., Mr. Samuel Howell, jun., taking first honours with jack, dace, and gudgeon ; Mr. Edwards, second, with roach and dace ; and, third, the secretary, with bream.—J. E. Wheatley, sec.

### HOXTON BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

Several members were out on the 10th inst., and good trays of fish were shown, consisting of jack, roach, dace, bream, perch, carp, and Tench. On the 17th the members will fish for their last prizes of the season in the river Lea, between St. Margaret's Bridge and Rye House Bridge, towing-path only. The annual dinner will take place at the Rye House on August 31, at 2 o'clock.—R. Ghurney, Secretary.

### INDEPENDENT BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

Our trays were not quite so well filled on the 10th as we have had them this last few weeks, although very fair for the number of members that were out. Mr. C. Roberts had perch and dace ; Mr. T. Leader, roach and dace ; and Mr. R. Clark, roach. We beg to remind brother anglers and friends that our return visit takes place on Tuesday, August 26th, at the club-house, Bird in Hand, Long Acre, W.C. (Host, Mr. Waldock), when we shall be most happy of the company of those who can possibly attend, and not anything on our part shall be wanting to make everybody comfortable.—H. Moore, sec.

### IZAAK WALTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

Messrs. G. and G. P. Rolt have again been successful amongst the bream and roach, each of them having trays of beauties. Mr. G. Wood had a good show of rudd and roach. I again beg to remind the members that the three special prizes given by Messrs. T. Harris, W. Wilkinson, and B. Crook, are to be fished for at Dagenham Lake on the 17th inst.—H. B.

### LIVERPOOL CENTRAL ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

The second match of the season of the above club was fished in the canal at Ellesmere Port on the 4th inst., when a most enjoyable day was spent. 1st prize, kindly presented by Messrs. J. Lloyd and Son, of Whitechapel, was won by Mr. Rimmer with a very nice show of roach. 2nd prize, given by Mr. Rimmer, was won by Mr. King, with another nice show of roach. 3rd prize, given by Mr. W. V. Narracott, was won by Mr. Smith. 4th prize was won by Mr. R. A. Narracott. Mr. Rimmer weighed in a 10oz. roach for a special prize given by Mr. Smith for the heaviest roach caught in any of the club contests during the season. Owing to illness in the family of our hon. sec., this report was omitted last week.—M. King.

### LIVERPOOL ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

At our weekly meeting on the 7th inst. a competition was arranged to be fished in Lake Windermere on Monday, the 25th inst. A visit to the far-famed English Lake District for a day's outing will be most enjoyable, as those not caring to fish can ramble amongst the beautiful surroundings, boat on the lakes, visit places of interest scattered all about, and pass the time in a hundred pleasant ways. The train leaves Lime-street at 7.15, and arrives at Windermere at 10.15 a.m., returning from Windermere at 8.45, and arriving in Liverpool at 12.0 midnight. Fare for the double journey, 3s. 6d. each, one booking separately. Members will receive circular with full particulars in due course.—Rd. Woolfall, hon. sec.

### NORFOLK ANGLING SOCIETY.

Mr. Foulger showed in the handsomest tray we have had this season, viz., tench, rudd, jack, and perch—the gross weight 42lb.—T. Buckingham, sec.

### NORTH-WESTERN ANGLING SOCIETY.

Several members have been out and had pretty fair sport. E. Cross, tench ; Messrs. Marshall, Grindley, Pearce, and Underwood, bream. Mr. Marshall had three good takes, the gross weight 100lb. The annual outing takes place on the 31st inst. The drive will be to Boxmore.—W. Hillier, sec.

### NORWICH ANGLING SOCIETY.

The annual match of the above club was held at Buckenham Ferry on Tuesday, 12th inst. The members assembled at Mr. C. J. Greene's (hon. sec. of the Yare Preservation Society), at 7 a.m. sharp, and were conveyed to their destination by the Norwich Omnibus Company. The journey was accompanied by vivid flashes of lightning and distant peals of thunder ; but fortunately the party seemed to succeed the storm all along the route, for upon arriving at Brundall (although some half hour before they had been going through some inch or more of dust), the horses had in some parts to wade through the water in the middle of the road, whilst wide streams were seeking their level on either side. On arrival at Host Garratt's, the unpacking commenced at once, and oh ! what a display is the luggage and accoutrements of 30 jolly anglers. Rods, creels, baskets, ground bait, waterproofs, bait and worm cans, and live-nets covered the green, and every members' heart beat high with expectation of coming in in the evening the proud winner of the much-envied challenge cup. After the drawing for boats and the competitors had provided themselves with a supply of moisture for internal application, the boats were started ; at 10 or shortly after the match commenced. Dull, cloudy, tempestuous weather was the order of the day ; but, notwithstanding, sport was fairly good. At 6 p.m., the members struck and returned for the weighing in. I might mention that about three miles of water was allowed by the committee, and members could fish anywhere within these limits. The following was the result of the weighing (all fish under six inches in length being excluded) :—1st prize, silver challenge cup (presented by S. Gurney Buxton, Esq., and J. J. Colman, Esq., M.P.), Mr. Littleboy, 18lb. 9oz. ; 2nd, R. Moll (hon. sec.), 17lb. 12oz. ; 3rd, C. Clowes, 15lb. 13oz. ; 4th, G. Daniels, 14lb. 12oz. ; 5th, S. F. Howitt, 13lb. 12oz. ; 6th, C. Daniells, 13lb. 4oz. ; 7th, B. B. Morgan, 13lb. 2oz. ; 8th, G. G. Whincop, 11lb. 4oz. ; 9th, W. Chettleburgh, 11lb. ; 10th, M. J. Bailey, 9lb. 12oz. ; 11th, L. Estrange, jun., 8lb. 13oz. ; 12th, Mr. G. Diggins (president), 7lb. 10oz. ; 13th, W. Burrage, 7lb. 2oz. After the prize winners came the following catches :—7lb., 7lb., 6lb. 12oz., 6lb. 4oz., 6lb., 4lb. 8oz., 4lb. 7oz., 4lb. 1oz., 3lb. 12oz., 3lb. 4oz., and 2lb. 12oz. Six members failed to weigh in, although they nearly all had some fish. Taking the catch altogether, and remembering the fish under 6in. did not count, 16st. may be said to be a good haul, and the members are to be congratulated on their skill. A word of special thanks is due to Hostess Garrett for the excellent spread she provided, and for the kind attention shown to all.—R. Moll.

### ORIGINAL CLERKENWELL PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

Since my last report very few fish have come to scale, the following members having weighed in : Mr. Obbard, roach and chub, 5lb. 3oz. ; Mr. Roberts, bream and dace, 7lb. 6oz. ; Mr. Laundy, roach, 2lb. 12oz. ; Mr. Richardson, roach, 1lb. Result of competition during July : Mr. Laundy's prize, Daily Gift, Mr. Obbard ; Mr. Whitehead's prize for Pulborough only, Mr. Roberts ; Mr. Lucy's prize for greatest weight of fish, Mr. Craffard ; Mr. Burwash's prize for largest roach, Mr. Kent. The above society will take a complimentary visit, of which due notice will be given.—J. Obbard , sec.

### PECKHAM BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

The match fished at Pulborough, on the 3rd inst. resulted as follows : Mr. Brancher, 1st ; Mr. Page, 2nd ; and Mr. Gatty, 3rd. Members will please notice that for the future all fish from any waters will be weighed at Thames sizes only ; a bill with these sizes can be had from the secretary. A match will be fished on the 17th inst., at Kingston ; members to meet at Vauxhall at 7.20. On the occasion of the S.L.U.D. visit, the chair will be taken by Mr. George Durant, the vice-chair by " The Duke." A start will be made at 8 o'clock sharp.—Gadfly.

### PERTH ANGLING CLUB.

This club held their third annual competition on Thursday, 31st ult., on the Killin Water on Loch Tay, which had been kindly granted for the occasion by Lord Breadalbane. The following are the prize winners :—1st, Mr. D. Hunter ; 2nd, Mr. Wm. Wilson ; 3rd, Mr. James Fenton ; 4th, Sergeant Turnbull ; 5th, Sergeant Major Knight. Heaviest trout, Mr. W. Hewitt. Eighteen competitors fished.—P. McG.

### PERTHSHIRE ANGLING CLUB.

This club held their third and last competition for the season on Loch Leven, on Wednesday, 13th inst. The weather was genial, with a moderate south-west wind, and the lake was in fine trim for anglers after the thunderstorm. The club had five boats out with 12 competitors, who succeeded in landing 38 trout, weighing 34lb. 9½oz., the prizes being gained as follows :—1st, Mr. Cruickshank, eight trout, 7lb. ; 2nd, Mr. Paple, six trout, 6lb. 8oz. ; 3rd, Mr. King, five trout, 4lb. 5oz. ; 4th, Mr. James Kaye, five trout, 4lb. 4oz. The heaviest trout weighed 1lb. 15¼oz., and was killed by Mr. Farquharson.—P. McG.

### THE PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The usual weekly meeting of this society took place on Monday last, at Ashley's Hotel, Covent Garden. Although the heat of the weather was very great, there was a good attendance of members, amongst them being Messrs. Gillatt, Pattisson, Sachs, Brown, Russell, Booker, Rev. J. Sumner, R. S. Fennings, Gray, Bennett, Dr. Brunton, T. Huggett, E. Walker, Foreman, Sparrow, J. Lander, hon. sec., and Mr. E. Jackson, visitor. Dr. Brunton was unanimously voted to the chair. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. Mr. Fennings produced for the inspection of members some reels, as advertised in the Fishing Gazette by Mr. R. Heaton. They were well examined, and their qualities discussed by the chairman, Messrs. Fennings, Pattisson, Rev. J. Summer, &c., one particular feature of the same being that you could adjust the check movement to any degree of strength. This led to a discussion as to striking from the winch, and Mr. Sumner was of opinion that striking from the winch was a myth. The hon. sec. read a letter from Mr. Lark, promising some explanation of the way in which the funds collected for the Heigham Sounds case had been expended. Such explanation is earnestly desired by this society, its members having subscribed so liberally to the fund. Mr. Harden has been fishing at Heigham Sounds, and advised our members not to go there at the present, the bulk of the fish to be taken there being about 3in. long. He advises Fritton. Mr. H. B. Brown has had some fine sport with the fly chub fishing at Abingdon, taking several over 3lb., and a gross weight of over 40lb. in two days. Dr. Brunton has been fishing near Dockett Point for barbel with success, and taking a trip into Hampshire for grayling, also with success. The following members have weighed fish during the week :—Mr. Meyer, barbel from Shepperton ; Lemann, chub from Maidenhead ; Foreman, chub and roach ; Booker, bream from the Thames, largest 3lb. 12oz. Mr. Sachs stated he had received a letter from Mr. Marston, and upon the spur of the moment had composed the following lines :—

" Marston and wife, ' his dearest love,'
Are angling trout from river Dove,
Enjoying life's charms, from business free.
Envious their lot—yet joy wish we."

Mr. Gray (hon. librarian) presented two rare angling books to the library, and a vote of thanks was cordially given for his kind presentation. Mr. Lander and Dr. Coates have been to the Norfolk Broads ; sport bad. They witnessed an angling competition with a number of rodsters, and hardly any fish were taken the whole day long. Messrs. Foreman and E. Walker arrived late this evening with a fine show of roach, rudd, and dace ; particulars will be announced next week. " Prosperity of the Piscatorial Society " was duly honoured. Mr. Huggett proposed " The Health of the Chairman," who graciously replied, and the meeting terminated.—T. H.

### ROYAL GEORGE ANGLING SOCIETY.

We had rather a good show of fish on our trays on the 10th inst. Mr. Wood brought some fine chub and roach from the Thames, and Messrs. Churt, Sinclair, Longhind, and Hughes also had fish from the same river. Mr. Palmer visited his favourite stream at Amberly, but was not so fortunate as usual. Our annual free excursion takes place on the 17th, when we expect a good muster, as there is a cup to be fished for. Two more members were added to our number last Tuesday night, and another is to be elected next Tuesday.—W. H. Rider.

### STOKE NEWINGTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

Secretaries and others are particularly requested to note that this club has now removed to the Royal Standard, Fleming-street, Kingsland-road, proprietor, Mr. Godfrey, where all communications should be addressed. Meeting nights : every Tuesday. The fourth annual dinner took place at the Pied Bull Inn, St. Margarets, Herts, on the 10th inst., Host Lyndsell's catering being thoroughly appreciated by all present on that occasion. Mr. Thos. Millington will give a prize value 10s. for the heaviest bream taken during the remainder of the month.—T. Gretton.

### UNITED BROTHERS, DEPTFORD.

Our members were out during the holidays and met with very good sport. Messrs. Payne, Penton, and Currans, small takes from Pulborough. On the 4th, Mr. Watts weighed in 16lb. of bream from the Medway. On the 5th, Mr. W. Tyler weighed in 14lb. 10oz. of roach and bream from the Medway; M. Deangate, 8lb. 12¾oz. of roach and bream from the Medway; Mr. H. Tyler, 6lb. 5¾oz. of roach from the Medway. On the 10th but few of our members were out. The following members weighed in:—G. Belton, roach from Pulborough; J. Currans, bream from Dagenham; J. Divers, bream and perch from Dagenham; J. Payne, 8lb. 0¾oz. of bream from Dagenham.—H. T.

### WALWORTH PISCATORIALS.

The members of the above society had a special prize outing on Bank Holiday for three prizes, the result being: Mr. C. Hibble, first, with barbel and dace, 11lb. 6oz.; Mr. W. Grimmett, second, perch and dace, 8lb. 13oz.; Mr. C. A. Beckett, third, dace, 6lb. 15oz., all from Richmond. Several other members were out, but arrived too late. On Thursday, the 7th inst., Messrs. La Feuillade, Edwards, Gilbert, and Boalch visited Richmond, and succeeded in taking about 25lb. of barbel and dace. After some remarks from Mr. S. J. Weatherhead and others with respect to the protection of the Thames, it was unanimously decided to send a donation of one guinea to the Thames Angling Preservation Society.—J. Boalch, sec.

### WELLINGTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

At the meeting on Wednesday it was arranged that our excursion and dinner on the 15th September, and which includes a three hours' fishing competition for three valuable prizes, should be to Sunbury. Each member can introduce a friend, but the list will positively close on Wednesday, 27th August. Messrs. A. Alexander, Hopkins, and Andrews were appointed a committee to make arrangements. On the 8th inst. Mr. Wright weighed in 5lb. 15¼oz. of bream; and Mr. W. W. Alexander, one bream, 1lb. 12oz. On the 10th, Mr. Jenner, roach, 2lb. 3oz.; and Mr. Andrews, roach, 15lb. 5½oz. On the 11th, Mr. Newbury, roach, 1lb. 4oz.; and Mr. Hills, bream, 2lb. 8½oz.—W. W. Alexander, sec.

## JABBING ALLIGATORS.

Although I had gone on many an alligator hunt, of which the object was the killing of these hideous saurians, either for their teeth and hides, or for the purpose of ridding some locality of a pest, I had never assisted in the capturing of one alive, nor had I, until very recently, any idea of how such captures were effected. Full-grown alligators of from 8 to 12ft. in length are common enough in "zoos" and menageries, and in Florida nearly every curiosity shop is provided with a tank in which good-sized specimens are kept and exhibited as advertisements. In regard to these the majority of visitors who have given the subject any consideration whatever have vaguely imagined that they were captured when very young, and allowed to attain their present size in captivity. Such some impression that had lingered in my own mind was thoroughly dispelled one bright January morning as I walked along Bay-street in Jacksonville. Before the doors of one of the many curiosity shops something that excited the lively curiosity of a great crowd of people was being unloaded from a cart. The something proved to be an immense alligator, the largest, as I was afterwards told, ever captured alive, measuring 13ft. 4in. from the end of his ugly snout to the tip of his tail, and weighing a trifle over 800lb.

He was so bound with ropes as to be perfectly helpless, and a gang of stout negroes lifted him from the cart, and carried him to the tank fitted for his reception at the rear of the shop, as they would a great log of wood. In this case the reptile had most evidently not been caught young and brought up by hand, for he bore many marks of a recent violent struggle, and a wiry little old man in torn and muddy clothes, who directed his transfer from cart to tank, was pointed out to me as the captor, and also as the most successful alligator-hunter in Florida. In personal appearance this man was so insignificant that it seemed impossible that any of the stories told of him could be true. He was nearly seventy years of age, so small and spare that his weight could not have been over 120lb., and he had the sallow, colourless complexion peculiar to the "poor whites," or "crackers," of Florida. Although he had the reputation of being very taciturn upon all matters relating to his business, and the exploits which he regarded in a most matter-of-fact light, upon this occasion he was so elated over the success of this, his most notable capture, that for once his tongue was loosed, and after the trophy of his skill was safely lodged in its tank, and the crowd had dispersed, I succeeded in drawing from him the following facts:

"Wa'al, mister, long's youm ain't in the business, nor likely to go into it on your own account, I don't mind telling yer how big 'gators is caught. Some fellers makes traps; like ez not you've seen 'em in some of the creeks puttin' in from the St. John's. They drives a ring of stout stakes in the water, clus to the bank, with an opening to one side. On the side nearest the bank they bends down a sapling with a noose to the end of it, an' jest inside the noose, in the water, they fixes a bait that 'll spring the sapling when it's teched. That yanks the 'gator's head up in the yair, an' afore he can git clar they has him bound fast with ropes. That ain't my way, though. Hit's too much work a-fixing of the trap; you has ter wait too long a-watching fer the 'gators to come along an' stick ther snouts into it, an' then they'm too all-fired lively with ther tails, when ther heads is cotched, to suit me. Sometimes I fixes a noose on to the end of a spring sapling acrost a runway when it comes handy, an' I've cotched a right smart of 'em that ar way, too; but I ginerally goes fer 'em in ther holes, an' digs 'em out.

"You know 'gators allus has holes clus in under the bank. They begins in the water; but a leetle back they kinder raises, so's when he's in, he's half outen the water an' half in. Soon's cool weather comes on, 'long in December, theym gits into ther holes an' lies thar quiet like, 'cept on bright warm days, when they come out an' suns. A curus thing is that they allus goes in backwards, an' lies with their noses p'intin' towards the opening. Wa'al, 'long in the fall I watches the 'gators putty clus, an' spots ther runways an' places whar they'm mos' likely to make holes; so by time cool weather sots in I has a dozen or twenty marked. Then when I wants a 'gator I goes fur him an' digs him out.

"How do I manage hit? Why, hit's easy 'nuff when you knows how. I usen to take Mandy, my boy, along; but he's got big 'nuff now to go huntin' fer hissef, so I goes alone mos' ginerally. I cotched that thar feller all alone. Not a soul seed him twel I had him tied up an' ready fer market. When I had Mandy along he usen to punch a fence rail into ther hole, an' into ther 'gator's mouth. 'Gator'd grab it, an' hang on like death, and never let up on his holt long's yer kep' movin' ther rail a leetle. While he was kep' busy an' amoosed like that ar way, I'd dig down into him, an' fust thing he'd know I'd hev a rope round his head an' fore-paws. Then I'd dig along back twel I'd get to his hind-paws an' git 'em tied up. But look out fer his tail. When he gits that ar loose, thar's gwine ter be fun, an' mud's gwine ter fly, you bet!

"Yes, sir, this yere feller give me a tussle. Mandy warn't along, and I tackled him all alone. When I first jabbed the rail down his throat he begun to yank his head this side an' that, twel I 'lowed I was the tail-end of a threshin' machine. But I hung on, an' kep' a-proddin' of him, kase I 'lowed he mought taken it into his head to come outen. When he begun fer to back, I begun fer to dig, an' 'twarn't more than three hours afore I had him dug outen thar, and tied up snug as yer please.

"Yas, 'gators is mighty peart with ther tails; but they can't do nothin' much with ther jaws. Them's their weak p'int. Why, sir, I kin cotch that thar 'gator by the end of his jaws with my han's, when hit's mouth's shet, an' hold hit shet, spite of all he kin do; but keep outen the way of his tail, for yer mought jes as well hev a cannon-ball strike yer.

"Does cotching 'gators pay? Wa'al, ef a man 'tends to business, he kin make livin' wages at hit. I got twenty-five dollars fer this yere feller, and prices range 'cording to size—so much a foot, ginerally—'bout a dollar to a dollar and a half a foot, fer anything 5ft. long and over.

"Little ones? Them I cotches by the hundred in scoop-nets, or digs 'em outen 'long with their mammy. They fotches 'bout a quarter apiece when trade's good. Mos' folkses hain't no idee how to care fer 'em when they get's 'em, an' bime-by they dies outen sheer starvation. You'm got to feed 'em like they was young kittens, and feed 'em in the water. They won't eat nothin' 'less they kin put their heads under water. Feed 'em on bits of raw meat, and put hit right clus to ther noses, so's they kin smell hit. They can't find nothin' fer theirselfs ef you throw hit into the water.

"Skins and teeth? No; ther hain't much doing in them now. Since you Yankee fellers has got to making celluloid teeth and imitation 'gator leather, prices is 'way down; 'bout 35 or 40 cents is all the hunter gits fer prime hides, nothin' taken less than 7ft. long, nuther."

Before I left the old hunter, he had agreed to send me word when he discovered another exceptionally large alligator, and promised to show me how to "jab" a fence-rail down its throat in a manner that would induce him to "hang on an' keep him amoosed."

After keeping the big alligator in a tank for a week or so, and thereby attracting many customers to his shop, the curiosity man sold him to a travelling showman for 75 dollars, and Mr. 'Gator is now being exhibited to admiring crowds in the smaller towns of the Southern States.

The curiosity man wishes me to say that he will furnish good healthy alligators, sound in wind and limb, boxed for shipment to any part of the world and of any size under 10ft. long, for two dollars per lineal foot.

Kirk Munroe.

## NOTICES OF BOOKS, &c.

### THE ANGLER'S NOTE-BOOK—NEW SERIES.

We are glad to see that a new series of this delightful angling gossip is being published by Messrs Satchell and Co., 19, Tavistock-street, Strand. Three editions are issued—viz., a special edition of fifty copies on hand-made paper, illustrated; a subscribers' edition on stout paper; and a free edition on thin paper. In his introduction, Mr. Westwood proclaims his intention to make anglers gentlemen: he does not think that there is left among us a scholarly angler, or one capable of appreciating anything in fishing, but fishing. He says, in effect, that we are all mere fishers; our eyes never see any beauty in the earth or sky; we never note the song of the robin or the thrush; the blue of the corn-flower is lost on us; even the sweet "forget-me-not," nestling under the shadow of the waving flags, or the scent of the wild roses, whose petals fall as we shake the bough in unhooking our fly from it—these are not for us—at least Mr. Westwood does not think we can appreciate them yet; we require educating. Luckily there is a chance left us, as will be seen from the following extract. After describing how he has searched everywhere for the "gentleman angler" he asks: "*Have we sunk so low, that not a remnant of such is left? Methinks our paper blushes at having to record the question! Anglers of England! your name is legion—will you not take courage, raise yourselves to a higher level, and become 'gentlemen anglers?' You have all read Izaak Walton—have you not discovered how much of good and great there is in him, apart from such questions as bottom fishing and ground bait?*" Seeing that Izaak Walton has long ceased to be read for anything but his unique style and honest, manly, lovable characteristics—we consider Mr. Westwood's question impertinent, to say the least of it. We venture to assert that the best angling literature, old or new, was never so much appreciated as at the present time, and that never since the time of Walton has the true angling spirit been so strong among us as now. But what are we to do to be saved? How shall we become "gentlemen anglers"? Listen to Mr. Westwood: "The Angler's Note Book has this object specially in view. Anglers of England, will you not lay aside old habits and old prejudices, and co-operate with us in our task?"

We do not know, but we should imagine that Mr. Westwood is not an angler; but in spite of this unhappy "introduction" we trust he will get plenty of subscribers. He should remember that if we cannot all praise God and nature in prose or verse like Izaak Walton or T. Westwood, we may yet be able to appreciate these things as much as he claims to do.

*The Moselle: from the Battlefield to the Rhine*, is a charmingly-written and illustrated penny guide, by Mr. Percy Lindley. The score of artistic illustrations make the guide worth a shilling.

*The Tourists' Travel Talk* (edited also by Mr. Lindley) contains an every-day vocabulary in English, French, and German, with money and distance tables, practical hints, routes, &c., all for the small sum of one penny! The get-up of all Mr. Lindley's books is most attractive.

*Bowlker's Art of Angling.*—From the very interesting and charmingly-situated old town of Ludlow, in Shropshire—a town situated at the confluence of several glorious trout and grayling streams — we have received for review a copy of a work well known to all who know anything of angling literature. We should have thought that quaint little work on "The Art of Angling," by Bowlker, of Ludlow, was quite out of print; but Mr. Woolley, bookseller, Ludlow, informs us that he bought the remainder of the revised edition of 1854, and has a few copies left, for which, from his advertisement we see, he only asks the small sum of 2s. 6d.; and as this edition contains some long extracts from Colonel Hawker's very practical and valuable instructions in spinning the natural minnow and in fly fishing, we can recommend our readers to add it to their library. Indeed, in spite of the antiquated matter of much of the work, the whole of it is interesting. Indian grass is recommended in place of gut or hair, as in many other old works. Can any of our readers tell us where this Indian grass can be obtained? There may be some left in the storeroom of some old angler or tackle-maker.

**The Border Rivers.**—The sport got on these rivers during the past ten days has been as much as could reasonably be expected. The rivers have been very small for some time, but the pluvial descents of the present week have given a fuller volume of water to the streams, and angling will be somewhat better than it has been of late. For a week past the baskets of trout killed have ranged from 2½lb. to 3½lb., and the only large baskets that have been got were killed on the Kale a week ago, and scaled 10lb. or thereby. Of course, baskets of the minimum weight have frequently been got; but on the whole, trout fishing is in a very poor condition at present. Salmon angling with the rod is at a standstill, although the net fishings are very fairly productive, the hauls got being fair, and compare favourably with those got last period.

## PROSECUTION UNDER THE FISHERIES ACT AT KEYNSHAM.

At the Keynsham Petty Sessions Court, before Messrs. J. C. Ireland (in the chair), W. P. Baker, and H. Lyne, Walter Harris, George Neal, and John Janes, a man and two lads, the former foreman of the Emery Works, Keynsham, and the others employed at the same manufactory, were charged under the information of G. O'Connor Parnell, solicitor, residing at Keynsham, with having on the 12th July, at the Emery Works, Weir-head, used a certain explosive substance for the purpose of catching and destroying fish, contrary to the terms of the Fisheries (Dynamite) Act, 1877, and the Freshwater Fisheries Act, 1878. The information under which proceedings were taken was the sworn statement of Thomas Ford, of Keynsham, who stated that on the 12th of July last he saw a substance thrown by some man from the Emery Works, Weir-head, into the water, and soon afterwards the water rose in a volume quite 5ft. He then saw two boys named John Janes and George Neal get into the water below the weir and take out a quantity of fish, which consisted of trout and all sorts of fish. One trout was, he should say, about 2½lb., and numbers of fish varied from 1ft. in length to an inch. Walter Harris, the foreman of the works, was present, standing on the weir head, and Janes and Neal handed up to him a tub with the fish in it. The boys also threw to Harris some more fish, aud the latter caught them as they were thrown up to him. He believed the man who brought the dynamite from Bristol was present. The charge having been read over, the defendants pleaded guilty. Mr. Carter (Messrs. Clifton and Carter) said he had been instructed to prosecute in the case. The information had been prepared by Mr. Parnell, who had taken up the matter in the interests of the public. The proceedings were instituted under section 2 of the Fisheries (Dynamite) Act of 1877, which provides that "any person who uses dynamite or other explosive substance to catch or destroy fish in a public fishery shall be liable, on summary conviction, either to a fine not exceeding £20, or, in the discretion of the court, to be imprisoned, with or without hard labour, for a term not exceeding two months"; and under the Freshwater Fisheries Act, 1878, section 12, which read as follows:—"The Fisheries (Dynamite) Act, 1877, which prohibits the use of dynamite or other explosive substance for the catching or destruction of fish in a public fishery, shall apply to the use of any such substance for the catching or destruction of fish in any water, whether public or private, within the limits of this Act." Mr. Parnell had no personal feeling whatever against the defendants; he merely acted in the interests of the public, and the angling fraternity especially.

In reply to the bench, who asked what he had to say, the defendant Harris admitted throwing a dynamite cartridge into the water, and sending the lads in to get the fish out. He acted innocently. He put in the charge because he thought he would like a few fish, and in doing so he was not aware he was breaking the law. He thought he had a perfect right to use dynamite in his master's water. The bench, after a brief consultation, fined Harris 40s. and costs, and dismissed the lads on payment of costs.

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Irish Agency—Mr. T. E. Fitz-Patrick, 3, O'Meara Terrace, Clonliffe, Dublin.
American Office and Agency—Mr. De Witt C. Lent, 30, Park Place, New York.

N.B.—All Remittances must be sent, and all Cheques and Money Orders must be made payable to Messrs. SAMPSON LOW, MARSTON, and Co., the Proprietors, 188, Fleet Street, E.C.

The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 23, 1884.

## THE FORTHCOMING EXHIBITION AT SOUTH KENSINGTON.

WE have received the prospectus of the International Inventions Exhibition, to be held in the grounds and buildings now occupied by the "Healtheries"—(we presume the new affair will be called the "Inventories," or some other easy slang). There is to be space for apparatus used in field sports under Group XXXI. All who own inventions connected with fishing, and wish to exhibit them, must make application for space before Sept. 15 to the Secretary of the Inventions Exhibition, South Kensington.

## GREAT DESTRUCTION OF FISH IN THE RIVER WEY.

MUCH excitement has been aroused at Guildford by the fouling of the river Wey, and the poisoning of the whole of the fish for miles along its course. The mischief is supposed to have been caused by the refuse from some manufactories on the banks of the river having been allowed to enter the stream. The river for days past has been of the colour of black ink, with a white froth floating on the surface. The fish have perished literally by the ton, and, having become putrid in the water, the stench emitted has been sickening. The Guildford town council has discussed the matter, but appears to be doubtful how far it can exercise its powers to stop the pollution of the stream. In the meantime, the inhabitants are arousing themselves, and a petition to the Local Government Board is in course of signature, asking that authority to step in and remedy the existing disgraceful and dangerous state of things.

When we first heard of this dastardly affair, we said it was a very fortunate thing that there was a vigorous angling society at Guildford, and we felt sure they would not let the matter rest. It therefore gives us great pleasure to publish the following letter and circular which we have received from Mr. H. P. Holton Sturges, Chairman of the Society :—

County Club, Guildford,
August 20.

SIR,—I beg to inform you that I have issued a circular (of which the inclosed is a copy) to the principal inhabitants of this town and neighbourhood, and up to this date I have much pleasure in stating there is an influential and liberal response to the proposed Guarantee Fund.

If you will give this letter, with the circular, insertion in your valuable paper, it might meet the eye of some who would be willing to aid the movement, and who could communicate with me.

Feeling that our efforts will have your sympathy, I beg to ask this great favour.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

H. HOLTON STURGES, Chairman of the Guildford Angling Society.

### DESTRUCTION OF FISH IN THE RIVER WEY.

SIR,—The recent enormous destruction of fish in the river Wey, occasioned by poisonous substances being caused or allowed to flow therein, has rendered it necessary that some action should be taken, if the enjoyment of the river is to be in any way preserved.

With this object, it is proposed that a Committee, with a Guarantee Fund, shall be immediately formed :

1. To collect information and evidence as to the cause of the destruction of the fish.
2. To adopt measures to prevent the recurrence of the offence, and, if necessary,
3. To take legal proceedings against the offenders.

As Chairman of the Committee of "The Guildford Angling Society," I have been asked to act as Honorary Secretary to the Committee, and I therefore venture to inquire if you are willing to join the proposed Committee, and, if so, to name the amount you would give to the Guarantee Fund to meet expenses.

I will of course undertake that no expenses shall be incurred, either in legal proceedings, or otherwise, until the Committee have met and sanctioned the course to be pursued.

Your early reply will oblige.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,

H. HOLTON STURGES.

25, High-street, Guildford, 14th August, 1884.

## AN AMATEUR ANGLER'S DAYS IN DOVEDALE.—No. IV.

LAST night I had another turn at the river, but nothing came of it more remarkable than the usual good wetting. I started, it is true, with sanguine expectations, inspired partly by my grand success of the day before, and partly by the advice of an aristocratic friend whom I met on the way. On reaching the water where the wooden bridge crosses it, I saw a man leisurely reclining on the rails, and seemingly in blissful contemplation of the lovely scenery around him. He quietly approached, and with that marked courtesy and civility which at once create good fellowship in all true disciples, he accosted me. My first glance assured me that he was a man of substance. He was clad in a handsome suit of Scottish tweed, his cheek was bronzed, and he looked the embodiment of good health and substantiality. "What sport?" said he. "As yet I have not wet my line," I replied. "May I, as an old sportsman, have a look at your flies? I am well acquainted with all the waters for many miles around here, and if you want a day's real sport I will gladly give you four miles of the very best water hereabouts." "Thank you, very much indeed," said I—and to myself I said, "I was right in my first impression : this is truly a man of broad acres and generous impulses." He examined my flies with the look of a master. "Pooh," said he, "those flies are perfectly useless for this water, the gut is too coarse, and such flies as these are never seen here. You may fish till doomsday with such things and catch nothing." I expressed my surprise with much humility that this should be so, seeing that they had been supplied by the most celebrated maker in this neighbourhood. "Ah," said he, drawing out a large pocket-book, "look at these, my friend. That's the fly for grayling in the early morning, this for trout in the evening, and this for all-day fishing for either trout or grayling. Nothing can resist it." He began to pack them up again, and *I*—how I coveted those wonderful flies. "As I have remarked," said he, "if you want a real good day I'll give you my card. You can write to me and I'll fix it for you." "Would you care to try a cast of my flies?" he continued. I thanked him heartily, and said, "I should." "There's my card; and as I hope you will be a good customer another day, I will only charge you eighteenpence for this cast, and two shillings for a dozen of my choicest flies warranted to kill." I looked at my friend's card, and then I discovered that my great landed proprietor "having made the gentle art his intense study for years," supplies the best of flies dressed from Nature by himself at two shillings a dozen, &c. I was rather sold, but still had confidence in these nature-copied flies, and I worked away with my new cast. I got two rises, and one 4oz. trout, which I returned to his native element, and then I returned home with my usual wet feet ; and so my third day's angling was over. This morning I decided to give the trout a rest, devoting it instead to a quiet contemplative walk. I strolled over to the pretty village of Ilam, and sauntering by the margin of the river Manifold, I again encountered my little friend the water ouzel ; this time he was not at all shy, he hopped along from stone to stone, now dipping his head into the water, now disappearing for a second altogether, then emerging he would make me a few pretty curtsies, displaying his white bib and tucker just like a national school girl. What an industrious little chap he is—he works as hard and perseveringly as a starling! I calculate that if every time he pecks the moss-covered rocks in the river, or dips his head in the water, he kills an insect or a fish, he must have swallowed no less than 1,800 articles of food, insect or fish, in the half hour he gave me the pleasure of his company. He not only went up the water with me from the point where the river touches the road up to the bridge—but he followed me back again to the same point, giving me every now and then his jerky little curtsey, which said plainly enough "I'm pleased to see you, stranger, in these parts. Good-bye!" and away he sailed, just skimming the water in his rapid flight. No sooner had I parted with my pretty little companion than I heard a strange humming in the air that sounded like distant music. Looking up I found myself beneath a wide-spreading sycamore, and looking down I was surprised to see the ground covered with dead and dying bumblebees. I wonder if any of your apiarian readers can explain to me the cause of this strange slaughter. Had they over-laden themselves with honey, or been surfeited or poisoned by it? Or, had some envious wasps or bees robbed them of their spoils, and then done them to death? "Sic vos non vobis mellificatis, apes"—not for yourselves do ye gather honey, O ye foolish bumble bees! Or—when ye consume it yourselves it seems you become intoxicated, tumble helplessly on the flinty road, break your backs or necks, and so perish! You see, I have lived so long in the great city that all such little things as these which are beneath the notice of country people are novel and curious to me.

July 31.—Now is the winter of my discontent made glorious summer; Jupiter Pluvius has given place to sunshine, and in the evening I ventured forth once more, rod in hand, to allure if possible some stray denizen of "The Dove." My record hitherto, as you know, has been, with one memorable exception, a record of utter failure. Again I am sorry to say it is not the story of success. I got one rise, that was all. For a young and ardent disciple, my evening, I assure you, was not one to inspire enthusiasm. Canst thou feel very amiable, oh, gentlest of readers, after being caught seven times in seven successive throws in bush or bramble, tree or root?—and what if thy eighth throw lands thy "bumble" in the midst of a mass of young and stalwart nettles? That fate and worse befel me in my evening's ramble. I have been told (indeed, it is an old axiom) to "grasp your nettle" if you would not be stung by it. As there seemed to be no other way of unhooking my unlucky hook, I did grasp my nettle with a vengeance, and never again will I believe in that old axiom ; my belief now and evermore will be that the harder you grasp it the more vilely will it sting. My tingling, smarting fingers for many hours after the event sufficiently attest the truth of this assertion. But another and far more trying adventure befell me on this singular excursion. "Why," I have been led to ask myself, "should things happen to me, a citizen of famous London town, in my rare country rambles, such as never in the lifetime of one in a hundred of country people happen to them?" Did you, my friend, or did anyone of your many readers, ever, in his backward throw, hook his fly firmly into a tough twig on a wasp's nest? By what strange fatality, then, is it that I of all piscators in the world should have come upon one in this strange way? I may be very green and innocent in things rural and piscatorial, but I do hope that not one of your readers has thought me such a fool as to walk up to that twig to release my hook. No ; I did what any other sane person would do : I threw down my rod and ignominously bolted, like a madman, across the meadow pursued by a dozen of these little-winged beasts. One by one they dropped off, five, four, three, two ; the last pursued me to the bitter end. I threw off my hat, hoping he would think that was *me;* not a bit of it. Fortunately, it is more than six weeks since my head underwent the operations of a barber ; consequently, my back hair is unusually long. I felt a fizzle-whizzle on the hollow which represents my bump of firmness, with all my might I struck that bump and smashed the little wretch before he had time to unsheath his horrid dagger. But my difficulties are not yet over. How am I to regain my rod, my flies, and my net? I slowly returned to the neighbourhood of the nest, dodging cautiously behind the bushes till I approached the handle of the rod. I then noiselessly unwound a quantity of line, and then quietly withdrew the rod till I had got it full fifty feet away from that horrid twig; then I gave a sharp tug, fully determined to sacrifice anything and everything. I tugged and pulled, and the wasps became angry again; neither twig nor fly, neither gut nor line would give way. I pulled again, a long pull and a strong pull, and then came away a part of the twig with my bumble sticking in it.

I ought to haue mentioned before, that on Wednesday evening, *Piscator major* arrived; (he has been so named to distinguish him from the humble *minor* who writes these lines). On Thursday he made his first attack on "The Dove," and captured 2½ brace of fine trout. On Friday the major and I started, filled with grand expectations, to fish the highly-preserved waters of "The Manifold." We had been told that that river swarms with grayling and trout. Probably it does, but this happened to be a Friday, a fast day with fishes, it is their day for being eaten, not to eat; at all events, they abstained from flies and doubtless betook themselves to worms. The major tried all the arts of which he is an easy master, he waded up and he waded down, but not a rise could he get—neither could I. It was rather tantalising, for we could see fish in abundance, but, as I have said, they were on *the fast.* We returned in the evening somewhat crestfallen.

Let me here mention a very curious incident which happened to a brother angler, *Piscator major* by name. On his first expedition he lost his "collar" in the branches of an ash overhanging a deep hole, his second fly was hooked, and the leader was thus left hanging a few inches above the water. That dangling bait attracted the attention of a wandering bat, and on revisiting the spot next morning, like Little Bo-Peep "there we espied our *bat* all tied and hung in a tree to dry." We found him dead, suspended 'twixt wind and water to that little hook. How that foolish little bat must have struggled and splashed and dashed before he finally succumbed! The gut is of the finest gossamer, and one would have thought he could easily have snapped it or the twig; but perhaps his death will be better explained by the pliancy of the bough just on the top of the water. He probably met the unusual fate of being drowned as well as hanged.

(*To be continued.*)

## IMPORTANT MEETING OF THE ANGLERS' ASSOCIATION.

A MEETING of this association was held on Monday last at the Foresters' Hall. The chair was taken punctually at nine by the President, Mr. Philip Green.

There were delegates present from fifty-two societies when the roll was called; but as this was not done until a later hour than usual, the representatives of many societies had left.

A very pleasing feature of the evening's business was the enrolment of four new societies, three of which may be looked upon as country societies which have been formed with an earnest desire to co-operate in the substantial work of this association.

The "Uxbridge Rovers," which have twenty-three members, was the first to be enrolled, and the second a society numbering twenty-four members from the adjacent village of Cowley Peachey. This society is named the "Cowley Peachey Fishing Club." Next came the "Hounsfield Otters," a society which has been formed at Edmonton, and is likely to prove a great success. The "Original Anglers' Pride Angling Society," about whose right to take this title when there is another Anglers' Pride Angling Society already in existence, whose delegates have entered an objection, was also enrolled, subject to a meeting before the working committee of this association to settle the matter of which society is the original one. From statements made during the evening by the Secretary and President, in answer to questions, it may now be understood that the progress of this association is even greater than could have been anticipated, as more tickets have already been sold than was sold by the two associations last year, and ten new societies have been enrolled.

A report was now given by Messrs. Beckett, Manning, Murphy, Green, Page, Jennings, and others who represent this association on the "Fisheries Society," which was considered so unsatisfactory in the interests of that large body represented by the "Anglers' Association," that the following resolutions were put and carried unanimously. It was also unanimously decided that the President should send the following letter to the Chairman of the "Fisheries Society," and that a report of the proceedings be prepared and sent to the Editor of the FISHING GAZETTE, asking him to kindly favour them with its insertion in this week's issue.

Proposed by Mr. Beckett, seconded by Mr. Manning—

"That, in the opinion of this meeting, it is desirable, in the hope that the work of the 'Fisheries Society' may not be interrupted as is now threatened, to meet the representatives of the Central Association on the old basis of twelve each from the three associations; that is to say, that the West Central and the United London Anglers' Association, having joined together for the fuller and more economical attainment of their objects, shall continue to elect from the members of their united body twenty-four representatives, and the Central Association twelve. Or, we are willing that the representatives to the 'Fisheries Society' should be elected from the two associations in proportion to the number of tickets paid for by them to the funds of the 'Fisheries Society,' one being elected for each completed hundred, the computation to be made upon either this or last year's payments, as the representatives of the Central Association may choose."

Proposed by Mr. Murphy, seconded by Mr. Jennings—

"That, as some of our representatives have from various causes become ineligible to serve us on the 'Fisheries Society,' we do immediately proceed to elect twenty-four gentlemen to serve us on the committee of that society from this date."

Proposed by Mr. Page, seconded by Mr. Green—

"Resolved—That it having been reported to this meeting that while the United London Anglers' Central Committee paid into the funds of the 'Fisheries Society' on account of last year's tickets, the sum of £59 8s., and the West Central Association the sum of £81 18s.; the Central Association have only paid £10, and that a balance is admitted to be still due from them of about £13. It is so far satisfactory to learn that a promise was made at the last meeting of the 'Fisheries Society' that this sum should be immediately paid, as unless it has been previously paid or be paid during the evening of Monday next, it will be impossible to continue parties with an association which only contributes 7½ per cent. of the income, and admittedly owes a larger sum than that it has paid."

Proposed by Mr. Tibbatts, seconded by Mr. Stanley—

"That, in the event of our representatives to the 'Fisheries Society' being of opinion that the spirit of the foregoing resolutions had not been accepted by the representatives of the Central Association, they are empowered at their discretion to declare that, so far as our association is concerned, the 'Fisheries Society' is dissolved, and that from that date we no longer hold ourselves responsible for any debt or debts which may be contracted in its name. On the other hand, we desire it to be understood that in the event of our representatives declaring the 'Fisheries Society' dissolved, we are quite willing that three of our representatives should meet three of theirs for the purpose of a mutual winding up of the society."

"Foresters' Hall, August 18th, 1884.

"To the Chairman of the United London Anglers' Fisheries Society's next meeting.

"DEAR SIR,—It having been reported to the Anglers' Association at a specially-convened meeting of all the angling societies affiliated to it, that our representatives have been unable to agree with the representatives of the Central Association on the important subject of what numbers should be received on the committee of your society from each of the two associations, we have deemed it desirable to maturely consider and definitely decide as follows:—

"That we are willing, with the hope that the work of the 'Fisheries Society' may not be interrupted as is now threatened, to meet the representatives of the Central Association on the old basis of twelve each from the three associations—that is to say, that the West Central and the West London Angler's Association having united shall continue to elect twenty-four representatives from the members of the new association—'The Angler's Association'—and the Central Association twelve from theirs. Or, we are willing that the representatives to your society should be elected from the two associations in proportion to the number of tickets paid for by them to the funds of the 'Fisheries Society,' one being elected for each completed hundred tickets. The computation to be made upon either last year's payments or this, as the representatives of the Central Association may decide.

"It having been further reported to us that some of our representatives are, from various causes, no longer eligible to serve us on your committee, we have, to avoid the possibility of a misunderstanding on this point, determined to elect, and have elected, the following 24 gentlemen to serve us from this date; and, in the event of its being determined that the representation shall be in proportion to the number of tickets paid for either this year or last, we will immediately, or as soon as possible, proceed to elect such further gentlemen as we may be entitled to.

Mr. Geen
„ Beckett
„ Page
„ Thorling
„ Field
„ Dutton
Mr. Allan
„ Cashell
„ Parker
„ Murphy
„ Tibbatts
„ Dymond
Mr. Chambers
„ Wagner
„ Gray
„ Bunn
„ Starr
„ Manning
Mr. Jennings
„ Green
„ Marriott
„ Kidd
„ Aldridge
„ Gaffney

"It was also reported to our meeting that while the West Central Association paid into the funds of your society, on account of last year's tickets, the sum of £81 18s., and the United London Anglers the sum of £59 8s., the Central Association have only paid £10, but that a balance is admitted to be due from them of £13.

"We are pleased to learn that a promise has been made that this sum shall be paid in at once, as we are unanimously of opinion that unless such money has been previously paid, or is paid during the evening of the next meeting, it will be impossible for us to continue partners with them in the work of the 'Fisheries Society.'

"It was further resolved, that in the event of our representatives being of opinion that the spirit of the foregoing resolutions had not been accepted by the representatives of the Central Association, they are empowered, at their discretion, to declare that, so far as our association is concerned, the Fisheries Society is dissolved, and that we no longer hold ourselves responsible for any debt or debts which it may contract; but that, on the other hand, we would be willing to elect three gentlemen to meet three from the Central to arrange matters with a view to winding up the Fisheries Society.

"We presume it may be taken as a matter of course, that if winding up is decided upon, that the Central Association will not expect more than seven per cent. of the waters already rented, and seven per cent of the funds in hand, as that proportion represents the amount subscribed by them.

"I am, Dear Sir,
"Yours faithfully,
"PHILIP GEEN."

A hearty vote of thanks to the chair brought the meeting to a close.

## PROPOSED ERECTION OF SALMON PASSES IN PERTHSHIRE.

COLONEL MARSHALL MACDONALD, Commissioner of Fisheries in Virginia and Assistant to the United States Fish Commission, is at present inspecting the rivers in the Tay district, and is to submit plans for the erection of salmon ways or passes at such points as may be determined upon by the Tay District Fishery Board.

Colonel Macdonald had a conference with the members of the Board in their offices in George-street on Saturday, respecting the obstructions to salmon at the Falls of Tummel and on the river Ericht, at Blairgowrie. The Colonel, who is at present visiting Europe for the purpose of investigating the methods of fish culture and of the fisheries as practised in the different districts, inspected the Tay District at the invitation of the Tay District Fishery Board. As Assistant to the United States Fish Commission, Colonel Macdonald is charged with the administration of some of the most important functions of that body.

## ABERDEEN.—FISHING WITH FIXED NETS.—INTERESTING DECISION.

A LITTLE time ago, some interested parties were instrumental in bringing before the Sheriff a number of the netters on the Dee, with a view to having them tried under a criminal libel for the manner in which they had been using their nets. The case was taken to avizandum, but on Monday last a judgment was pronounced. The learned Sheriff gave a written deliverance. It was true, he said, that fishing by means of fixed engines was against the common law, but the adoption of an illegal method by persons otherwise entitled to take salmon amounted to nothing more than a trespass, and could not therefore be tried under a criminal libel. The question of law, as to whether fishing for salmon with a fixed net and boat in contravention of the laws regulating salmon fishing, can be dealt with under a criminal libel, is thereby decided. Mr. Oswald Prosser, solicitor, asked his lordship to grant expenses, as the respondents had been put to considerable trouble in bringing witnesses forward. The Sheriff granted £1 11s. 6d.

GEORGE JAMES EATON, of Starkholmes, Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required, from gentlemen who can fish, to prove whether they may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen Orders punctually attended to.—(ADVT.)

## ON THE DESCRIPTION OF SALMON FLIES.

By Mr. Geo. M. Kelson.

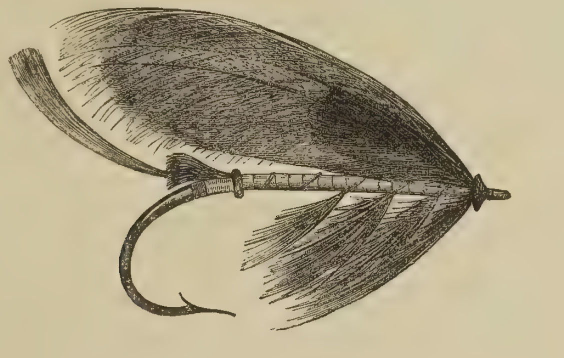
### Major Traherne's Patterns *(Continued)*.

### No. 11.—The "May Queen."

Stevens' silicon tablet is a capital cure for tarnished tinsel ; it not only revives, but preserves it from lacking lustre. It is sold at 103, Talbot-road, W., in a little papier mâché box which contains a brush for renovating timeworn "Lions," "My Queens," &c., &c., and the piece of wash leather upon which the dry tablet should be rubbed serves for brightening and coating twists and tinsels ever so new. After removing a quarter of an inch of the silver at each end of the piece, apply the tweezers to the silk, pull it through the wash leather, which is held pretty firmly between the thumb and forefinger, up to, *not beyond*, the metal at the opposite end, reverse it, and repeat the dose.

Ribs have a tendency to become loose on seals'-fur bodied flies, and if they are not made very firm at the head end, the fur, or some of it, will escape, and by degrees disappear. The tying-silk there, after the two first coils, ought to be placed between the third and fourth fingers of the left hand, and not strained ; then give the tinsel a hard tug, taking hold of it with the pliers and pull the silk tight at the same time.

For all practical purposes flat tinselled bodies can be run up by beginning at the throat, working to the butt and back again ; but to make them particularly nice—regular and even as a piece of piping—a deal of preparatory arrangement is required. Some rig up a foundation with merely the tying silk waxed ; but I consider the best plan is to utilise the floss in the inside of the tinsel as I suggested ; and after the taper is formed of it, frayed out with the point of a needle and varnished, it should be made perfectly true and smooth before it is quite dry. Then you can make the ribs with the other end which has not been deprived of the silver coating, and as one turn of the tying-thread is all that is necessary close to the butt you prevent, instead of having to cure a lump there, which is so often made by the ordinary way of tying in the ribs. When this, or any similar system is supplemented, there need be but one layer of tinsel along the body, starting it at the butt. Before you fasten it there, cut it from one of its sides to a point, and now, with the bevelled edge downwards, tie just that point in on the far side of the hook, leaving the least atom of it bare to turn back for clinching, under, and alongside. This should not occupy more room than half the width of the butt, which you can judge of by the illustration ; the floss upon which you tie it will give way and bury that which would bulge, had you not left just that space (no more) unvarnished. Be careful not to put too much pressure on to the tying-silk, or you will imbed the tinsel too deep, which will leave a cavity and put you in another hobble.



When the varnish over the taper is quite hard, the tinsel, which should have been held laterally, is wound along at a right angle, not askew ; and the first turn of it disposes of the bevel. By winding it in this way, straight over the hook and pressing the coils close to each other with your nail as you proceed, the joints ought to be imperceptible.

I say "held laterally ;" the tinsel should be supported so while it is being tied on the far side of the hook ; but it is important that the exact position of the rest of it should be mentioned in order to secure "a fair start." The hook should be so held that the shank is horizontal ; the thumb and forefinger in squeezing it should be well bent, *while the tinsel is resting straight along over the knuckles.*

If you hold the hook with the finger and thumb extended, you cannot advantageously make use of the middle finger, which gives much facility—not only that, you lose considerable power, as you cannot wind the tying-silk on the portion sheltered by the extremity of the fingers.

The hackle may be managed different ways ; it is not only fixed tighter when pulled against the ribs, which also protect it from the teeth of the fish, but you can keep the shaft touching them the whole way when on that, the tag side. Nine dressers in every ten put it on the other ; surely it is wrong to do so. A salmon pulls *from* you ; therefore, if he tears the body of the fly, the gash is made from the head towards the tail ; his teeth should, I suggest, wage war with the protecting tinsel first, which—unlike the feather—is capable of much resistance. Again, in coiling the hackle over the body, it is often cut asunder by the sharp tinsel at the starting point ; that can be dodged by pressing the stiletto (the fine end) against the sharp edge, when you come to that turn in the tinsel, and the little curve you make in it by this means provides a safe outlet for the hackle. But my way, the ribbing can pass over the hackle just where it protrudes, and so when the latter is lifted to wind along the body, it butts immediately against the oval which prevents it from coming in contact with the sharp edge of the body tinsel, and consequently, during the process you can pull it much harder with less danger. Accidents are pretty sure to happen ; and it is tantalising to be compelled to take off and replace both tinsels, but if the hackle is injured or cut, there is no other remedy.

That familiar phrase "To be continued in our next," may be quoted here, as I desire to refer to a slight error in my letter of last week, from a *façon de parler* before touching upon the other topics.

The feathers in the body of the "Don," as, perhaps, everyone knew, are from the neck of the jungle cock of India. "Jungle *fowl*," as I wrote, must not be confounded with it ; the head and crest of this Australian bird is of a cinnamon brown, the neck is gray, and of little or no value to us. It is scarcely possible for us to mistake one neck feather for the other ; the idea is too eccentric—one that may become practicable in the millennium, but certainly not before. The definition I gave, although inaccurate, would probably not lead any fly-dresser astray ; but, perhaps, it should not remain uncorrected.

The "May Queen" is another of these splendid specimens which serves to remind us what can be done by sheer perseverance. What a thing is patience ! It sits and weaves so long in the gloom futilely till it fashions its own scientific reliable laws so strong as to sever the bonds of immemorial usage, and it traps at last.

There is nothing in this sport in aftertimes, however radiant with pleasure or success those latter times may be, so perfectly happy as the buoyant and fearless ignorance of the young fisherman just first thrust himself from the shell of dependence, venturing alone into a salmon pool. He intuitively surveys with dazzled and delighted eyes the illimitable domain that lies in the mere Possible! He naturally expects any obstruction or impediment will give way before him, and for once he is triumphant. He never forgets this first stroke of luck—this first victory. As though accustomed to conquest, those memorable words, "Veni, Vidi, Vici," are engraven in his youthful and unworn mind where the fetter of tradition requires no loosening, nor the web of superstition no breaking.

What a wonderful and supreme magician is Youth—but once only to be enjoyed, as it never returns.

Pretty much the same deep sense and emotions affect the young fly tier in his uncertain and trepid attempts with his own early inventions—inventions which from close watchful attention may grow and claim their origin through some practical yet indescribable observation, and which therefore gradually inspire him with instinctive confidence and hope.

Fly-dressers need not necessarily become fishermen, but all fishermen would benefit by becoming fly-dressers ; they would have a much better chance of bringing to good account the knowledge they are for ever cramming in from the facts brought to their notice in the constant whirl and incessant amusement of their life. The more their experience the more they find it difficult for any one impression to last long ; in fact, they are almost sure to invent something in the way of flies more striking—more killing, until the living shape of their fancy has been summoned, as it were, into existence.

Many years ago I remember the popular Scotch pattern which owned the time-honoured name of "The Maypole," constructed—or rather said to be so—after the colouring of the "Column of May," which once stood upon the site of the Church of St. Mary-le-Strand, and a fly from its posthumous fame probably receded into the shade much too soon ; it would be interesting to know if a reliable sample is still in existence.

Our illustration this week serves again to suggest that great artists narrow not themselves to one meagre phase of art ; and with splendid plenitude it gives us a notion of their able powers.

The fly may be described as follows :—
Tag : Silver twist and silk, same shade as the point of the red crow.
Tail : Topping, two red crow feathers (sideways).
Butt : Black herl.
Body : Blue silk, to end of first turn of ribs, same shade as the macaw hackle, the rest silver tinsel.
Ribbed ; Fine oval tinsel.
Hackle : Powdered blue macaw (as illustrated).
Throat : Yellow macaw.
Wings : Two yellow macaw feathers.
Cheeks : Enamelled thrush, two toppings over.
Horns : Blue macaw.
Head : Black herl.

## OBITUARY NOTICES.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. F. A. Hawthorne, many years a member of the Izaak Walton Angling Society, who died on Tuesday last, the 19th inst., after a long and painful illness, which he bore with much fortitude. He was well known and much respected by a large circle of the angling fraternity for straightforward and upright character. The funeral will take place on Saturday afternoon next, the 23rd inst., at 2.30 p.m., at Abney Park cemetery. (Friends will kindly accept this intimation.)

It was with great regret that we read the short reference to the death of Mr. Sills, of Nottingham, in our Nottingham river report last week. We have often corresponded with Mr. Sills, who took much interest in the Gazette. Will our correspondent say how he came to get drowned ?

A Royal Donation.—Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen has, through Sir Henry Ponsonby, given her patronage, and a contribution of fifty pounds toward the building funds of the Working Lads' Institute, The Mount, Whitechapel, London, E. The object of the institute is to promote the welfare of the working lads of the metropolis, by establishing a suitable place where youths may profitably spend the evening hours, and so be saved from the temptations and snares of the streets, public-houses, music-halls, and theatres, which abound in the East-end of our great city. In connection with the institute there is a reading-room, library, evening classes, &c., combined with innocent recreation and religious teaching. More than 1,100 lads have been benefited, many of whom are now actively engaged in religious, philanthropic, and temperance work, both at home and abroad. After three years of successful work, the committee found that larger premises were an absolute and pressing necessity ; but though diligent search was made, no suitable site could be found. Eventually, in 1882, a large plot of freehold land was secured, and designs were forthwith prepared. Soon after a notice was served by the District Railway Company, that the land was wanted for the extension of their line. A second site of freehold land has now been secured, and the purchase money paid. The total cost, including the freehold, buildings, fittings, &c., will be £10,500, of which £5,000 has been raised. The memorial stones of the new buildings, comprising reading, refreshment, and class rooms, lecture hall, technical school, swimming bath, domitories, gymnasium, &c., will be laid on October 15th, by the Right Honorable the Lord Mayor. The new institute will accommodate about a thousand lads, and the committee hope to promote, by every possible means, their physical, mental, moral, and spiritual welfare. Those who know the temptations of the working lads in our great city, will gladly help in such an effort. None more need sympathy than the lads who are arriving daily from our towns and villages ; and the committee earnestly beg their friends in the Provinces, as well as in London, to help them in this great work. Contributions may be sent to the treasurer, F. A. Bevan, Esq., 54, Lombard-street, E.C., or to Henry Hill, jun. Esq., hon. secretary, 38, Bow-lane, E.C.

Refuge Harbours and Ports of Shelter.—A meeting of noblemen, members of Parliament, harbour authorities, shipowners, and others, will shortly be held at the Westminster Palace Hotel, over which Lord Waveney has kindly consented to preside, to consider the details of a bill and to make a concerted effort to give effect to recommendations of the Royal Commission and recent select Parliamentary Committee on Harbours, that what is most desirable should be done to save the lives of our seafaring population. Also the best method of settling the question of sites for these harbours. Already we have arrived at the extremely dangerous stage that four-fifths of the men in our mercantile marine are of foreign nationalities, which, unless amended, may perhaps some day cause a famine in this country, destroy its commerce, and possibly even the independence of this Kingdom. Any further particulars relative to the meeting alluded to will be gladly forwarded in reply to letters addressed to the Hon. Secretary, National Refuge Harbours Society, 17, Parliament-street, London.

## ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

**C. Wodehouse.**—It is a physical impossibility to be fishing in Dove Dale and yet see everything sent into the Gazette and insert it the same week. We are aware that several errors crept into the paper, but they explained themselves, and were of no great consequence; to print "tackle" for "hackle" is a very excusable printer's error. You should see some of the MS. which the printer has to translate into beautifully clear type for you. Every Friday one of the printer's devils comes down to our little office with some "copy" which even the "reader" can't read—"Please, sir, can you say what *this* means?" the "this" referring to writing which looks like a hawthorn hedge in a fit. We puzzle it out if we can, or else knock it out and insert some remark about the weather.—Ed.

**J. F. W.**—(1) Write to C. C. Baker, Esq., Bridgewater Estate Office, Salop. Ellesmere "breaks" generally in August, or earlier, according to the weather, and does not clear again until end of September or beginning of October; but little fishing is done during the "break." (2) We always attach our flies to the gut line by making a double knot, and then a single one over that (if the gut is very fine) in the gut of the drop fly, about 3in. from the fly; then we make the usual sliding water knot in the gut line; but before pulling it tight insert the gut of the dropper, and then pull all tight. If you do not understand, we will give an illustration. (3) You can fish the Dove, in Dovedale, free, by staying at the Izaak Walton Hotel. Write to Mr. Wm. Prince, Izaak Walton Hotel, Ilam, Ashbourne, for his charges, which are very moderate.

**A Constant Reader** (Lombard-street).—Bream often bite well in early part of September, or later, if weather is suitable. You should ground-bait thirty-six hours previously, with boiled potatoes and bread mashed together into balls, and fish with paste the size of a pea or bean. Or else ground-bait with worms, and fish with well-scoured red worm; use fine tackle, and keep quiet. We have had several bream from 3lb. to 5lb. this season with bread paste.

**P. Robin** (Regent's-park).—You can get carp, roach, and eel fishing in Wimbledon Lake. We think the fishing is by season ticket. At Boxmoor you can get fish in the canal—roach, perch, pike, &c.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

[*We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.*]

### THE "WICKHAM FANCY" AS A SEA TROUT AND LOCH TROUT FLY.

Sir,—On June 21 I mentioned the unusual preference I had experienced in Scotland amongst sea trout and loch trout for a particular fly, but, not being quite certain of my data, I hesitated to give particulars until I could have another opportunity of confirming my previous experience. Having just returned from a Highland fishing visit (not of the best, in consequence of low lochs and streams, and close, calm weather), during which my previous impression has been fully confirmed; and, as the best of the sea trout fishing in the North is just coming on, with your permission I beg to offer your Northern readers a little information which I hope may help them to fill their baskets.

The small trout fly mentioned is well known as a standard fly to all Southern chalk stream fishers as the "Wickham's Fancy," but, as I have never met with it amongst anglers in the North, or heard of its being used for sea trout or loch fishing as a *large* fly, perhaps I had better describe the small fly and my proposed modification of it for sea trout and loch fishing:—Small fly: Body, plain gold tinsel; wings, starling wing (or, for a variety, "corn-crake" wing); hackle, redcocks wound all down the body.

My attention was first drawn to the use of the larger fly in September, 1883, when fishing a good sea trout river in Mull. In consequence of fine weather and a low and clear state of water, the fish were congregated in a pool a short distance above the sea mouth of the river, and were shy and hard to raise. I had tried them with the usual flies without any success; but looking through my fly book for something more attractive, I found one good-sized "Wickham," put it on, and fished the pool over and over again, resting it for half an hour each time, and obtained a nice basket of sea trout with this one fly.

Moving afterwards to another river in Ross-shire, I dressed more flies of the same kind, and using one on the cast with other well-known patterns, I was surprised to find the marked preference given to the "Wickham," and I filled my creel with it alone, when they would not touch the others. This experience was further confirmed when moving to a good loch, where the brown trout run from ½lb. to 2lb., and where again the "Wickham" took fully four or five fish to one with any other fly throughout the period of my stay.

I have just returned from fishing partly the same waters as in 1883, and others not before tested with this fly, and desiring to ascertain exactly how the fly was appreciated by the trout, I kept a strict account of every fish hooked, and I find that the general average in favour of the "Wickham" is beyond my previous estimate, and that it accounted for about eight fish to one as compared with any of the well-known flies generally used, as "March Brown," "Red and Teal," "Green and Teal," "Hecham Pecham," "Black Spider," "Zulu," "Light Dun," or "Buff Spider" and others, and I think I may now offer the opinion that it is one of the best flies which can be put on the cast, and I strongly advise your readers who go in for that sort of fishing to give it a trial.

I had hoped to have made an improvement in the fly, before I went out, by substitution of a hackle with *more lustre*, and more in harmony with the gold body, but in the limited time at my disposal I have not yet succeeded in dyeing one to my liking, and have therefore kept mainly to the standard red-cock's hackle. Mr. G. Holland, of Cook-street, Failsworth, Manchester (who has been very successful in dressing flies for floating and dry fly-fishing to Mr. Hall's patterns), has materially assisted me in aiming at a good dyed hackle, and I hope we shall yet succeed in dyeing a perfect one, as the redcock's feather is too dull in lustre. I have sent him a pattern of the sea trout fly, and those of your readers who think the information worth having will, no doubt, be able to obtain flies from him shortly.

I find only one objection to the fly further than that it is rather a troublesome one to dress. The hackle being run spirally all down the body with the tender point at the bend is rather apt to get cut by the teeth of the trout unless care is used in extracting the hook; and, if so cut, the fly is spoiled by the unrolling of the feather until it is refastened, which can readily be done by any one accustomed to fly dressing. The modified patterns for sea trout and loch fishing should be as follows:—

"Loch Leven" size on No. 3 (eyed hooks), or No. 4 if the breeze is very strong. Ordinary "Loch" size on No. 4 or No. 5. "Sea Trout" size on No. 4 or No. 5 "*Long Shanked*" (made by Hutchinson and Son specially for "Green Drake," and called by them "Long Mays"); No. 4 for light water; No. 5 for heavy streams.

Tail.—A small golden pheasant "Topping," proportioned to the size of the fly.

Body.—Flat gold tinsel-wing; for Loch Leven size, starling or corn-crake wing-feather. For larger loch flies (Nos. 4 or 5), cock pheasant or woodcock wing-feather, according as a lighter or darker wing is desired; for sea trout, cock pheasant wing-feather.

Hackle.—The most brilliant redcock's hackle obtainable; two turns under wings at shoulder, the rest carried spirally down the body to the tail. The hackle must be *long* and *narrow* in shape, so as not to make the fly too "bushy," and to have length enough for the spiral without running too closely to the point for fastening off, as, being tender, it is apt to get cut if too fine.

In *large* flies the hackle fibres are better partly dressed off with scissors, for a short piece near the tail of the fly, so as to show the gold body more distinctly.

The rich lustre of the body material is important. Good gold tinsel will do; but that I prefer to use is made from a thin strip of *pure gold*, soldered upon a thicker strip of copper, and the two rolled out until thin enough. This makes a very tough and malleable strip to work with, may readily be cut with scissors to any width, and makes a body much richer in colour than any "tinsel," and the pure gold surface does not tarnish by keeping in the fly-book as "tinsel" is apt to do. I am indebted to a friend accustomed to metallurgical work for my supply; but it might probably be got from other workers in precious metals or makers of gold embroidery, and it is worth the trouble of getiing, if possible, as these flies will last a very long time (on eyed hooks) if well taken care of.

I beg to inclose you a pattern of the fly, sea-trout size, and I should think that it might be found equally attractive to grilse or salmon, if dressed of proper sizes.

If any angling readers give the fly a trial, I shall be pleased to hear that their fortune has been as good as mine in using it.

There is just one special point in putting on the hackle, which I had better mention. There is a tendency (caused by the constant casting) for the hackle to slip down the smooth gold surface of the body, and settle in a lump at the tail, thus spoiling the look of the fly. To prevent this, after fastening the hackle in at the shoulder, it is better to run the silk (well waxed) down the gold body, spirally, and as tightly as possible, and *let the hackle follow it closely*; the silk acts as a support to the hackle, and prevents slipping.—I am, &c., George Bankart.

P.S.—Can any one tell me where to obtain seal's fur dyed of a *perfectly fast* scarlet or blood-red colour? I have bought dyed seal's fur at one of the best London tackle makers, and the colour does not stand for a single day's fishing, but turns a dirty brown, which quite ruins a red-bodied fly like the "Hecham Pecham" or "red and teal," whilst the fly itself is quite sound and good. I inclose you a small piece of the unused fur, and a fly used only for a few hours, to show the extraordinary fading of the dye. It is only labour thrown away to dress a lot of flies with such "dubbing."

Leicester, Aug. 17.

[Anglers ought to be much obliged to Mr. Bankart for thus placing his discovery of such a killing sea and loch trout fly at their disposal. We have sent the sample fly to our esteemed correspondent, "Silver Doctor," who is now salmon and sea-trout fishing in Scotland. We hope he will give it a good trial, and report result. Perhaps Mr. Kelson can tell us how to get a perfectly fast scarlet. We have often noticed the peculiar way wool and mohair dyed with this colour change. In fact, one of the greatest difficulties in these days of dyed feathers is to get a fly which will stand sunlight and water for even a day. An Irish correspondent kindly sends us some recipes, which which will be found most valuable.—Ed.]

### STRIKE FROM THE WINCH.

Sir,—Seeing in the report of the meeting of the Piscatorial Society in your last issue that a member considered striking from the winch a myth, I would be greatly obliged if you will allow me to say a few words.

My reason for inventing this ("Strike from the Winch") reel was to save trouble to myself and unnecessary annoyance to anglers, as I have repeatedly had reels returned to me solely to alter the action to suit different gentlemen, some liking a light check, while others prefer a strong one to prevent rebounding. Tastes are so varied with regard to the motion of a reel, that I found it necessary to adopt some method by which the motion could be regulated in a moment, by the fisherman himself, and without taking the reel to pieces.

As a practical fisherman and reel-maker I would not have incurred the expense of patenting in England and America, had I not felt assured that the action must (sooner or later) be applied to all salmon and trout reels.

I wonder it has never suggested itself to me before, while working on the lathe (the back centre of which is made to adjust the head when worn loose) that the same action would be applicable to the spindle of a reel. This is the action I have now protected, and is applied either to alarm or silent checks. I have adapted many regulations for the motion of reels to run hard or soft as desirable, but none have been so simple, durable, and the cost so small as the present one.

At the suggestion of the Editor the name "Strike from the Winch," was given it, and quite appropriately too, as a winch when properly adjusted, to suit the strength of the gut, is far safer to strike from than from the hand. The centre screw is made either as a thumbscrew or plain, as desired; but I find the small sunk screw out of the way is best, as when the winch is once adjusted to one's taste it can be locked in position and nothing can move it.—I am, &c.

Birmingham. Reuben Heaton.

[The member of the Piscatorial Society who described striking from the winch as "a myth" is perfectly entitled to hold his own opinion. At the same time we feel sure he has never given the system a fair trial. In fly-fishing for salmon, trout, and grayling in most cases—not in all—it is an infinitely better plan than striking with the line held fast. Mr. Geo. M. Kelson designed a winch for salmon anglers expressly to permit of striking from the winch; and Messrs. Farlow are selling great numbers of it. In response to our suggestion that some maker should give us a good silent graduated check winch for trout and grayling-fishing, Mr. Reuben Heaton designed the admirable winch which he describes above. You can make it as stiff as you please, or to run freely—in fact, by the aid of the two screws, you can graduate the "pull" to a nicety. In a recent fishing excursion we hit over a hundred trout off one of these winches, and many were over 1lb. weight in a very rocky stream, and on the very finest drawn gut. The stream being often overhung with trees, the flies frequently caught in them in the back cast; but as the line was not held it gave when the forward cast was attempted, and a little ran off the reel. If it had been held tight the line or rod must have been smashed now and then when an extra long cast was to be made. It is the same in striking a fish; you must strike hard when up stream fishing, because your line often bags with the stream, but by striking from the winch you cannot easily strike too hard, because the winch is graduated so as to revolve at a certain pull, just as the pull on the trigger of a rifle is graduated. We have no interest in Mr. Heaton's winch, and it is a matter of perfect indifference to us what mode of fishing other anglers prefer; but we consider it our duty to say what plan we find answer best, and the number of anglers who have thanked us for suggesting this plan proves that it is no "myth." For the soft-mouthed grayling it is specially valuable.—Ed.

### HINTS ON DYEING HACKLES FOR FLIES.

Sir,—As my offer of sending a few hints on dyeing hackles has proved acceptable, I will relate my experiences on the subject, in the hopes that I may in some way benefit my angling brethren, and render them more free from the despotic sway of the vendors of fly-making materials.

First, then, before you can dye a good colour you must have a good feather. Why a difference exists in the feathers of one cock from that of another I know not; but it does exist, and put one bunch of feathers through identically the same process as another bunch, and it does not follow that you get the same shade in each bunch. Now, what I call a good feather—or hackle, I perhaps should say—is one whose "barbs" are as free as possible from "barbules"; that, in other words, is a hackle, the fibres or strands of which have as little fluff or down along them as possible, and whose "barbs," strands, or fibres are stiff and strong. There are two sets of hackles on a cock—one at the neck, the other above the tail, generally called the saddle. The ones at the neck are infinitely inferior to those at the saddle, but for one saddle hackle seen in salmon flies I believe five hundred neck ones are to be seen. Indeed, one of your most celebrated London tackle makers told me that "their dressers would not use the saddle hackle," which puzzled me for some time, and then it struck me that they did not just quite altogether understand how to put them on. I say that the neck hackle is inferior to the saddle one, because in the neck hackle there is a greater quantity of fluff, and no brilliancy can be imparted into it; the brilliancy comes from the feather itself and not from the dye. Sparkling may perhaps convey the meaning better than brilliancy. In the saddle hackle there is hardly any fluff, and the whole hackle when wound on a fly sparkles. It is difficult to get good hackles, and I think the best come from a pile game cock, the older the better, but not under two years old, and for nearly all colours pure white or yellowish-white is the best hackle to dye from.

Now, then, we have got the hackles. Strip the all fluff part off, and tie them up into bunches of six or eight hackles in the bunch. By putting too many together the dye does not get at them all equally. Then go through the process I described for dyeing feathers a golden colour, of steeping them in about a pint of water in which a drachm of carbonate of potash has been put, and then well washing them in the same. The first and great principle in dyeing is to thoroughly clean the material to be dyed, and remove all grease from it; and though hackles can be cleaned by a long washing in soap and scalding water, pouring the scalding water on them, and as soon as cool enough, rubbing them between the hands and soap, and making a good lather. The use of the potash saves all this bother, and does less injury to the feathers. A good plan is to put the feathers into steep the night before you are going to dye them, and then a little washing of them thoroughly cleanses them. Then, as before stated, having well rinsed them in clean cold water, put them into the alum mordant, and simmer them therein for ten or fifteen minutes. There are other materials used as mordants, but if time sufficient is given when the hackles are in the alum mordant, and a gentle simmer kept up, I have never found the dyes wash out more with alum mordant than any other, and generally they do not wash out at all. A slow clear fire to stew the materials being dyed over is what is generally recommended; but what I find much more convenient is a spirit-lamp. One of those used for boiling a kettle, with two flames, one below the other, seems made for the purpose, blowing out the underneath flame when the dye bath has been brought to a boiling point, and letting the hackles just stew or simmer with the one flame at work.

I think for some of the dyes there can be no better utensil in which to boil them than a small china-lined saucepan holding three-quarters of a pint, and for others a small tin cup does quite well, so long as it is watertight; and one of these does also for the mordant. In the receipt I gave for dyeing feathers a golden colour, I said that by that process *all* shades of the golden olive could be obtained, but I should have said *nearly* all, for some like the golden olive to have a rather dull shade in it, and that is obtained by dipping the feathers into a hot solution of copperas and water, after being dyed a dark yellow or golden colour. Another shade, which is so good in coloured water, is got from a decoction of Brazil wood and water. After the feathers are dyed a good deep golden olive, just give them a dip into the hot Brazil wood decoction, and it gives them a rather red tinge; but at the same time, when the fibres become separated by being wound on the hook as a hackle, the redness is not too apparent, and it certainly gives a colour much appreciated by Salmo salar in coloured water, and so far as my experience goes, equally despised in very clear water.

I found out this shade some years ago entirely by chance. I had been stewing some hackles which would *not* come right, and I flung them into a decoction of Brazil wood which was stewing for another colour, without ever dreaming that any good could from it; and also by chance I removed them before they were long in it, and thus I obtained what had proved a very killing colour. I think I have now said enough for the golden olive colour, and to any who think it worth giving a trial to I must tell them that they can only obtain the shades they want by frequent trials and not to be discouraged by failures at first attempts. Yet one word more: when a good stew of turmeric is on it will be found very convenient to put bits of feathers useful for mixing in wings, into the decoction. Bits of all sorts come in useful; bustard, tail of golden pheasant, guinea hen, white swan, or goose, or turkey-cock's tail, golden pheasant tippets and toppings. These last are often greatly improved by a little deepening of their colour, especially if collected from young birds, and remember that each bit of feather must be treated as to washing and mordant same as the hackles. A very good colour, for trout especially, is to be got from different shades of natural red hackles, put through the turmeric dye, and natural black hackles so treated become what is called in some parts of Ireland a "sooty olive," and a beloved colour it is by trout, at some seasons.

I believe that the different shades of this so-called golden olive can best be obtained from turmeric, or if not from it alone, in combination with some of the ingredients mentioned. I am well aware that other materials have been used, but I rather think they were worked with because the amateur dyers did not know of turmeric as a dye, or of the method of steeping in the solution of carbonate of potash; nor can I find that any of the patent dyes will give the required shades of golden olive. But I do believe that every other shade of all the best colours for flies can be obtained from the patent dyes. Notably, Crawshaw's crystal dyes. For instance, take Crawshaw's "cardinal," and see what a grand colour can be obtained from it, and how many different shades, and then go through the old process used, and often used in vain, of trying to obtain similar colour and shades—compare the two and I am sure the verdict will at once be in favour of the crystal dye. The old process I refer to was to stew the hackles in a decoction of madder for the lighter shades, and for darker or clarets, in a decoction of madder and Brazil wood, in about equal quantities, and sometimes the colour and shade required was obtained and sometimes it was not. But with a little attention to the time the hackles are left in Crawshaw's dyes an almost certain result follows.

Should any of your readers wish for any further hints on this subject, I shall be always happy to afford them any information in my power.—I am, &c.,

EASTERN.

## FISHING AT FOLKESTONE.

SIR,—I should be obliged if you, or any reader of the FISHING GAZETTE, could kindly give me any information about the fishing salt or fresh water, at or near Folkestone. I have looked up the "Angler's Diary," but the nearest fishing mentioned seems to be at Dover and Hythe. I should be glad to know whether there are any small streams or ponds nearer Folkestone.—I am, &c., J.

8, David-street, Baker-street, W., August 15.

## COARSE FISHING WANTED IN N. WALES.

SIR,—I am thinking of spending two or three weeks at Llandudno, and will esteem it a favour if you will kindly let me know as to the *bottom* fishing in the neighbourhood. I like perch and pike fishing best. If no bottom fishing is to be had near or at Llandudno, kindly tell me if I can find pike or perch fishing (good) near Barmouth, Betws-y-coed, or in any of the lakes between Llandudno and Holyhead. Any information on the subject will oblige.—I am, &c., T. E. NALTY.

[We fear our correspondent will not get much fishing near Llandudno, and think, considering what he wants, he could not do better than visit Bala lake (Merioneth), which is said to contain great numbers of pike, perch, roach, gwyniad, &c.—ED.]

## SORREL COLOUR.

SIR,—I would feel obliged if you will kindly describe the exact colour of the *sorrel* lines mentioned by you in the FISHING GAZETTE of 2nd inst.—I am, &c.,

Richmond. J. S.

[Sorrel is a yellowish-red or brown colour. The majority of brown or dark-coloured horses have black manes and tails, and a sorrel-coloured tail of fine, long hair is very difficult to get.—ED.]

## A VERY FINE ROACH.

SIR,—I send you up a roach of, I believe, unusual weight; it was caught yesterday by my boy, while spinning for jack, at Mottisfont, and took a *4in. artificial dace.* I don't know that I ever heard of one being taken spinning. Major Carlisle was present when the fish was caught, and weighed it immediately after it came out of the water; it was then exactly 2lb. 4oz.; he said it was worth stuffing. Perhaps you may know of someone who would like it.—I am, &c., W. G. TURLE.

Stockbridge.

[We are much obliged to Major Turle, the fish is such a splendid specimen we have sent it to be set up as a specimen fish, captured in an extraordinary manner. —ED.]

## THE GREAT YARMOUTH PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

SIR,—It is truly unfortunate to the gentlemen who meet every week at this society's club house not to be able yet to show the public, and especially the London supporters and societies in the recent law case (of Heigham Sounds), the reason why the case (to quote the words of your journal) so suddenly collapsed, and then not to show in what way the subscriptions had been expended.

The reason will, no doubt, soon be given by those whose duty (and public duty) it is to give them. All that can be said at the present time is, we have only just received Messrs. Harmer and Ruddock's bill (the solicitors in the case), and that our late president and treasurer resigned on July 1st, and asked that another treasurer be appointed to receive all moneys, &c., the property of the society, and that the accounts be audited by a competent auditor, from the commencement of the society.

The society at once appointed a competent auditor by electing Mr. Lovewell Blake, which request was confirmed at a finance meeting and general meeting of the society. The secretary's books were at once delivered to Mr. Lovewell Blake, but up to the present time the late treasurer, Dr. Mitchell, has not done so, and until all documents, moneys, &c., are delivered up to the gentleman appointed, no audit can be made or accounts paid that are now due. C. K. LAMB, Chairman.

JAMES LARK, Secretary.

## THE ROACH FISHING CHALLENGE.

SIR,—I am directed to inform Mr. A. Fish, in answer to his challenge to fish anyone for roach for £10 a-side, that a member of the Hoxton Brothers Angling Society will be selected to fish a match with him for £10, or as much larger amount as he may feel disposed to name. Arrangements can be made by his attendance at the Cherry Tree, Kingsland-road, on Thursday evening, August 28th, between 9 and 10 o'clock. R. GHURNEY, secretary.

## FISHING IN THE WITHAM AT DOGDYKE.

SIR,—On Monday, 18th inst., Mr. Wing, of Bay Horse Inn, Pittsmoor, Sheffield, had his annual club match fished here, when thirty-nine entered, and all caught fish with the exception of two.

Fishing commenced at one o'clock and lasted until four o'clock. As soon as time was called the weighing in commenced, when it was found that Mr. H. Draper took the first prize with 24½oz.; second, Mr. C. Taylor, 16¾oz.; third, Mr. G. Ward, 16½oz.; fourth, Mr. A. Taylor, 16¼oz.; fifth, Mr. T. Wing, 16oz. We consider the weights rather small for here, which, doubtless, was owing in some measure to the unfavourable time they fished, and the sun being very powerful and gleamy all the time.

One gentleman caught one tench 2lb. in weight, and one jack, 1½lb., and we have also heard of several good perch and roach being taken, from 10oz. to 15oz. each.—I am, &c., PACKET HOTEL, DOGDYKE.

## THE LAST CAST.

I.

The evening was serene and cool,
The landscape lovely as a dream;
I stood beside a trouty pool
In Bovey's blithesome swirling stream.
The dreaded end had come at last,
When I should make my *final cast!*

II.

The windings of that winsome brook
I'd followed through the summer day;
Each tempting turn—each fairy nook—
*Now* many weary leagues away,
Are photographed upon my brain:
I *wish*, and wander there again!

III.

The dreary moor towards the west,
Steep fields upon the other side.
Down stream the vision I love best—
The Lustleigh Cleave in all its barren pride!
And in the foreground wood and wold,
Starred with rich pink, and blue, and gold!

IV.

The grizzled Palmer's light descent
Upon the brooklet's dimpled brim,
Beneath the bushes deftly sent,
Where lurk the shadows deep and dim:
The sudden splash—the bending rod—
The crimson stain upon the sod!

V.

The wealth of bloom beneath my feet,
The rapture of wild woodland song;
The streamlet's tinkle, low and sweet,
As daintily it slid along!
The trusty creel's increasing weight—
The sun going down in regal state.

VI.

And there, beside the pool, at last,
The breath of evening in the gale,
I sadly make my *last* light cast
In that romantic Devon dale!
A fruitless one! With moistened eye
I bid the Bovey brook good-bye!

Eastbourne, Aug., 1884. F. B. DOVETON.

As Mr. H. Barker, of Long Horsley, Northumberland, was fishing with worm in a tributary of the river Font, on Saturday last, he caught a water hen, which had swallowed the hook greedily. He had just caught a trout in the same pool. The bird had evidently been sitting under the bank, and had made a rush at the worm as it was thrown into the water the second time.

SALMON & TROUT-FISHING.

**CHAS. FARLOW & Co.,**

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MANUFACTURERS OF FIRST-CLASS RODS AND TACKLE,
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**Improved Folding Trout Landing Nets**
(Very Light).

**New Patent Lever Salmon Winch**
(Can be regulated to any stiffness at will).

**Brown's Phantom Minnows.**

CATALOGUES GRATIS. PRIZE MEDALS. IMPORTERS OF SILKWORM GUT.

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"It's Simply Perfection." Such is the unanimous report of all who have used the new line for both fly and mid-water fishing.

All the advantages of the original Acme are present in the improved and perfected make, together with well-nigh everlasting durability.

INCREASED CASTING FACILITIES; FREEDOM FROM IRRITATING ENTANGLEMENTS; and GENERAL ENHANCED COMFORT OF FISHING.

Are these things to be lightly passed by? Every follower of the art deemed Gentle will admit the value of such attainments.

"As a Casting Medium the Acme Lines are unsurpassed."—Vide the entire British Sporting Press.

Emil Weeger, in a leader on the Acme Line, appearing in the Austrian Sporting Times, says:—"I find the Acme more valuable than all others."

Samples of the Improved Metal Centred Line may be tested prior to purchasing.

Lengths returned within twelve months from date of purchase, as not meriting entire satisfaction will be exchanged for cash originally paid for them.

This unprecedented condition of purchase is proof of the confidence of the proprietors, whose habitual patrons have largely used the new improved Line this and last season.

See the Line and test it. Samples, Post Free, to all Applicants.

**D. and W. H. FOSTER,**
SOLE MANUFACTURERS AND INVENTORS,
**ASHBOURNE.**

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THE HOME DINNER DAILY at 5.30 till 8 p.m.
Consisting of Soup, Fish, Joint, Vegetables, Bread and Cheese, *ad lib.*

**2s. 6d.**

GRILL ROOM for Suppers open till Midnight.
SPIERS and POND, Limited.

"Art, empire, earth itself, *to change* are doomed."—The Hermit.

## EXCHANGE.

### Things Wanted—to BUY, to SELL, or to EXCHANGE.

:o:

N.B.—We take no responsibility whatever in connection with advertisements inserted in this or other parts of this paper; but beg our readers to expose any case of imposition. The prices for inserting advertisements in this "EXCHANGE" Column are 6d. per line for one, or 4d. per line for more than one insertion.—Address, Manager, Fishing Gazette, 12 and 13, Fetter Lane, London, and send stamps with the order, or the advertisement cannot be inserted.

WANTED.—Particulars and Prices of Second-hand Books on Angling and Fish Culture. Must be in good condition.—Address Editor, Fishing Gazette, 12 and 13, Fetter-lane, London, E.C.

### THE PIKE.

By lakelet margin, where sluggish flow
The lazy currents and tall reeds grow,
Where green in the placid waters breast
The broad-leav'd water lilies rest,
There lies in ambush, greedy and grim,
The pike, the tyrant of all that swim.
He seizes the roach, the trout, the bream,
The helpless tenants of the stream,
As the tiger lurks in darksome wood
To spring on the timid deer—his food,
But the angler comes with skilful throw,
To cast his minnow to the foe,
And soon the cruel marauder lies
On the grass, fierce-struggling as he dies.

Greenport, L. I. June 30th, 1884. Isaac McLellan.

Schweppe's
These Waters are supplied
To the Queen.
Table Waters

## SPECIAL NOTICE.

### THE HOLIDAY & TOURIST NUMBER
OF THE
### "FISHING GAZETTE"
WILL BE PUBLISHED ON SEPTEMBER 6th.

It will contain, among other Illustrated Articles, a
FULL-PAGE, FULL LENGTH
*Portrait of Mr. Francis Francis,*
Late Fishing Editor of the *Field*, with a Biographical Notice.

### TO ADVERTISERS.

As an Advertisement of the Gazette, and in the hope of getting many new subscribers, we intend to send this September number to

**OVER TWO THOUSAND GENTLEMEN**

Interested in Angling, whose names we have been fortunate enough to obtain. No extra charge for advertisements will be made.

ADDRESS:—
**MANAGER, "FISHING GAZETTE," 188, FLEET-ST., LONDON, E.C.**

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## RIVER REPORTS.

### TIME OF HIGH WATER IN THE THAMES.

To find the time of high water in the Thames at any of the following places, to the time of high water at London Bridge (given below).

Add
30 minutes for Chelsea.
40 " Putney.
45 " Hammersmith.
50 " Barnes.
55 " Kew.
75 " Richmond.
80 " Twickenham.
85 " Teddington.

Example:—If it is high water at 2 o'clock at London Bridge, it will be high water at Teddington about 3.25, or eighty-five minutes later; but it must be remembered that a strong wind accelerates or retards the tide very much.

For Times of High Water at London Bridge.

| | | | Morning. | Afternoon. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Saturday, | August | 23 | 3.16 | 3.36 |
| Sunday, | " | 24 | 3.53 | 4.13 |
| Monday, | " | 25 | 4.32 | 4.48 |
| Tuesday, | " | 26 | 5.5 | 5.22 |
| Wednesday, | " | 27 | 5.39 | 5.59 |
| Thursday, | " | 28 | 6.18 | 6.40 |
| Friday, | " | 29 | 7.3 | 7.30 |

Note.—High tide August 23.

### THE LOWER THAMES.

General Remarks.

Many of the Thames anglers are now on their holidays, and are doing some good business on the broads and rivers of Norfolk and Suffolk, which are now so easily approached by the facilities offered by the Great Eastern Railway Company. A member of the committee of the T.A.P.S. thus writes from Lowestoft:—"My brother-in-law and I caught in two days 120lb. weight of roach and a few bream ; between thirty and forty of the roach scaled over 1lb. each, the largest 1¾lb., and the bream from 2lb. to 3½lb. each. During the time we have been here we have caught as many fish as we could possibly wish." And now for old Father Thames. There is still the same cry of the low and bright state of the water, but it does not at all deter the anglers from frequenting it and getting some good average sport. The practice of using fixed lines both by night and by day is a growing evil on the Thames, and the T.A.P.S. has wisely put into circulation a small handbill cautioning the anglers against using them, and pointing out the penalties they are liable to in doing so. After the numerous convictions that have been made, it will be desirable to enforce the penalties.

**Richmond.**—Christopher Brown, during the week, has taken sixteen barbel and 54lb. of dace. F. Brown, in three days, 38lb. of roach and dace, and three barbel. Henry Wheeler, in two days, 22lb. and one barbel. H. Mansell has been out five days, one day with Mr. Newens, when he got 30lb. of roach and dace, and in the other days nine barbel and 40lb. of roach and dace. This shows the variation in sport, that all days are not good days. Henry Howard, in one day, with Mr. Whitmore, twenty-two dozen of roach and dace, and five barbel ; another day, with Mr. Bambridge, twelve dozen ; and in four other days, sixty dozen and four barbel. Mr. Marchant, in a boat by himself, five barbel and nine dozen of roach and dace. Job Brain, during the week, 120lb. weight of roach and dace, and sixteen barbel.

**Twickenham.**—William Spong, in five days, forty dozen of dace and one barbel. John Spong, one day with Mr. Keys, 26lb. of roach and dace ; another day, with Mr. Godfrey and Mr. White, eight dozen ; another day, with Mr. Smith, ten dozen ; and in two other days, fourteen dozen and one barbel. Joseph Dobbin, during the week, fifty-nine dozen and a half dozen barbel. Samuel Cole, in six days, fifty-four dozen and seven barbel. James Coxen, in three days, twenty-five dozen and three barbel. George Coxen, in one day, with Mr. Allen Davis, four dozen of dace and a barbel weighing 8lb. and measuring 29in., which has been sent for preservation ; and in three other days seventeen dozen and three barbel. Pert Hammerton, in four days, sixty-two dozen of roach and dace and seven barbel. Edward Finch, during the week, nine barbel and 80lb. of roach and dace. Henry Spiers has done well this week, his best day being 18lb. of roach, the fish averaging 1lb. each. A barbel was picked up on Monday evening last weighing 10½lb. and measuring 33in., in good condition and alive, on the flats. Mr. Walker, the piscatorial proprietor of the Two Sawyers, has presented it to a gentleman for preservation.

**Teddington.**—Joseph Baldwin, in one day, with Mr. Smith, twelve dozen of dace, and in four other days twenty-four dozen. Charles Baldwin, in three days, thirteen dozen and a couple of barbel ; and B. Stevens, in four days, twelve dozen of dace, twelve barbel, and four chub. The above returns, including Twickenham and Richmond, will show how fully the fishermen have been employed.

**Kingston.**—John Johnson, sen., in four days, thirty dozen of roach and dace, three barbel, three bream, two chub, and five perch. John Johnson, jun., in the same time, twenty-two dozen of roach and dace, nine barbel, three chub, and a jack of 6lb. F. Eastland, in a similar time, forty-three dozen of roach and dace. Luke Francis, in one day, three dozen. The bank fishers here and at Surbiton have been catching a splendid lot of bream, barbel, perch, and chub.

**Hampton Court.**—Thomas Wheeler, in four days, sixteen barbel (the largest 3lb.) and twelve dozen of roach and dace. Thomas Milbourne, in the same time, five barbel, twelve dozen of roach and dace and two brace of perch. W. Milbourne, in two days, seven barbel (the largest 4lb.) and twelve dozen of roach and dace ; and Charles Davis, in one day, six barbel (the largest 3½lb.), and three dozen of roach and dace. "Tagg's Island Fishery" has been well patronised, and good baskets of roach and dace have been made.

**Hampton.**—J. Langshaw, in one day, six dozen of gudgeon, three dozen of roach, and three brace of perch.

**Sunbury.**—Edward Clarke, jun., in one day three dozen of roach and dace, and a couple of bream. H. Clarke, jun., four dozen and seven bream ; and Edward Clarke, sen., in three days, eighteen brace of chub, the largest fish 3lb., and one dozen of dace.

**Walton.**—George Hone, during the week, four barbel, twelve bream, and fourteen dozen of roach and dace. John Hone, twenty-four bream and sixteen dozen of roach and dace. R. Watford has been making some good shows of roach and bream.

**Halliford.**—F. Smedwick, during the week, eighteen dozen of roach and dace and a quantity of good gudgeon. W. S. Rosewell, in three days, a jack of 3lb., four bream, and thirteen dozen of fine roach and dace.

**Shepperton.**—Mr. Purdue, in one day, four dozen of roach and dace and eight dozen of gudgeon ; and another day, three dozen of roach, five perch, and eighteen dozen of gudgeon. F. Purdue, in three days, seven dozen of roach and dace, three perch over 2lb., and seventeen dozen of gudgeon. David Hackett, in two days, eight dozen of roach and dace, and ten dozen of gudgeon. F. Poulter, in five days, thirty dozen of gudgeon and ten dozen of roach and dace.

**Weybridge.**—H. Cun, one day, seven dozen of roach and dace ; another day, with Mr. Forster, eleven dozen ; and another day, with Mr. Burrows, eight barbel and four chub.

**Chertsey.**—The following report from J. Poulter arrived too late for publication :—"One day, 25lb. of barbel ; another day, with Mr. Lea, 62½lb of barbel and two eels ; another day, seven bream, four chub, and four dozen of gudgeon ; another day, with Mr. L. Buckland, 20lb. of barbel and bream and one chub ; another day, one bream, one chub, and two fine dace ; and another day, 25lb. of bream, one chub, one perch, two dace, and one eel—all on the 'leger.' "—During this week, J. Poulter has taken, in one day, two bream, three brace of perch, and some fine dace ; another day, one brace of perch and three dozen of gudgeon ; and another day, with Mr. G. H. Thurston, seven bream, the largest 4½lb., one brace of perch, and one chub.

**Staines.**—John Keene, sen., in one day, five barbel, the largest 7lb. John Keene, jun., fifteen dozen of roach and dace. G. Osman, three jack and eight dozen of roach and dace ; and Mr. Mason and Mr. Pouch, with Charles Hone, twenty-eight barbel, the largest 7lb., and two chub.

## UPPER THAMES.

The same old tale : the river is very bright and low in all directions, with a nasty scum and decomposing weeds and *débris* in all likely fishing nooks and corners. The weir pools are the most desirable places just now, not only for angling, but to obtain a breath of non-odorous air, which in the channel of the river is almost impossible, for the olfactories there only get undesirable whiffs of decaying weeds, with a dash of mudbanks and stale vegetables. I visited Marlow, Temple, Cookham, Cliveden, Maidenhead, and Bray on Friday last, and in the whole 12 miles' journey I did not see a single punt or bank angler out, and this in the height of the river season, when I am sure in years gone by I should have seen a dozen punts in every reach between lock and lock, with regiments of anglers on the banks. How is this, sir? Certainly, the weather is very scorching and the river very unfishable ; but surely one or two might venture out, so as to give one the opportunity of saying something, even if it was only to report their temerity. At Maidenhead, a few barbel and perch have been had from the scours, and at Temple three barbel have succumbed, but a trout of 12lb. "declined with thanks" to follow suit. At Medmenham the gudgeons have been fairly on ; but well-known swims are not so easy to fish, because weeds seem so on the increase where weeds never were before. Thursday evening.—Weather very fine and hot ; not the slightest indication of much-needed rain. Fishing will be poor until we have some "heavy wet."—Marlow Buzz, August 21.

### Thames (Datchet).

The water still keeps low, and no signs of a change. Been catching ten to twelve dozen dace and gudgeon a day, and a good few chub ; largest, 3½lb.. J. Hoare has had a few takes of dace and roach on the 11th. A bank angler had five good chub ; and yesterday I saw one going home with a jack close on 7lb. Myself and patrons have been obliged to feast our eyes, and that's all, on a brace of jack from 10lb. to 14lb. each. They won't look at the bait. C. Clarke, to-day, in the Fleet, three dozen roach, all good fish. Before I conclude, I must tell my readers of a curious phenomenon respecting the barbel. I think it is at variance with any previous notion. They actually lie between the weeds, and allow themselves to be picked up. Always thought that was the result of frost.—G. Lumsden.

[Received too late for last week.—Ed.]

Water still low. Been out every day ; nothing but dace and gudgeon biting, and well too. My partners have taken over 50 dozen dace during the week, and 14 or 15 dozen gudgeon, 3 barbel, and some chub. On the 17th, H. Hoare, 6 dozen dace, and to-day four dozen. No other punt has been out in the neighbourhood.

### Dockett Point.

Fishing with Mr. J. L. Meyers last week, several bream, roach, da[illegible], and perch. Monday, J. Haslett, jun., with Mr. J. L. Meyers, two jack, four barbel, one chub. Myself, with Dr. Brunton, two barbel, two perch. Next day, with Mr. J. L. Meyers, two perch and two chub.—James Haslett.

### Thames (Goring).

Water very low and clear. Nothing doing much, gudgeons biting very well. Have been taking a few good perch ; best day ten dozen of gudgeons and one dozen of perch, and two good chub.—John Rush.

### Thames (Oxford).

Very little has been done during the past week, and I am afraid unless we soon have a favourable change, accompanied by a fresh, there will be a legend in circulation to the effect that the Thames once ran in former years through the deep rift intersecting the country to the north and south-east of the City ; but it has not been seen there, since it rapidly disappeared in the hot summer of 1884. Every day the river assumes slenderer proportions, and has already become reduced to within a third of the space it usually covers, and without a few showers there will be a serious mortality amongst the fish, which will assist to intensify the fœtid stench from the rotting weeds which arises with the fall of the river fog. In the Upper Cherwell, as far as the sluice gates at the end of the New Walk, there is a full head of water ; but from that point to the confluence of the three lower arms with the Isis, in Christchurch meadow, it is possible to walk across from bank to bank, for the greater part of its course, a feat which has not been accomplished within the memory of several of the oldest inhabitants. A friend of mine, writing from Lechlade, says that they are taking from 8lb. to 10lb. of roach on an average, to each rod per day ; but the sweltering heat of the weather and the attentions they receive from the wasps almost counteracts the pleasure of fishing. On Thursday, Messrs. Brace, Sessions, and Hall had 56lb. of roach, tench, and chub from Sir Harry Vernon's private water ; but owing to Mr. Bruce's absence from home, I am unfortunately unable to give further particulars. I am told by a conservancy man, that on Wednesday, Mr. Wing from the Bridge hole at Terrey Hinksey, had a large roach weighing 2lb. 8oz.. and that a larger one was taken the previous day at Skinner's Weir by Mr. Jones ; but from previous experience I am inclined to think that they were chub instead of roach. Yesterday, Dr. Stainer's sons, landed four chub, going 2½lb., 1¾lb., 1½lb., 1½lb., and ¾lb. from Alderman Randall's private pond at Grandpoint. The angling society hold their second competition of the present season at Wolvercott to-day.—Cherwell Otter.

### Thames (Shepperton).

One day's fishing 20th August : 9 dozen of gudgeon, 4 dozen of very fine dace, 3 perch 1½lb. Water very low and clear.—J. Purdue.

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### Ancholme District.

Thursday last was a red-letter day in my fishing experience. I had arranged to take my family, making, with two juvenile Cockney visitors, fifteen souls, for a day's outing to Croxby Lake. Of course, so large a party required the largest waggonette in the town. Drawn by a couple of bays, we started about 11 o'clock, and resolved to make a detour, and visit *en passant* a nice little pond of about half an acre, in which during February of last year, I had placed a mixed lot of about three thousand fry of common trout. Loch Levens, and Americans. Sundry reports had reached me from time to time that the pond was alive with fish, and as they are now eighteen months, I felt anxious to see how they were getting on. In due course we arrived at this pretty little place, which, for obvious reasons, must at present be nameless. I rigged up a collar of three flies, and the first throw was fast in a nice Fontinalis. Having landed this, I threw again, hooked and landed two at once. I then lost two collars in succession by the fish getting into the weeds, so I adjusted a somewhat stouter one, and with one fly only, after which I had no further mishaps. All this time my sons and daughters were catching fish merrily, and at the end of one hour and a half we had 39 fish, which on weighing when we got home, reached the total of 13lb.—i.e., just three to the pound. Most of them were Americans, and had nicely grown, the largest being just a foot long. The Fario and Loch Leven fish were much smaller, and we only kept a few of these by way of sample. The Fontinalis showed most excellent sport, but on cooking we found them inferior to common trout, particularly the males. The females were much more toothsome. The fish took any fly well, but we stuck mainly to a medium-sized march brown. Having finished at the little pond we drove on to Croxby, and after lunch on the verdant sward at the foot of the lake, and beneath the shady trees, we commenced to operate upon the perch. As our sport was so good in the morning, we were rather careless of results in the afternoon, but we managed to secure an additional 22 fish, which weighed a total of 9lb., making a grand total for the day of 22lb. of eatable fish. Six families shared in the fry which followed. At the time of writing this no Ancholme notes have come to hand.—Thomas Ford, Caistor, 19th August.

The Ancholme has again been visited by anglers, and some fair sport was had by the experienced ones. Among the takes by visitors, 20lb. of roach, dace, and perch, by E. Rhodes, and 17lb. of roach, perch, and bream by S. Stokes, near Brigg. At Appleby I heard of a good lot of roach and dace taken by an angler named Lingard. The water, though low, is not in bad condition.—X.

### The Bure (Norfolk).

I visited Wroxham last night, and am pleased to say the reports, both at Whittaker's and Simpson's, were excellent. On Saturday last, 9½ stone of bream were caught by two anglers, and Whittaker informs me this is not the only instance, but that several equal catches have been had lately. The anglers I met still continue to complain of the vast number of small fish hereabouts, and vote them a nuisance. From Horning Ferry news of good catches of bream flat has reached me. In a match held there the other day, several of the leading boats had over three stone each, while in individual cases, very much heavier catches have been had. Host Rose (Acle Bridge) has been very busy with anglers, and only moderate success has attended their efforts, as the bream seem to have gone clean off feed. At every station on this river they are as busy as possible, and on the whole sport may be said to be good ; prospects never better.—Robert Moll.

### Dove.

The river maintains its clearness, and the water is running extremely low. We have had some trifling rain during this week, but it has not materially altered the height or colour of the water. Before there is any improvement in sport it will certainly be necessary that a rise shall come on. More grayling have been killed this week than trout, and I suspect this is because the latter are beginning to have ideas of maternity—that is to say, going into spawn. On the contrary, grayling are just now getting into the ripest and gamest order, and a ten or twelve ounce fish when hooked, shows great liveliness in the water. The same lures as last week have been killing this. Twilight angling has proved more successful than fishing in the middle of the day, for the sun has been pouring down with quite as much power as during the previous week, and angling has consequently not been that unalloyed pleasure which could be desired. The bottom fishers have done best with the wasp grub, but the same influences affect angling on the bottom as on the surface, and we must have a thorough good soaking downfall before matters improve to any extent.—The Splodger.

### Eynsham.

The river here is still low and of good colour. Barbel are well on the feed. Mr. Pitts, on the 17th inst., took two, each 4lb. and 6lb., with several other nice fish. Mr. Emery has also been very successful, having caught, amongst other fish, in the last three days, one barbel each weighing 4lb. 4¼oz., 6lb., and 7lb. The perch are also moving well. I had a good take in the Evenlode on Tuesday with lob worm, some weighing 1½lb., I also caught a few roach and some good dace, all with lob worms. Mr Geen and several friends are down here to-day, but shall not be able to give you result of their sport this week, as they will not be back here in time for me to post to you.—H. B. Howe.

### Fens (Boston).

A lot of anglers came down to Boston this week. On Saturday and to Monday every swim of any account was inconveniently crowded. Most of those near the town came for the eternal fishing match. The great majority of these people caught nothing, but experts really did well. Some nice rudd were caught at Marston Bridge, along with roach and perch, one angler named Turner showing a specimen 1lb. 4oz. On the Cowbridge Drain some of the anglers did well, and among them I may mention Mr. Shaw, who got 22lb. of roach and perch. The drains are very low, and want rain badly.—T. B.

### Ilfracombe.

Sea Fishing.—During the week good catches have been numerous, and day after day the coast has been dotted with parties eagerly taking advantage of the fine weather, and the fish being well on the bite, to pursue their favourite pastime. Thursday, F. S. Redmore's party, fishing off Pebble Cove, caught 28lb. of bream, Friday, 30lb., and Saturday, 20lb., and one fine mackerel; others had equally good catches. On the 17th, a party of gentlemen were out for three hours off the Seven Hills, and caught 40lb. of bream, whiting pout, and whiting. Monday, some very large bream taken from 5 to 7lb. each. Tuesday, fine catches of bream, with a few codlin and whiting pout. Wednesday, W. Redmore's party, fishing off the Torrs, in three hours caught 40lb. of bream and a large craw-fish. J. Bushen's party, fishing off the harbour, 15lb. of whiting pout. E. German, fishing from the rocks at Shallow Path, caught a fine bass 6½lb. weight. I see some gentlemen just going past my window with large strings of fish, the bream especially being very fine. Bream this year are in prime condition, and bite very freely. Anyone fond of this particular branch of fishing would meet with good sport by paying us a visit just now. The weather continues fine, prospects good, with light winds from the S.W. —E. Comer.

### Itchen (Winchester).

Very little been doing during last week. The fish have been taking the sedge flies moderately in the waters above Winchester. The red quill still *de rigueur*, however, for day fishing. The water is low but in fair condition, and fishing during the next few days ought to be good after the thunder shower of Tuesday, and the extra water it brought down.—Red Quill.

### Lea (Tottenham).

Water continues low and bright, and the fish keep pretty much on the surface. Anyone who can use the fly rod will have no difficulty in getting a dish of fish. Messrs. Bennett, sen. and jun., were down on Monday and Wednesday. Their take on Monday consisted of 7 dozen roach, dace, and chub, and on Wednesday 4 dozen and two. On Thursday, Mr. Bennett, jun., took 3 dozen fine roach with the "Welshman's Button." On Tuesday, Messrs. Beresford and Wheeler took some good roach bottom fishing. One or two of the knowing ones have been getting the perch from under the bridge early in the morning, baiting with worms.—Hackles Red.

### Leicester.

Angling operations in this neighbourhood have been rather quiet during the past week. This may be partly attributed to the clearness of the waters and the intense heat that has prevailed for some days, and undoubtedly from these causes the fish have bitten anything but freely. Roach and dace fishing have afforded the greater part of the sport, but not in any instance was there a large bag made, at least, that I could hear any mention of. The chub have been rising fairly well towards evening; but here also sport has been but moderate, 1lb. to 1½lb. fish being the rule. A carp was caught from the Leicester waters weighing 3½lb.. This is the first that has been taken from the Leicester Angling Society preserves, out of a lot of about two hundred placed in the waters about four years since. From the out of town angling resorts reports state that the fish have been biting very shyly. A good flush is still greatly needed at several places in this locality. The Leicester British Workmen's annual angling contests came off a few days since, the three first prizes falling to Messrs. Barsby, Green, and H. Wells. The weather of Thursday was very fine and bright, but still very hot.—Alert.

### Lugg and Arrow (Leominster).

There is no alteration in these streams, both still remaining clear and very low, but in splendid angling order, especially in the evening part. The fish are sporting well at the fly, and good baskets have been taken. Several lots of good trout and grayling have been landed with the wasp grub. A gentleman visiting this part tried the Arrow with the fly on Friday evening, and landed a very good dish of trout. Some very good fish were taken from the water near Eardisland with the wasp grub. In the Lugg the fish were sporting freely at the fly; a gentleman fishing near Kingsland landed a good basket of trout and grayling with the coachman and silver-twisted blue. Near to Aymestry some very good fish were landed with the wasp grub the same evening. On Saturday, a gentleman tried the Arrow at Ivington with the white-winged coachman, and landed a splendid dish of fine trout, averaging 10oz. each. The Lugg, near to Ford's Bridge, was tried the same day with the wasp grub, and a very nice lot of fine trout was landed. With the fly the same day a gentleman took some vory good grayling in fine condition. Fishing in the Lugg on Monday with the coachman, a gentleman landed twelve very good fish, averaging ¾lb. each. In the Arrow the fish were sporting freely. A gentleman with the fly took a very good dish of fine grayling. Some very good trout was landed with the red ant near Monkland, in the Arrow on Tuesday. Some very good fish were taken in the Lugg, near Bodenham, with the fly. A few very nice trout were taken with the wasp grub. The Pinsley is in capital order for fishing, but very low; the fish are sporting well. Some very fine trout were taken on Tuesday, with the coachman.—Gwynne.

### Medway (Tunbridge).

Water in good condition, though a shower would improve the fishing. During the week bream, roach, &c., have been taken in good quantites in well-baited swims. —Ye Medway Water Rat.

### Moy and Loch Conn (Ballina).

Since my last report very little has been done by anglers on river or lough. The river has risen a few feet the last few days, and anglers are anticipating good sport when the water clears, so that a salmon can see a fly, which will be in a day or two. The net fishing is now all over on the river, and the weir is open, so that salmon and sea trout can run when and where they please.—Frank Hearns, Ballina, Co. Mayo.

### Ouse (Huntingdon).

The recent rains have made an improvement in the condition of the water. Some fine takes of bream have been made the last few days. I have not been out fishing, but I have seen great numbers that have been caught by my friends and neighbours. The weather is as favourable as can be desired, and there is every prospect of a great many takes. Lob-worms are the principal bait for bream, and wheat for roach.—H. Rout.

### Severn (Shrewsbury).

This river still keeps exceedingly low, and very little sport has been obtained except by one or two gentlemen who know where the chub and roach lie. I have taken several of the former with a fly tipped with a gentle, the largest weighing 1¾lb. The roach continues to take the fly fairly well, a gentleman fishing every morning below the Cherry Orchard Ferry never leaving without a few good fish. I have not heard of any trout being taken of late, although there must be plenty of good fish in the water. A good flush is badly wanted to take away the sewage, which has accumulated on the gravel on all the fords near the town, and from which such bad smells arise that it is very unpleasant, if not dangerous, to fish there.—Sandfly, August 21.

### Severn and Teme (Worcester).

These rivers are very low and fine, and in good order for the fly fisher. The grayling are upon the fords, and in good condition for the time of year; but give me the October grayling. Those I saw last week were about three to the pound, and plump fish. It is now about the opening season for grayling fishing, and few of our local anglers have given them a turn without an amount of satisfaction. Mr. Preece, nine brace. A. V. Hollands, opening day, proved somewhat satisfactory, three and a half brace, beside a brace of trout, and a few dace and chub; myself landing, after breaking my rod and repairing it on the banks of the Teme, three brace. I missed some good fish, as it made my rod stiff. Mr. Gwillham, one and a half brace. The takes of roach, dace, and chub are many. The flies for the grayling are, in my opinion, not easy to name, as the flies upon the streams are so numerous, but I will give these to choose from:—Sky blue, red ant, iron blue, willow, whirling dun, and pale blue for evening.—John A. Griffin.

### South Level Cut (Littleport).

These cursed weeds are a nuisance, so much so that even the roach are getting tired of them, and come at our bait, when there is a chance, like demons. But the river is so covered with the weeds that even one of the veteran Lea anglers would find it a difficult matter to drop in between them now. The following represents about one-third of what ought to have been done:—Aug. 16th, Messrs. W. and E. Fetch, Cambridge, 7½lb. roach; Mr. Hailstone, Anglesey Abbey, Bottisham, a very nice take of perch; Messrs. J. and J. Cutlack, Ely, with two friends, about 17lb. roach, out of which I may credit J. Cutlack, jun., with 7lb. Aug. 18th, Messrs. W. and E. Fetch, Cambridge, 10lb. nice roach. During morning, Mr. H. H. Heading, Ely, 8½lb. nice roach; Mr. A. White, Newmarket, 3½lb.; and Mr. H. B. Flack, Cambridge, 3½lb. roach. August 19th, Mr. J. Gallon, Newmarket, 5lb. good roach in about 3½ hours; Mr. H. B. Flack, Cambridge, 13½lb. very good roach. Keeper Benton informs us that Mr. F. Piggott and Son, Ely, have had three very good takes of perch, from 70 to 90 fish each take. This is very pleasant news, for, as I have said before, five years ago there was hardly a perch to be taken.—Charlie South.

### Teme (Ludlow).

The waters are now getting low and somewhat foul, and a week's rain would do no harm. Many sportsmen have left the streams to look after the grouse, and the Church Stretton range of hills has afforded some good sport for the time being. All the tributaries of the Teme are bright, and the waters get lower day by day, and anglers bottom fishing say the wasp this week has not been so killing until dusk. We saw some very nice trout and grayling, which were landed up the Downton district of the Teme on Saturday night. Some of the fish were caught with the wasp grub and some with the white-winged coachman late in the evening. Some good fish have been landed down the Steventon waters by a gentleman visiting Ludlow, whose time is divided between sketching and the "gentle art." A visit to Ashford on Monday evening resulted in a capture of six roach, four perch, three trout, and a brace of grayling. All these 15 fish were caught with the coachman, pale blue, and gentles, the fish taking one bait for a short time only, and then on to another. Fishing up the Corve, near Culmington, a gentleman, on Tuesday evening, caught, with the silver-twisted blue, four brace of capital grayling in first-rate condition, which turned the scale at 7½lb. The grayling will rise at this fly during the latter part of August, when all others fail. The same gentleman tried the green insect, and caught three nice trout the same evening. Visiting the Ony, we found it very low this week from Bromfield to Wooton. Half a mile or so above the railway station a few good fish have been landed of an evening with the fly. Though the temperature has fallen, the thermomeler registered 101deg. in the sun at 12 o'clock on Sunday.—S. Ludlow.

### Teme (Tenbury).

There is but little difference in the state of this stream and all its tributaries: they are all still remaining very low and clear, but in very good fishing order. The trout are now rising well at the green insect, whirling blue, and red ant. For grayling the best fly at present is the silver-twisted blue. For bottom fishing, the wasp grub is the best bait, and some very good dishes of fish have been landed in this quarter with them. On Friday, a gentleman fishing in the water near the town with the fly, landed some splendid trout and grayling. In the water near Corn Brook, the same evening, a gentleman took some good trout with the green insect. The water near Rochford was tried on Saturday, and some very good fish were landed with the wasp grub. A gentleman visited the waters near Little Hereford, with the fly, and caught a very nice basket of fish averaging ½lb. each. Some capital sport has been had in the water near Berrington Court. On Monday, a gentleman with the wasp grub took twelve very good-sized trout and four grayling, all in fine condition. Fishing near Burford, some gentlemen with a fly took a very good lot of trout, averaging ½lb. each. Some very nice trout were landed below the bridge with the whirling blue. There was some very good sport had near the town on Tuesday, a gentleman who was fishing with the green insect and red ant landed a good basket of fish, weighing 5lb. the lot. There were some very good grayling landed the same evening with the wasp grub. Some good trout have been landed with the wasp grub in the Kyre near the park. A few nice trout were taken with the fly near Bruntlands. Some capital trout have been taken in the Rea with the fly. In the Ledwyche, a few nice trout have been taken with the whirling blue.—Worcester.

### Trent (Alrewas).

River very low and fine. A few good fish have been taken at long distances. Report as to perch biting continues very good, twelve weighing 9lb. falling to the lot of one gentleman connected with the Association. Grayling reported to be rising well at the fly.

### Trent (Lower).

On the Trent at Torksey there was some good sport during the week. Some good roach have been got. One gentleman managed to secure a fish of that kind 1lb. 8oz., and he had altogether upwards of 15lb. W. Newbould had a basket of 10lb., chiefly roach, near the same spot. The Trent is very low.—Trace.

### Trent (Nottingham).

The river in this district continues very low and clear, and really there is very little about which to write. Most of the recognised barbel swims at Holme, Pierrepont, Colnick, Wilford, and Shardlow, have met with attention during the week, but the takes generally have been moderate. At Wilford, two fish were caught on Monday weighing 9¾lb. Some of fair size were also taken at Shardlow; matters are very quiet in the reach above—I allude to Weston—and, excepting the capture of a few lots of eels and roach there is nothing to chronicle. The salmon are still unable to get over the weirs at King's Mills, and unless we soon have a change of water, I am afraid many of the fish will begin to "kipper." Already some are beginning to look unusually red. Fly-fishing continues good, especially in the evening, and at Clifton and Wilford some excellent dishes of dace and chub have been secured. Chub have also taken kindly to the wasp grub in the rapids.—THE MAN AT THE CLUBS.

### Trent (Newark).

The river now runs remarkably low and clear, and sport, taking it in a general way, is not very good. I have known first-class anglers bait first-class swims during the last fortnight, and only a very few barbel and bream have rewarded their efforts. Chub seem to have been the best, fairish bags of which have fallen victims to both wasp grubs and the fly. Roach have also been had, but in only one or two instances have the catches been worth recording. One of our local anglers the other day baited a first-class bream hole, but not a single bream did he catch—only nineteen flounders and a dozen eels—although he told me that towards evening the big bream were rolling on the top of the water by scores. I believe there are plenty of fish in the river, but we want a change of water to clear away all the insects and the weeds before we can hope to get among them much. I had a day last Friday among the roach, and by dint of hard work and judicious ground-baiting I managed to grass twenty-eight of them (the two largest being 1lb. 2oz. and 1lb. 1oz. respectively, and a dozen of the others up to ¾lb. each), a very good bag considering the state of the water, which, by the bye, I might state was a favourite roach-shop of mine in the Witham; the bait that I used was bread paste, mixed up with a 3d. packet of "King's Natural Bait," a lure that I can most honestly recommend to the notice of all roachers. Just before finishing this report I hear that the roach are on a bit at creed wheat and malt; in fact, from what I have heard, these fish and chub, with fly and wasp grubs, will pay the angler a lot better than baiting up any quantity of barbel and bream streams—that is, under the present circumstances.—THE TRENT OTTER.

### Torridge (Torrington).

River very low, owing to the dry, warm weather. Lots of dace have been taken lately both with the fly and float fishing. The best time for fishing with the fly is between seven o'clock and nine in the evening, when the sun has left the water, up to dark. A local man took two peel and three trout on Tuesday evening, fishing with trout flies. The otter hounds are on the Torridge this week; they killed two otters near Torrington on Monday.—PRACTICAL ANGLER.

### Witham.

All along the banks of the Witham there were anglers by the score. Wherever there was a swim that could be reached it was occupied. Southery, Kirkstead, Dogdyke, &c., were all full. At the first named place, Mr. Birkinshaw, of Sheffield, got a jack 4lb. 14oz., and a bream 3lb. 11oz., a brace of very nice fish, besides a lot of smaller. At Kirkstead, a good take was recorded from Mr. Freeman, 26lb. of roach, perch, and bream. A good tench scaling 1lb. 10oz. was landed at Dogdyke by J. Wragg, along with some 21lb. of roach and bream. The water is almost out of reach in some places, whilst in condition it is very fair.—YELLOW BELLY.

### Wye and Derwent.

Both the Wye and Derwent are exceedingly low, and very clear indeed; in fact, they are as low now as I every remember them to be, consequently the greatest care must now be taken in watching the rivers and brooks, for there is scarcely a single place in either river but what the poachers could net. I hear of a great deal of poached netted fish supposed to have come from various parts of the Derwent being hawked in this district. Mr. E. M. Watt had his private ponds netted last week, and caught a very great quantity of trout. Frederick C. Arkwright, Esq., of Willersby Castle, Crowford, had his length of the Derwent netted from Masson Hill downwards, on last Tuesday, on purpose to catch the pike and coarse fish. He succeeded in taking three small pike and a great quantity of roach and dace. The trout and grayling were thrown into the river again; and I am pleased to say that the water which the Matlock Bath new fishing club has just started has got a good quantity of graylng in the water, besides a fair sprinkling of trout; both the trout and grayling running a good size. Sport during the week, with the artificial flies, especially in the day-time, has been wretchedly bad. There have been a few brace killed chiefly the last thing at night, with the small honey dun bumble and little black-faced flies, some of the trout running up to nearly 2lb. each. The largest fish are killed mostly in the deeps just as it is getting dark at night. The bottom fishers only fish early and late, and they have taken some large tench and a few eels with wasp grub for bait. I have just heard of 3 brace of large trout being killed off the Charlesworth club waters by dibbing under the bushes and trees with the small blue-bottle flies. Weather excessively hot. Rain much wanted.—G. J. EATON.

### The Yare (Norwich).

Roach fishing on this river has been as good during the past week as I ever remember it. From Surlingham, Brundall, Buckenham, and Cantley, reports of excellent catches are to hand. I have not heard of anything extraordinary amongst the bream, except one nice catch of about 6st., taken in the Langley Reach, but nearly all anglers visiting our noted stream have had the best of luck with the roach, from Host Garrett's, Buckenham Ferry. I hear that on Tuesday last Mr. C. Scull and Mr. G. Eagleton, of London, succeeded in capturing 60lb. of handsome roach, small fish being rejected. This does not represent a day's fishing, but were caught in a few hours. During eight days' stay here, these gentlemen have landed over 400lb. of roach, Mr. Scull's average being 30lb. per diem, his largest take being 75lb. in two days, I tried my luck for one hour at Buckenham, on Saturday evening last, and caught 30 very fair fish, and most of the local men are doing well all down the stream especially this year, with boiled white and coloured wheat (Judson's dyes are the best). I would again venture to remind visitors who are unaccustomed to our waters, that it is necessary to plumb the depth very frequently, also to moor the boat well off the weeds, and use a float that will carry a score shot, except at slack water. Prospects are everything in our favour.—ROBERT MOLL.

## SCOTCH FISHING NOTES.

Since the thunderstorm, the rivers are now in good angling condition and on most of them satisfactory sport is being got, as will be seen from the following reports:—

THE TAY.—For the last few days good sport has been got on the Tay which is in splendid angling ply. Sea trout and whiting have not been so plentiful at this season for years. On Tuesday, Mr. Armstrong got twenty sea trout and whiting; and other anglers had from six to a dozen. At Thistle Bridge, Sir W. F. Elliott had one fish; and Mr. John Costgrove, fishing at the top of the North end, at Perth, killed a nice grilse of 8lb.

LOCH TUMMEL.—This loch is now in fine angling ply. There is a fine ripple on the water, and trout are rising freely. Fishing from one of the Loch Tummel Hotel boats on the 31st ult., Mr. Macfarlane, Dundee, captured four beautiful trout. One of them weighed 4lb., and the others averaged over 2lb. each. On the 13th inst. Mr. P. S. Cullan was out on the loch in one of the Loch Tummel Hotel boats, and procured a basket of 12lb. One trout of this catch weighed 4lb.

LOCH ERRICHT.—Fishing on Loch Ericht last week, Mr. Hodge, Dundee, had some fine play with two *salmo ferox*, which he succeeded in landing. They weighed 7½lb and 7lb. respectively. Mr. Birrel and friend, Dundee, from the Loch Ericht Hotel, Dalwhannie, had 53lb. of beautiful trout in two days. In the same period, Mr. Jamieson, Kirkcaldy, landed 61 fine trout and seven char. A splendid *salmo ferox* weighing 10lb. was captured by Messrs. Hardie.

LOCH RANNOCH.—Fishing from the Bun Rannoch Hotel on the 31st ult., Mr. D. Aitchison, from London, had a basket of trout weighing 8lb. They were all in good condition, and several of them weighed between 1lb. and 2lb. each. On the 1st inst., the same gentleman was out, and procured 10lb. of fine trout. Mr. Steele, of Glasgow, fishing on the same day, captured a trout weighing nearly 2½lb., besides a good basket of smaller ones. Messrs. Ravensford and Simeon, from London, had 8lb. of fine tench, and several other gentlemen procured fair baskets of fish. On the 2nd inst., Messrs. Ravensford and Simeon had 9lb of splendid trout. On the 4th inst., Mr. D. Aitchison had 8lb. of excellent trout, one of which weighed 1½lb., and Mr. Ravensford secured 5lb. of capital trout. This loch was very rough about the beginning of this month, but it is now in good angling trim.

LOCH-NA-CRAIG.—This famous trout loch was fished last week by several gentlemen from the Breadalbane Arms Hotel, Aberfeldy, and capital sport was got. The loch is well stocked with trout, all of very fine quality, but it cannot be fished without permission from the Earl of Breadalbane or the lessee of the Aberfeldy Hotel.

THE LYON.—This river was in excellent ply for fishing last week, and exceptionally good sport was obtained on the Meggerun Castle waters. On Thursday last Mr. Bullough succeeded in landing six splendid salmon, all in fine condition, and averaging from 14 to 17lb. weight. On the following day he landed five salmon of similar size. On the Chesthill Water, on the 13th inst., Count Chandon killed a fine salmon, and on Friday he had a fair basket, but lost a large salmon.

THE ARAY, ARGYLESHIRE.—On the 6th inst., Mr. Kilpatrick, from the Argyle Arms Hotel, Inverary, landed from the Aray two salmon weighing 7 and 3lb. respectively. On the 10th, Lord Walter Campbell, from Inverary Castle, landed several beautiful salmon from this river, the heaviest of which weighed about 13lb.

THE SPEY.—On the Arndilly water during the week ending 1st inst., five grilse were killed, two of them weighing 7lb. each. On the Birchfield water on the 28th ult., a salmon was captured by Captain Dunbar Dunbar's fisherman. On the Knockando House water, on the 25th ult., Mr. Millar got a salmon and a grilse; on the same water on the 28th, Mr. Moss landed a salmon weighing 18lb. On the Wester Elchies water, on the 25th ult., Mr. Lethbridge had a salmon weighing 7lb., two grilse weighing 3½lb. and 3lb. respectively, and also a sea trout weighing 3lb. Fishing on the same water on the 26th, Mr. Lethbridge had a grilse weighing 7lb., and a sea trout 3lb. On the 29th he had two grilse weighing 6½lb. and 5½lb. respectively, and on the 30th, a grilse 5½lb. For the week ending Ausust 8th, anglers had very indifferent sport on the Spey. The river was getting too low and clear, and although fish had been reported very plentiful very few were caught. On the Carron Cottage section, on the 4th inst., Mr. Jervoise Smith killed a salmon 10½lb. weight, and a grilse weighing 4½lb. On the same day a salmon was killed by a gentleman fishing on the Pilcroy Lodge water. On the Arndilly water Mr. Myburgh's fisherman killed five fish in fine condition during the week. On the Wester Elchies water Mr. Charles Lethbridge landed a grilse weighing 6lb., and another 3½lb. on the 1st inst. On the 2nd he had a salmon weighing 7½lb.; on the 4th he had a grilse 6½lb., and on the 5th two grilse weighing 6lb. and 7lb. respectively. Fishing on the Fiddoch on the 4th inst., Mr. T. Errard killed 6lb. of fine trout. Mr. Charles Stewart got 40 yellow trout while fishing in the some stream. Messrs. McGowan, sen. and jun., of Aberlour, killed 15lb. of trout, and Messrs. Middlemass, Laing, and Hendry reported an aggregate capture of 16½ dozen trout. On the Aberlour House water on the 9th, Mr. Duff landed a grilse weighing 7lb., and on the 11th he had a salmon of 6lb. weight. On the same day, Mr. Stewart secured a salmon weighing 7lb. On the Wester Elchies section, on the 5th, Mr. Lethbridge landed two grilse, weighing 6½lb. and 6lb. respectively. On the 12th, the same gentleman had a salmon and two grilse, weighing respectively 8lb., 6lb., and 5½lb. On the Fiddoch, on the 9th, Messrs. C. and S. Richardson had a basket of thirteen dozen trout, and Captain McEwan had one dozen on the same day. On the 11th, Messsrs. Middlemass and Beaton reported a catch of ten dozen yellow trout.

SPLENDID CATCHES OF TROUT IN ORKNEY.—Splendid sport has been recently got in Broadhouse Loch, Orkney, by a large number of anglers. Mr. J. S. Carsiter, Kirkwall, in one day, killed 13 fine trout, some of them 1½lb. and others 1lb. each. Mr. Fraser, in one day, landed thirty-nine trout weighing 24¼lb. Sixty-five trout were captured in this loch by Mr. Beker. This gentleman has fished the loch for the past two months with remarkable success, his average for each hour's fishing being 2½lb., and his best basket consisting of thirty-nine trout weighing 27¾lb. Fishing on the Loch of Twatt on the 8th inst., Mr. Smith, Edinburgh, killed forty-one trout, several of them over 1lb. weight. Trout in the Loch of Steinness, Orkney, are now reported to be taking well when the weather is suitable. Last week some good sport was made. Sea trout are large, strong, and in good condition. The following are the most of the takes for the week:—August 5th, Messrs. Chambers and Smith, Dumfries, in one boat had seven trout weighing 5½lb, Mr. McLaren, Aberfoyle, had a basket weighing 6½lb., two largest trout weighing 3¾lb. On the 6th, the same three gentlemen landed thirty-six trout, each basket averaging 8½lb.; and on the 8th, they had nineteen trout, the largest two of which weighed 2½ and 2lb. respectively. On the lower end of Harray Loch, two gentlemen from Kirkwall landed forty-five trout on the 4th; and on the following day, another party from Sandwich secured thirty-five trout.

EXTRAORDINARY CATCHES OF TROUT IN ARGYLESHIRE LOCHS.—For twelve days, from the 4th to the 12th inst., the various small lochs in the district of Kilmelford, Argyleshire, yielded no fewer than one thousand two hundred and seventy-two trout, all of good size and in excellent condition. Fishing from the Cuilfail Hotel, the various anglers' respective captures were as follows:—On the 4th inst., Mr. Robert French, Glasgow, fished Loch Dubh Mohr, and secured forty-two trout; Mr. W. J. F. Nelson, Edinburgh, procured ten good fish from Loch Loskan Mohr; Mr. R. D. Shaw, Hamilton, had a basket of seventy-seven trout from Loch Trailaig. On the 5th, Messrs. Robert and James French secured eighty trout from Loch Avich; Mr. Shaw had sixty-one from Loch Schrienge; and Mr. Nelson had fifteen from Loch Drimminin. On the 6th, Colonel W. S. Young and Mr. C. S. Sharpe, of London, captured forty-five trout from Loch Drimminin; Messrs. R. and J. French, fishing the hill lochs, secured seventy-two trout. Loch Trailaig was fished by Mr. and Mrs. Beachcroft, who captured twenty-four fine trout. General Sir Charles Stavely and Mr. W. Stavely captured fourteen trout from Loch Loskan Mohr; and Mr. Nelson took twenty-seven trout from Loch Pearson. On the 7th Messrs. R. and J. French had seventeen trout from Loch Tralaig, and Mr. Nelson had thirty-one from Loch Dubh Mohr. On the 8th Mr. Nelson had twenty-eight trout from Loch Tralaig; Messrs. R. and J. French had sixty from Loch Schrienge: and Mr. and Mrs. Beachcroft had three dozen from Loch Melfort, On the following day the latter party had twenty-seven trout on the same loch. On the 11th, Colonel Young and Mr. Sharpe landed forty-three sea-trout from Loch Melfort. On the 12th, Mr. J. S. Francis, London, had fifty-one trout from Loch Avich, and Mr. Gavin Shanks, Maryhill, secured fifty-seven trout from Loch Schrienge. On the 13th, Colonel Young and Mr. Sharpe had twenty-four trout, and two sea-trout from the Melfort River, and Messrs. Shanks had seventy-nine trout from Loch Trailaig. On the 14th, fishing on Loch Pearson, Colonel Young and Mr. Sharpe secured thirty-two sea-trout; Mr. Shanks took sixty-three trout from Loch Drimminin; Mr. J. S. S. Francis had fifty-one trout from Loch Dubh Mohr; and Mr. Beachcroft captured fifty-five trout from Loch Avich. On the 15th, Mr. Shanks captured fifty-seven trout from Loch Pearson, and took two sea-trout from the Melfort river; Messrs. Beachcroft and Francis had thirty-eight trout from Loch Schrienge. On the 16th, Mr. J. Francis fished the hill streams in the locality, and captured thirty trout; Mr. Beachcroft had eighteen trout from the Melfort river and Mr. Sharp had eighteen sea-trout from the Euchar river.

# CLUB REPORTS.

### AMICABLE BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

Mr. Harding, bream, 6lb. 5oz.; roach, 1lb. 5½oz.; Mr. Moir, bream, 3lb. 3oz.; roach, 14½oz. from Dagenham. Mr. Dwelly, roach, 1lb. 9oz.; dace, 1lb. 10oz. from the Lea. Mr. Squire, roach, 3lb. Mr. Say, 4 bream, weight 11lb. 8½oz, two of them weighed 7lb.; roach, 1lb. 9½oz.; perch, 4oz. August 27th, general meeting night, and to arrange roaming match.—J. WORLEDGE, sec.

### BATTERSEA FRIENDLY ANGLING CLUB.

On Tuesday, August 12th, after the business of the club had been finished, the celebrated Woking Diver (Mr. G. Butterworth), and the Duck (Mr. Sheppard) were presented with a splendid ribbon, in remembrance of the way in which they have at various times fallen in the water. On the 17th inst. Mr. G. Munford, from Amberley, bream, the largest going 3lb. 2oz., total weight, 7lb. 4oz.; Mr. Andrews, roach and bream; M. F. Newton, roach and gudgeon; Mr. H. Martin, roach, perch, and gudgeon. Members are requested to notice that Mr. G. Edwards' prize is postponed from Aug. 24th to Sept. 7th.—A. T. SAMPSON, hon. sec.

### BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT AMALGAMATED ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

The annual contest of the Old Green Man Piscatorials was fished on Monday, August 18th, the lake at Westwood Park being kindly placed at their disposal for that date. The prizes were numerous, and very good; in fact I do not think I should be far wrong if I say that I think they are the best lot of prizes ever fished for by any club in the Midland Counties. On account of this the contest was very keen, and at the finish it was very close; in fact, so close were the first five together, that it was impossible to tell who had won till all the fish had been weighed. The rule was to fish for two hours, and we fished from 11 to 1 o'clock, and when the fish were weighed up the result was as follows:—First prize, Mr. W. Peakeman; second prize, Mr. H. Day; third prize, Mr. I. Woodcock; fourth prize, Mr. S. Hawkins; fifth prize, Mr. J. T. Allen; sixth prize, Mr. J. Jenks, sen.; seventh prize, Mr. B. Hawkins; eighth prize, Mr. A. Davis; ninth prize, Mr. J. Jenks, jun.; tenth prize, Mr. F. Eaves; eleventh prize, Mr. E. Thorn; twelfth prize, Mr. H. Medlicott; thirteenth prize, Mr. R. Howell; fourteenth prize, Mr. C. Evans; fifteenth prize, Mr. J. Gallagan; sixteenth prize, Mr. C. Lowe; seventeenth prize, Mr. T. Shaw; eighteenth prize, Mr. R. Yates; nineteenth prize, Mr. I. Stanley; twentieth prize, Master H. Allen; twenty-first prize, Mr. W. Davis. Great praise is due to the referee (Mr. T. Duddleston), and the umpires (Mr. Gill, Mr. Floyd, Mr. Grice, and Mr. Smith), for the way in which they performed their several duties. After the contest was over, we adjourned to the Rifleman's Arms Hotel, where a capital dinner was provided for us by Mr. W. Hurd, the worthy host, to which ample justice was done, and then we returned to the park to again practise the gentle art. and play havoc among the finny tribes till dusk, and some good sport was obtained. Some of the members who were not eligible to fish in the contest were at the water early, and some good baskets were the result. Notable among these were Mr. Beardmore, Mr. Mills, Mr. Hewett, and Mr. T. Egginton. The whole of the business and the whole of the pleasure passed off without a single hitch of any kind, and we reached home about 10 o'clock, after spending perhaps the most enjoyable day any of us will experience during the present fishing season.—JAMES T. ALLEN, hon. sec.

### BRISTOL GOLDEN CARP ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

The annual general meeting of the above association was held on Monday evening, August 11th, at the White Hart Hotel, Old Market-street, Mr. J. Hadden presided, and there was a very fair attendance of members. The business of the evening was set apart for the election of officers for the ensuing year, auditors' report, &c. The chairman proceeded punctually at 8 p.m., as there was a lot to be got through in a little time, the first item of the evening being the principal minutes of the year, which were read and passed. The auditors (Messrs. Cornish and Ford), having read the balance sheet, said they were pleased to see such a handsome surplus, and hoped before long to report a much better balance. Several suggestions were thrown out for the welfare of the association, and a vote of thanks accorded to the officers and committeemen for the able manner in which they had conducted the business of the year. The election of officers resulted in the following being again re-elected:—Mr. J. Hadden, president; Mr. H. Inch, vice-president; Mr. Lewis C. Wride, secretary; Mr. W. G. Leigh. treasurer; Mr. Cornish, auditor; Messrs. G. Pain, J. A. Everett, F. David, J. Inch, F. A. Withers, F. H. Julion, W. H. Stephens, A. Matthews, and F. Cox, committeemen; the newly-elected officers being Mr. D. Ford (auditor), and Mr. S. Fox (committeemen). This brought the meeting to a close, which passed off satisfactorily.—LEWIS C. WRIDE, Sec.

P.S.—New tablets will be ready on September 1st, and we should advise members to procure them as soon as possible, as we anticipate having a contest about the 2nd of the same month. We should also say all visiting Highbridge should give Mr. R. Card, Coopers' Arms Hotel, a call, where they can get home comforts at reasonable rates.

### BROMPTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

Some of the members during the last week have been doing well in the way of big takes; Mr. Anstiss having 30lb. of good tench, the heaviest going 2¼lb.; Mr. Roach getting well amongst his namesakes, 18½lb., the heaviest 1lb. 10oz.; Mr. Ducken, 25lb. of good bream; Mr. C. Brown also having some good bream. On the 17th inst., Mr. C. Saunders having some nice bream, the heaviest going 3¼lb. Messrs. Moodie and Burbidge, dace; Mr. Ducker, bream; Mr. Stonebridge, dace and barbel; and myself, bream and roach.—W. DUTTON, Sec.

### CAVENDISH ANGLING SOCIETY.

Good shows of fish have been the rule with us since the opening. On the 17th we had an excellent show of roach, bream, perch and dace, contributed by Messrs. Granfield, Young, D. H. Reeves, A. Field, Brett, Brickman, Lee, &c., which not only filled the trays of the Cavendish Angling Society, but the teatrays belonging to their esteemed host, Mr. Humberstone. By a unanimous vote at a special meeting held on Thursday, the 14th inst., Messrs. C. Blackman and H. Reeves were expelled the society for illegal practices.

### CAXTON ANGLING CLUB (BECCLES).

The third pegged-down match (50 yards each boat), of this club took place on Saturday last just below Boater's Hill, twenty members taking part therein. Angling commenced at 3 o'clock and terminated at 7 o'clock. The fish were afterwards weighed at the White Swan, and presented a very nice appearance as they were laid out on dishes on the table, nineteen members weighing in their various catches, no fish under 7in. being allowed. Mr. Hooker succeeded in taking the heaviest catch, amounting to 7lb. 2½oz.; Mr. Ulph, 4lb. 13½oz.; Mr. Piper, 4lb. 6½oz.; Mr. Chase, 3lb. 4¾oz.; and Mr. Palmer, 3lb. 1¾oz. Mr. Palmer was the winner of the special prize for the largest fish in the competition, a roach weighing 1lb. 3½oz. Both the tide and clearness of the water were against the anglers, not much sport being expected under the circumstances. The next and last match for the season is fixed for the 20th of September.

### CITY OF LONDON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The following members weighed in from Amberley on the 17th:—Mr. Chambers, bream, roach, and dace; Mr. Hobbs, bream; and Mr. G. Blackwell, dace. Mr. Castell had bream from the Welsh Harp.—CAS.

### CLAPTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The ordinary weekly meeting was held on Monday last, Mr. Parry in the chair. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. Mr. Wood had a splendid show of roach from private waters, thirty-one fish weighing 28lb., taken on Saturday last; the same gentleman had 24lb. on the following Monday, as well as some handsome perch and remarkably fine gudgeon. Mr. Beck, chub and dace with the fly, from the society's water at Sewardstone, also two trout, which he returned to the water. Mr. Hall, on the 14th and 15th, had 26lb. of very fine dace, and 5lb. 8oz. barbel, from the Thames; Mr. Rice, 18lb. roach, ranging from ½lb. to 1lb. each, from the Sewardstone waters; Mr. Colls, some fine roach and dace from the same waters. Monday next being the "musical evening," it is hoped that there will be a good muster of members and their friends.—HENRY HOWSE, hon. sec.

### DOUNE ANGLING CLUB.

The second competition of this club for the season took place on Loch Leven on Saturday, 9th inst. The weather was very hot, with a soft easterly wind, and very favourable for good sport. The club had three boats out, with five competitors engaged, whose aggregate catch consisted of 29 trout weighing 23lb. 6½oz., and the prizes being gained as follows:—1. Mr. Graham Reid, six trout, 7¼lb.; 2. Sergeant McMillan, 11 trout, 6lb. 8½oz.; 3. Mr. A. Ferguson, eight trout, 5¼lb. The heaviest trout proved a very fine fish, weighing 2lb. 13oz., and was killed by the first prize-winner.—J. McG.

### EASTERN COUNTIES ANGLING SOCIETY, GREAT YARMOUTH.

A special meeting of this society was held at the Duke's Head Hotel, Quay, on Friday evening, the 8th inst., the president, Dr. Mitchell, being in the chair, for the purpose of making arrangements for the first contest of the society. It was determined that Mr. Freeman's (the vice-president) cup would constitute the first prize; the president's gift the second; a pair of silver spoons presented by Mr. Seaman (the acting secretary) the third; and the society's special prize the fourth. It was arranged that the competition should be fished on Rolesby Broad, four boats. The day fixed upon was Tuesday, the 12th inst., and the time from 10.30 a.m. until 5.30 p.m. Fully twenty gentlemen entered their names as competitors. According to agreement, on Tuesday morning the match was commenced. Unfortunately, however, we were overtaken by a thunderstorm of unusual severity, which lasted the most of the day. This naturally had a damping effect, not only on clothes, but likewise on the spirits of the competitors, the result being that when time was called, and the various boats drew around the committee boat to weigh in, we could very easily see that our first match was a failure, so far, at all events, as weight went—some of our best anglers presenting faces much longer than their baskets. The greatest weight (and the one which obtained for the catcher the first prize) scaled a little over 6½lb., the second and third almost a tie at 5lb., whilst the president obtained the fourth prize with only 4½lb. Considering the large catches which have of late been taken off this justly-celebrated Broad, we cannot account for the smallness of ours, unless that the severe thunderstorm had driven the fish off the feed; this hypothesis is probably the correct one. There have been some good catches weighed in during the week. Messrs. Freeman and Mitchell, 46lb.; Messrs. Bunn and Bacon, 39lb.; Master Freeman, 96lb.; all off Rolesby or Ormsby Broads. Many minor catches have also been reported. It has been determined that a second match will take place in about three weeks' time.

[Received too late for last week.—ED.]

### GREENWICH ANGLING SOCIETY.

Three members, Messrs. J. Ware (secretary), H. Ware, and G. Allen, were out at Ormsby Broad, Norfolk, on the 18th, 19th, and 20th August, and weighed in 18st of bream. This place can be highly recommended. The Sportsman's Arms, kept by S. Richmond, adjoining the Broad, has very good accommodation, and the charges are very reasonable.—J. WARE, sec.

### GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

The usual weekly meeting of the above society was held on Tuesday evening at the Masons' Hall Tavern, Mason's-avenue, Basinghall-street, Dr. Lloyd in the chair. The minutes of the last meeting having been read and confirmed, a letter was read from Mr. Chambers, with reference to the efforts he is making to procure a piece of water for the society. Capt. Alfred explained that Mr. Bentley was also absent upon the same business; but that he would bring up a report to the next meeting. He also proposed Mr. P. Lesiter as a member of the society, and the proposition having been duly seconded by Mr. Crumplen, the ballot was fixed, in accordance with the society's rules, for the 2nd September. Some very good sport has been obtained during the past week by several of the members; Mr. Harding having done especially good business at Ringwood, where some very fine roach and dace have been landed. Arrangements are about being made for a musical evening; the date has not yet been fixed, but the secretary will be very glad to receive the names of any musical members willing to assist in the programme. The usual vote of thanks to the Chairman brought the meeting to a close.—H.

### GLOBE ANGLING SOCIETY.

Although the majority of our members were out on the 17th inst., they failed to produce a very great display of fish. Amongst those most successful were Messrs. J. J. Holmes, S. Howell, D. Thomas, H. Lake, W. Brown, S. Orrow, C. Ellis, G. Brown, H. Jeffries, and W. Fitzgerald, with 5lb. 14½oz., 4lb. 7oz., 3lb. 5½oz., 3lb. 7oz., 14oz., 1lb. 4oz., 1lb., 1lb. 1oz., 1lb. 12oz., 1lb. ¾oz. respectively, consisting of roach, bream, dace, perch, and gudgeon.—J. J. HOLMES, Sec.

### HIGHBURY ANGLING SOCIETY.

Mr. Frank Temple had a capital show of dace (15½lb.) from the Thames on the 17th inst.; also roach and gudgeon. Mr. S. Howell, jun., likewise weighed in some good dace and gudgeon. Members are particularly requested to attend at their headquarters on Wednesday evening next, the 27th inst., in order that final arrangements may be made as to the number intending to be present, at the 15th annual dinner, which takes place at Mr. Lyndsell's, the Pied Bull, St. Margaret's, on Saturday, the 30th inst.—J. E. WHEATLEY, sec.

### INDEPENDENT BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

Our show of fish on the 17th inst. was very fair, not so much in quantity as quality. Messrs. Leader, Clark, Coomes, and Moore were to the front with barbel, bream, perch, roach, and dace. Our return visit takes place on Tuesday next, August 26, at the clubhouse, Bird in-Hand, Long-acre, W.C. (host, Mr. Waldock), when we shall be pleased with the company of as many brother anglers and friends as can make it convenient to attend. Not having the addresses of the new clubs enrolled on the Association, we cannot communicate with them as to our return visit; but we hope they will accept this notice the same as if we had written, and pay us a visit.—H. MOORE, sec.

### IZAAK WALTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The show of all kinds of fish have been very good this week. Messrs. G. and G. P. Rolt have twice filled the trays with fine bream. Mr. G. P. Rolt had the good fortune to secure a very handsome carp, on Saturday last, which weighed 7½lb. The three special prizes fished for on the 17th inst., at Dagenham Lake: Mr. H. Butt was first, Mr. W. Wilkinson second, Mr. B. Crook third.—H. B.

### LINCOLN ANGLING SOCIETY.

Our members were out on August 17th trying the much abused Regent's Canal. Their efforts were crowned by the undermentioned successes:—Mr. Blyth, nine roach, weighing 1lb. 10oz.; Mr. Gramlick, seven roach, 2lb. 9oz. Messrs. Blane and Pearce also had a nice show of roach. Mr. Bingle, our one-handed champion, had a fine take from the Thames, consisting of one chub, 3½lb. ; two perch, 1lb. 11oz. ; roach, 2lb. 8oz. ; dace, 2lb. 4oz. ; and 1lb. 15oz. gudgeon.—J. Bingle, sec.

### NORFOLK ANGLING SOCIETY.

On the 20th, Mr. Measures had a fine show of bream and roach from the Ouse, weighing 29lb. Mr. Foulger also a very nice show of roach, dace, perch, and gudgeon from the Thames ; Mr. J. Galloway showing a very handsome trout from the Hodder, the finest specimen we have had this season. — Thos. Buckingham, sec., August 10th.

### PECKHAM BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of the above club fished at Kingston on the 17th inst., but could not bring the match to a successful issue, Messrs. Parson, Duke, and Matthews alone having fish. I hope the next time we fish there members will keep as far from the drain as they can. Messrs. Astley, Stidolph, Beard, Otzen, and Parsons give prizes for an open match on the 24th, all fish to weigh. On the 31st the match for the cup will be fished at Amberley, from the first push-down style to the railway arch at Bury. We shall be pleased to welcome any visitor on Monday next. The chair will be taken at eight sharp.—Gadfly.

### THE PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The usual meeting of this society was held at Ashley's Hotel last Monday. Among those present were Dr. Brunton, Rev. G. Sumner, Dr. Coates, Messrs. Fennings, Blundell, E. Russell, H. Gray, Goodger, W. Jesse, H. Brougham, H. Harden, Adlington, Meyer, Booker, &c. Mr. D. Goodger was unanimously voted to the chair. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. A letter was read by the Secretary from Mr. Huggett, who is staying at Eastbourne, where he regrets the absence of his favourite sport. Since the last meeting Dr. Brunton has been to Hampshire, and although the water was very fine, and he only fished in the morning, he succeeded in basketing seven grayling, weighing 7lb. 2oz., besides returning several smaller ones to the water. The Doctor used a Scotch fly, which, in all probability, had never been seen on the water before. Mr. Jesse and Mr. Blundell, who have just returned from a holiday in Ireland, where they devoted most of their time to fishing in Lough Melvin, gave a description of the sport, place, and pleasures. Mr. Jesse fished five days, and Mr. Blundell seven days, the joint bag was one salmon 10½lb. (Mr. Blundell), seven ferox 22½lb., 103 brown trout 90lb., one grilse 3½lb., five gillaroo trout 9lb. Mr. Gray and Mr. Lauder produced a working specimen of a new rod ring of their joint production, and they claim that it is impossible for the running line either to catch or hitch in it. The model was critically examined and thoroughly tested by the members present, and the ring appeared to be a success. Mr. Harden gave his experiences of some of the Norfolk Broads, which were not wholly favourable, so he transferred his attentions to the River Welland at St. James, Deeping, and fished most successfully for dace and roach. Although Monday was the day for the bream competition, it was not until nearly 11 p.m. that these fish were represented on the table of the club. Mr. Foreman then arrived from the Northamptonshire Nene with a magnificent show, consisting of 14 bream weighing 59lb. 6oz., the largest being 6lb. 1oz. Some of these fish will hereafter doubtless decorate the rooms of the club. Mr. Meyer fished at Shepperton for bream, but was only rewarded with barbel. "Our Noble Selves" was proposed by the Chairman, and duly honoured. The Rev. Sumner, who has developed a penchant for statistics, in proposing the health of the Chairman, mentioned that recently, whilst walking from the Railway Bridge, Richmond, to Teddington Lock he counted the number of rodsters. There were, he said, 31 bottom-fishers on the bank who only confessed to the capture of one dace between them ; 19 fly-fishers, mostly using a gentle or bit of kid at the point of the hook ; 11 punts carrying 27 rods : making a total of 77 rods. The humorous remarks of the Rev. Sumner brought the proceedings to a termination amidst general laughter.—Pro. T. H.

### PERTH ANGLING CLUB.

This club held their third and last competition for the season on Loch Leven on Wednesday. The weather was clear, with a moderate wind until mid-afternoon ; but about five o'clock the sky became cloudy and a fine drizzling rain set in. The club had six boats engaged, with twelve competitors, who reported a total capture of 57 trout weighing 36lb. 12½oz., and the prizes were gained as follows :—1. Sergeant-Major Knight, eight trout, 5lb. 7oz. ; 2. Mr. James Hay, six trout, 3lb. 14½oz. ; 3 and 4, Mr. Turnbull, and Mr. F. C. Weiss, equal nine trout, and three trout weighing 3lb. 13½oz. ; 5. Mr. Wilson, seven trout, 3lb. 12oz. The heaviest trout weighed 1lb. 13½oz., and was killed by Mr. Weiss.—J. McG.

### ROYAL OAK ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of the above club held their annual contest at Earlswood on Monday, August 4, when Mr. H. Attwood took the first prize, Mr. G. Hunt the second, and Mr. H. Granger the third. Mr. S. Wicksey, of Hockley, last week took 21lb. of roach and dace at Rudgebigh, Staffordshire, and they were all very fine fish.—E. Attwood, sec.

### SMETHWICK ANGLING CLUB.

On the 6th, Mr. Grey, two chub 1¾lb. and 2lb., besides roach and dace. On the 11th, Mr. Bannister, a jack 6lb. and a roach 1lb. 6oz., and some good dace ; Mr. Gray, one eel, roach and dace. On the 14th, Mr. Earle, three jack ; Mr. Goodyear, one jack ; and Mr. Woolaston, a nice dish of dace caught with the fly.—Thomas Bannister, hon. sec.

### STOKE NEWINGTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The following members weighed in on the 17th inst. :—Mr. W. Webb, 3lb. 14¾oz., bream and roach ; W. Robinson, 3lb. 7oz., roach ; T. Millington, 3lb. ¼oz., bream ; C. J. Robinson, 2lb. 12½oz., bream and roach ; T. Gretton, 1lb. 13¾oz., bream ; C. Martin, 11¾oz., bream ; W. Watkins, 9½oz., bream. A pegged-down match at Pullboro' will take place on September 6th for three prizes presented by Messrs. Brookes, Watkins, and Harris. Mr. T. Harris will give a winch for the heaviest jack taken during the season.—T. Gretton.

### UNITED BROTHERS, DEPTFORD.

Our members were out on the 17th inst. and had some good sport. Mr. W. Tyler 22lb. 4½oz. of roach and bream from the Medway. H. Tyler, 13lb. 15¾oz. of roach from the Medway. W. Windred, 4lb. 3½oz. of roach from the Medway. J. Currans, 4lb. 12¼oz. of bream from Dagenham. J. Payne, 3lb. 7¾oz. of bream from Dagenham. F. Beak, 3lb. 7¼oz. of bream from Dagenham. Messrs. Watts and Smith also had fish.—H. T.

### THE UNITED LONDON FISHERIES SOCIETY.

The next meeting of the committee will take place on Monday, September 8th, at 9 p.m.—R. Ghurney, sec.

### WALTONIANS.

Aug. 17th, Mr. Morris, roach, 7lb. 5¾oz. ; Mr. Jakes, bream, 4lb. 4½oz. Messrs. Togwell, Rushbrook, and Roland also weighed in.

### WALWORTH PISCATORIALS.

On Thursday, the 14th, the members mustered in full force to witness the result of the competition which had been previously arranged to take place on that day, and as it was an open competition, great interest was shown as to the different takes and weights of fish. The prizes were 21s. first, 21s. second, 10s. 6d. third. Results :—Mr. C. A. Beckett, one roach and dace from Richmond (Wheeler), 21lb. 9oz. ; Mr. J. Bedford, two roach from Horford (Bank), 13lb. 14oz. ; Mr. S. T. Weatherhead, three roach and dace, Richmond, Bram, 13lb. 1oz. ; Mr. R. T. Russell, four roach and dace, Richmond, Bram, 11lb. 4oz. ; Mr. A. Broadie, five roach from Surrey (very fine), 10lb. 4lb. ; Mr. F. Grigg, six roach from Surrey (very fine), 7lb. 14oz. ; Mr. Delhaye, jun., seven dace, Twickenham (Cole), 4lb. 9oz. ; Mr. H. Mawbey, eight dace, Richmond (Howard), 4lb. 5½oz. ; Mr. Delhaye, sen., nine dace, Twickenham (Cole), 4lb. 2oz. ; Mr. A. Piolame, ten dace, Hampton, 2lb. 12oz. ; Mr. Griffin, eleven perch, Hampton, 9½oz. Total, 94lb. 4oz. Other members were out, but did not show up in time.—J. Boalch, secretary.

### WAVENEY ANGLING CLUB, BECCLES.

The ordinary monthly meeting of this club took place at the club-room, Caxton Arms, on Thursday evening, August 14th, the president, Mr. J. E. Crisp, in the chair, The minutes of the last meeting being read and confirmed, Mr. G. West, of Bungay, read a paper on "Roach Fishing Tackle." Mr. West's paper was of a thoroughly practical and instructive character, dealing with the various kinds of tackle used by the Nottingham, Lea, and Thames school of roach anglers. Mr. West concluded his paper by impressing upon every fisherman the necessity of attention to small things, for it is the paying attention to every little detail that in a great measure makes the difference in the success of fishermen. On the motion of the chairman, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. West for his paper. The next monthly meeting will take place on Thursday, September 11th, when the subject for discussion will be "The Best Method of Fishing for Pike."—J. Hooker, hon. sec.

### WELLINGTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

At the meeting on Wednesday evening, it was arranged that the dinner on the 15th September shall take place at the Flower Pot, Sunbury. That members intending to fish in the competition must give in their names to the secretary on or before the 3rd September, and that those members who will join the excursion by road and dinner must give in their names not later than Wednesday next, the 27th inst. Mr. G. Rodman, of Denmark-hill, and Mr. J. Fyffe, of Leytonstone, were proposed as honorary members. A special meeting will be held on Wednesday, the 3rd September, for the purpose of electing members of committee. All members are requested to attend, as this is also quarterly night. On the 17th, Mr. George Andrews weighed in a handsome bream of 5lb. 4oz., which has been sent to Mr. Saunders for preservation, and a barbel 1lb. 9½oz. ; Mr. Wright, a barbel 1lb. 6¾oz. ; Mr. Newbury, roach 1lb. 14½oz.—W. W. Alexander, sec.

### WEST GREEN ANGLING SOCIETY.

Mr. F. Hoy won one of the prizes given by Mr. Guyver, with 5lb. 8oz. of roach taken at Tottenham ; the other two prizes of Mr. Guyver are continuous. Mr. Elder's prize, and also Mr. Mansfield's, are to be fished for on the 24th inst, from the first loch past the Jolly Barge, near Cheshunt, to Ware.—J. Guyver, sec.

## NOTICES OF FISHING TACKLE, &c.

Watson's Special Prize Reel Lines. — Messrs. W. Watson and Sons, 308, High Holborn, have sent us a sample of their fly-line for trout and grayling fishing of same make and quality as their splendid salmon lines, which obtained the special and only prize awarded for salmon lines at the Fisheries Exhibition. Messrs. W. had paid special attention to the manufacture and selection of material of these lines, with the hope of winning this special prize. They keep these lines in all sizes, and we can strongly advise anglers to write to Messrs. Watson for samples, as they will then at once see the excellent quality of these lines.

Bait Hooks.—Referring to the sliced hook invented by Mr. R. B. Marston, recently referred to in the Gazette, Messrs. T. Hemming and Son, of Redditch, send us samples of a fish-hook in which the top of the shank is pointed and bent at an acute angle. The gut or gimp is fastened on below this. They say, "We have used these hooks very successfully during the last three years, when ledgering and eel-fishing." We do not see why it should not answer very well, though there is risk of the whipping getting cut. Mr. Guise, of Redditch, last year showed us this hook, which he said was his invention. The following letter to the editor of the *Field* is by the leading authority on sea-fishing :—

### Sliced Hooks.

Sir,—The new sliced hook, invented by Mr. R. B. Marston, and manufactured by Messrs. Milward and Son, Redditch, is likely to be much used in sea fishing, and the following baits may be used with it : A large single rag-worm, or a lug, or a lob-worm, the small lamprey or pride, the river lamprey, and the small freshwater eel, all for pollack and bass, and the rag and lug-worms for bream. A piece of squid or cuttle-fish of elongated form may also be used with this hook. The sand-eel or launce may be used as a dead towing bait on this hook ; but, from the great gape of the jaws, the muzzle-lashing round the nose can scarcely be dispensed with to keep all snug. In trout fishing in Ireland with the elver for bait, about the eighth of the sharp top of the hook (Limerick) is left free to hold the head of the bait, and a small lip-hook is often used in both river and sea fishing. I have often found fish caught by the upper hook, especially in pollack fishing. At p. 152 of my work, "The Sea Fisherman," third edition, and p. 140 fourth edition, it will be seen that a stout bent pin is shown lashed on to the back of the hook to keep the piece of squid or cuttle-fish from sliding down on the bend of the hook. Mr. Marston's introduction of the sliced hook would seem to be a development of, and an improvement on, my arrangement above-mentioned, Mr. M.'s plan forming in its chief feature a portion of the hook itself. It will, of course, be necessary to slice the hook with skill and judgment, that the hook be not thereby weakened ; but this matter will doubtless receive due attention from the makers. The quickness in baiting which Mr. M.'s plan promises should recommend it to fishermen generally, who have felt that something was wanting to keep the bait upon the head of the hook.

J. C. Wilcocks.

Plymouth, Aug. 12.

Mr. W. Jones, of the Swan Hotel, Staines Bridge, has brought out a useful folding rule, on the back of which are marked the various sizes of fish below which it is illegal to take them in the Thames. As the T.A.P.S. is very strict in enforcing the regulation as to undersized fish, every Thames angler and every Thames professional fisherman should be provided with this rule, which is also marked off in inches and sections of inches, up to 17in., the length of a takeable Thames pike according to the by-law. Mr. Jones also supplies a similar gauge for fixing on to the side of a punt. One for the Lea would be appreciated by Lea anglers probably.

"The Authors' Ink" (Registered).—"A new and very fluent ink" has been brought out by Messrs. Friswell and Co., of Bushbury Works, Hackney. Mr. Friswell, son of the late Mr. Hain Friswell, author of "The Gentle Life," &c., is one of the first practical chemists of the day. The advantages claimed for this ink are : —1. It writes very freely. 2. It is easy to read. 3. It dries rapidly. 4. It is permanent. 5. It will copy well. 6. It is not sticky. We have given it a good trial, and feel sure that all who have to use much ink will find this "Authors' Ink" in every way a boon and a blessing. Many of our most eminent authors always write with an ink similar in colour to this—viz., a special blue. It is not expensive.

## THE FRESHWATER FISHERIES ACT, 1884, AND THE BY-LAWS WHICH FISHERY BOARDS ARE EMPOWERED BY THE ACT TO MAKE.

WE have received on this subject from the Fisheries' Preservation Association the following communication, now being forwarded by the Association along with the specimen by-laws (to which it refers) to the various secretaries of angling societies and clerks to fishery boards, &c. We have seen these suggested by-laws, and consider them to be very well drawn up, and in a form well adapted to meet the varying peculiarities and circumstances of different localities.

Fisheries' Preservation Association
(President—Lieut.-General Lord Abinger, C.B.),
11, Seymour-street, Portman-square, W.,
August 12, 1884.

SIR,—Referring to my late circular letter, I beg now to forward to you printed specimens of by-laws for the regulation of freshwater fisheries.

They have been very carefully drawn up by Mr. J. W. Willis-Bund for the guidance and assistance of such angling societies and fishery boards (whether boards already formed, or under the new Act to be formed) as may be desirous of adopting or carrying out the provisions of the Freshwater Fisheries' Act, 1884.

These by-laws, it may be added, have been so framed by Mr. Willis-Bund as to meet, he trusts, the varying circumstances and requirements of different localities.

Any further information which may be desired, and this Association can give on the subject, will be readily afforded.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

H. A. KINLOCH, Sec.

To the Secretary of the Angling Society, or, as the case may be, the Clerk to the Fishery Board.

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Contributions are solicited, but the Editor will not undertake to return rejected MSS. unless accompanied with a stamped addressed envelope.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only, and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith. Unless this rule be adhered to, no notice will be taken of such communications.

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The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 30, 1884.

## THE TRENT FISHERY BOARD AND POACHERS.

IF all the fishery boards in the country did their work in the energetic and thorough manner that the Trent Board and our T.A.P.S. display, poaching would soon be stamped out. We publish again this week accounts of most important convictions. The John Groome, of Alvaston, who was fined for spearing fish and threatening to put his spear through the water bailiff, is the man who was complained of by one of our correspondents for barbel snatching in the Trent. If anglers would at once complain to the board as well as write to the press when they see poaching going on, many more convictions would take place.

We hear that the "wholesale hawking of poached trout in Dovedale" turns out to have been a canard, and the fish offered are said to be part of the 1 cwt. of coarse fish poached at Spondon.

Some years ago a gentleman in Sweden sent us an elaborate account of fishing with the "Otter"—how to keel the board, fix the line, &c.,—and said it would be a new and capital method to bring to the notice of British anglers! We informed the writer that if he went to Killarney, he could learn how to use the otter from men whose fathers used it. We have seen it at work, and described it in last year's Tourist Number as a villainous thing. It must be remembered that although the Irish loughs are, many of them, very large, yet the feeding grounds of the fish are often very limited and well-defined.

## IRELAND FOR HOLIDAY MAKERS.

WE are glad to see that this year English visitors are flocking to all parts of Ireland—in fact, no such "season" has been known for many years. There have been hundreds of English anglers at the Westmeath lakes for the mayfly trout fishing, and the rivers and lochs generally are well patronised. This would be the case to a much greater extent if landowners combined to stop "otter" fishing—"cross-line" fishing, and other forms of poaching, which kill all the best fish and make the rest too shy for the fair angler. We regret to say so, but we believe it is a fact that some pot-hunting Englishmen are not above using these things, and selling the trout to London fishmongers.

## AN AMATEUR ANGLER'S DAYS IN DOVE DALE.—(No. 6.)

SATURDAY was an off day with me as to angling. The major plied his art alone, and brought home five brace of fine trout. For my part, as I have become so confidential and friendly with your readers, they may like to know what I do down here when I am not fishing. I will tell them. Saturday was a lovely day, so I and my daughter took a drive across country, and a pleasant drive it was. Buoyant and light-hearted we drove over hill and dale till we came to 'The Peacock," at Rowsley, hoping there to take up our abode till Monday, and leisurely explore the region round about. Beautiful "Peacock," the paradise of anglers! but we were forbidden to rest in thy ancient chambers. "Full, quite full;" was the somewhat stern reply to our modest inquiry. In truth I thought the good landlady regarded me with some degree of suspicion; my personal appearance, perhaps, was not quite up to the aristocratic standard of "The Peacock." Until that moment it had not occurred to me that my outer man was not attractive. You will remember how my felt hat was damaged, and my coat and trowsers had a sort of moth-eaten appearance, from the numerous little circular holes out of which I had dug so many of my troublesome flies. I thought I had given my old hat an air of respectability by twisting a couple of fly casts round it; but on the whole I am afraid appearances were against me. However, my daughter's pleasant face seemed to reassure our good hostess; that stern, firm look about the lips gave way to pleasant smiles. She said we would be certain to find rooms at the Edensor Hotel, and kindly advised us to drive on at once to Chatsworth, which on Saturdays is closed to the public at one. It was then half-past twelve, and the distance four miles. So we started, and got to the entrance just in time. Whilst we explored that wonderful mansion and grounds, we sent our coachman on to Edensor to engage apartments; but it being so close upon Bank Holiday, the Edensor Hotel had suddenly filled to overflowing, so we drove back to the picturesque, ivy-clad "Peacock"—a charming old hostelry, beloved by anglers, who make it their headquarters for fishing "The Wye" and other streams; it is also a pleasant resting-place for visitors to Haddon Hall. And just such another hotel is "The Chatsworth," at Edensor, which, in like manner, commands the patronage of "The Derwent" anglers and Chatsworth sight-seers.

We lunched at "The Peacock," visited Haddon Hall, and of course were enchanted by that quaint old mansion and its curious contents, and the lovely scenery with which it is surrounded. We had not time for a ramble by the beautiful "Wye," which there looked sweet and pellucid, as if nothing had happened to its head waters. (How different an impression did those head waters convey to us when the next day we encountered them in the neighbourhood of Buxton!)

We intended to take train for Matlock, but on reaching the station at a quarter to five we found the four-o'clock train for Buxton just starting with (as the exasperated passengers said) its usual punctuality. So we went to Buxton instead of Matlock, and there we remained till Monday. Buxton is a delightful place—that is all I need say about it. Being interested in the beautiful river we had caught a glimpse of at Haddon Hall, we here explored the sources of the "The Wye," the chief of which is in a remarkable cavern called *Poole's Hole*. These are three in number, called respectively *I*, *Thou*, *He*, and when this trinity becomes unity its singular names become the plural *We*, now changed to *Wye*. At least that is the origin of its name as given to me by a gossiping neighbour at the hotel. I cannot vouch for its accuracy.

We observed in the peat-fed, yellowish water of the stream, which, in passing through the conservatory gardens, is made very ornamental, a goodly number of fish rising. Subsequently we took a southerly walk, following the river with the intention of visiting a romantic spot called "Ashwood Dale;" but half a mile below the town we were stopped by the abominable stench which met us from the river. However healthy Buxton may be from its elevated position, and the natural salubrity of its air, these natural qualities must most assuredly be modified by this horrible effluvium, which seems to arise partly from the gas works, but, as it struck me, more from the town sewage.

From a piscatorial point of view, the conversion of the Wye into an open sewer and receiver of gas emanations must be destructive to the fish for many a mile. How far it counteracts the good effect of the mineral waters on human beings, I will leave the Buxton doctors to say. If the river below the gas works sends forth stinks perpetually, like those of last Sunday afternoon, the value of Buxton as a health resort must surely be greatly diminished; and invalids, unconscious of this disturbing element, may wonder why the Buxton air is not doing them as much good as its reputation may have led them to expect.

On Monday afternoon we returned to the Izaak Walton, and I began to think it time I had caught another fish! I had become rather tired—not to say aahamed—of constantly replying to kind inquiries, such as "What sport?" "Oh! nothing, nothing! Water too bright and low, you know, fish not on the feed, &c. Caught a fine brace" (first it was "yesterday," then "two or three days ago"), but now that it is more than a week since I caught that precious couple, I think it is about time to let them drop. In the evening we again invaded "The Manifold Waters." The major captured two and a-half brace of good fish. I hooked half a brace, and lost him.

Yesterday we devoted to "The Dove," but instead of carrying my rod I armed myself with a walking stick, determined to take a lesson in fly-casting by watching the action of the major. It was really a pleasure to see how tenderly he laid his flies on the water, in amongst the bushes and trees, between and over the mossy stones and rocks—how daintily he handled his fish when he had firmly hooked him. He captured a fine grayling of 1lb. 3oz. and a brace of trout after a morning of toil in the broiling sun. My waning ardour was revived by this piscatorial lesson, as I thought how I would do the same, so in the evening we again attacked "The Manifold"; but I am singularly unfortunate. At my first throw to wet my line I somehow got into a hopeless tangle which took me a quarter of an hour to undo. I then made another throw, and was firmly fixed a good way up in an overhanging beech tree; this was most unlucky just at a time when the trout were rising freely in front of me, and one of them I had intended to cover in that hapless throw. My gut gave way to the bough, so my fishing for the evening seemed to be over, for it was too dark to fix up again; but "necessity is the mother of invention." I invented a way of recovering flies suspended high up in an overhanging branch, and I give it for the benefit of your readers. I drew out my strong line to a little more than the length of my rod, and thus forming a loop of it, I swung the line over the bough, at the same time twisting it round the suspended flies. I felt sure that nothing worse could happen than the loss of my already lost flies, so I pulled vigorously, and down came the branch, and all my flies safe and sound. Once again, I set to work. By this time the full moon was shining brightly and most beautifully on the sparkling water. I threw and hooked a fish. "My first trout by moonlight," I said to myself. He splashed about in the shallow water and amongst the rough stones, but I was fixed on the edge of a slanting rock, from which I could not move forward an inch without slipping into a hole, so I had to make the best of it. I assure you, my reader, it is no easy travelling over the rocky sides of some parts of this picturesque river. I had no wading boots, so I had to keep to the bank, and you know how deceptive things are in twilight, how easy it is to mistake a piece of soft mud for firm rock. I might as well have waded as not, considering the many duckings I got off sliding stones and slippery banks, and all I can say as regards my trout is that I held on to him as long as I could under the difficult circumstances, but at last he broke away from me, and I fished no more. The major meanwhile waded up the stream, and was rewarded with two brace of nice trout as the result of a good deal of hard work; for if the sides of the river are rough, the shallow bed is abominable.

Even yet, with all my misfortunes and mishaps, I am unwilling to believe that I am not just as ardent a disciple as I was when I entered on this new career a fortnight ago; if one can catch no fish there is genuine pleasure to be got in walking by the side of a lovely stream; and it is specially charming when the full moon is shining on the water, and in a spot where the pine woods crown the heights, and the beech, the elm, and the oak combine their undulating and many tinted foliage on the hill sides and cast their shadows on the moonlit river, as it runs deep and slow in a semi-circular sweep beneath and around the beautiful hall of Ilam and the old churchyard.

But I am now beginning to think I can enjoy all such pleasures as these without encumbering myself with a fishing-rod, basket, and net, and uselessly whipping the stream. When I first thought of fly-fishing as a holiday amusement, my imagination had pictured to myself a walk by the side of a sweetly-flowing stream on a lovely summer's evening, when one had only to cast one's flies over the water and draw out the simple trout and grayling till one's basket required the aid of a strong boy to carry it. That was the sort of thing I looked for in fly-fishing. How that pretty, imaginary picture has been dispelled by the reality! how I have been soaked and sodden, torn and scratched, stung by nettles, pursued by wasps, bitten by venomous insects, my fingers lacerated, and coat and trousers torn by my own hooks! how, weary and footsore, with my angelic temper tried to the utmost, I have returned to my hotel! All these things, friendly reader, thou already knowest. Recollections, such as these, I am bound to admit, have a tendency to lessen the ardour which first inspired me.

August 8.—Of Wednesday, the 6th, I have nothing to record beyond the fact that the major—piscator major I mean—started alone after luncheon up the Dale, and returned in the evening with the finest basket that has been taken in the low and bright waters of The Dove for many a day—viz., six and a-half brace of trout and grayling. I, piscator minor, took an evening stroll with my rod. I hooked one fish and lost him, and then I hooked my flies and lost them, and so returned home calm and resigned to my unlucky fate, for it has been with me as usual :—

> " The more the eggs the worse the hatch,
> The more the fish the worse the catch."

Talking about "hooking" fish suggests to me a reason why the Dove trout are so markedly shy. "A burnt child dreads the fire." Every sportsman one encounters says he has caught none, but "hooked" a lot. Now, as this sort of thing is going on day after day, and week after week, I should think there can hardly be an adult trout in "The Dove" that has not some time or other been "hooked," and it can only be when his previous hooking has been so long ago that his piscine memory has forgotten it, that he again permits himself to be deluded, and for the last time, by some such "artful dodger" as our Major.

A. A.

## PRESENTATION OF THE TOURNAMENT PRIZES.

Mr. Thomas Spreckley, President of the Thames Angling Preservation Society, kindly consented to present the prizes won in the recent Tournament. The presentation took place at the Foresters' Hall on Friday evening in last week. The following is a list of the prizes and winners :—

First Competition.—Overhand Fly-casting, with 16ft. rod.—1st prize, Silver Egg Cup, Mr. Malloch ; 2nd prize, Painting of Pike, after Targett, Mr. Geo. M. Kelson.

Second Competition.—Overhand Fly-casting, with 18ft. salmon rod.—1st prize, Silver Cup, value £5 5s., won by Major J. P. Traherne ; 2nd prize, A Guinea Card of Miss Campbell's Baits, and Cassell's Domestic Dictionary, won by Mr. Malloch.

Third Competition.—Fly-casting (Switch).—1st prize, Mr. Bullmer's Landing Net, &c., and a copy of "Darwin on Worms," won by Mr. Malloch ; 2nd prize, Mr. Treloar's Carpet, won by Mr. Kelson.

Fourth Competition.—Fly-casting with single-handed rod.—1st prize, Mr. Malloch, a Postal Weighing Machine, given by Mr. Maddock, and Cassell's "Wild Animals and Birds" ; 2nd prize, Mr. R. B. Marston, One Dozen of Lavender Water, given by Mr. Malloch.

Fifth Competition.—Fly-casting with double-handed fly-rod.—1st prize, Mr. Malloch, Mr. Thomas's £3 3s. Silver Cup, which was placed on the table and greatly admired ; 2nd prize, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Farlow's 14ft. "Francis" Rod.

Special Competition.—Mr. Andrews' Rod, won by Mr. Malloch.

Sixth Competition.—Amateur Casting in Thames style.—1st prize, Mr. Alfred, jun., Silver-plated Tankard, given by Mr. Parker, of the Good Intent, and Cassell's "Illustrated Sports and Pastimes" ; 2nd prize, Mr. Hobden, Mr. Slater's Nottingham Rod, Reel, and 80yds. of Line ; 3rd prize, Mr. Simpson, Mr. Heaton's Spring Balance, and one of "Buckland's British Fishes," given by Mr. T. R. Sachs.

Seventh Competition.—Amateur Casting from Reel in Nottingham style.—1st prize, Mr. Slater, Miss Campbell's Smallest Dog in the World in Case, and a copy of Buckland's "Fishes," given by Mr. Sachs ; 2nd prize, Mr. Malloch, Pennell's three Works on Angling, given by Messrs. Routledge ; 3rd prize, Mr. Hobden, Telescopic Gaff, given by Mr. Richardson.

Eighth Competition.—Amateur Casting towards fixed mark.—1st prize, Mr. Simpson, Watson's "General " Rod ; 2nd prize, Mr. Grandfield, Hardy's Carry-All Creel ; 3rd prize, Mr. Alfred, jun., Hugo's "History of a Crime," and Buckland's "Fishes."

Ninth Competition.—Professional Casting, Thames style.—Mr. Andrews, 1st prize, 100yds. of Salmon Line (Foster's).

Tenth Competition.—Professional Casting, Nottingham style.—Mr. Martin, "The British Sportsman," and Mill's "Political Economy," given by Mr. Day.

Eleventh Competition.—Amateur Casting with 3oz. weight.—1st prize, Mr. Hobden, Miss Christie's East India Cane "General" Rod ; 2nd prize, Mr. Alfred, jun., Allcock's Standard Fly Book, and Macaulay's "England ; 3rd prize, Mr. Simpson, Mr. Gillett's Solid Cane Fly Rod.

Twelfth Competition.—No Competitors.

Thirteenth Competition.—Forked Stick Competition.—1st prize, Mr. Sawyer, Mr. Biggs' Punt Rod and the Rod Holder and Punt Clip ; 2nd, Mr. North, Hodgson's Landing Ring and One Rod Holder and Clip ; 3rd prize, Mr. Holmes, One Booth's Rod and Rod Holder and Clip.

Pegged Down Match.—1st prize, One Guinea cash and Mr. Warner's Guinea Season Ticket to fish Harp, Mr. Mavory ; 2nd prize, 15s. cash and 10s. worth of day tickets, Mr. Osborn ; 3rd prize, 10s. cash and 10s. worth of day tickets, Mr. Gadbury.

"Go-as-you.Please" Match.—1st prize, One Guinea and Guinea Season Ticket, Mr. Tucker ; 2nd prize, 15s. and 10s. worth of day tickets, Mr. Osborn ; 3rd prize, 10s. and 10s. worth of day tickets, Mr. Castell.

Mr. R. B. Marston called over the list, and those of the prize winners who were present then received them from Mr. Spreckley, who made a few appropriate remarks with each, and after the last name was called, referred in a short speech to the various benefits which were derived from these tournaments, even though the weather had been so much against them. They brought anglers together from all parts ; they showed various styles of fishing, and what could be done by ardent competitors in each. Competition was good—(hear, hear)—it kept us alive, made us open our eyes, and was the soul of all kinds of improvement. He referred to the great pains and care Mr. Marston had taken to get up these tournaments ; they had no idea of the amount of time it took to arrange all the numberless little matters, and the amount of correspondence involved. He had much pleasure in moving a vote of thanks to Mr. Marston for the great interest he had taken in getting up these tournaments in aid of the Anglers' Benevolent Society.

Mr. Manning, in a few kind words, seconded the resolution. He quite agreed with their respected chairman, that competition brought the best men together. Mr. Marston was certainly the Father of the Anglers' Tournaments in this country.

Mr. Murphy rose to move that Mrs. Marston's name be included in the vote of thanks—(hear, hear)—they all knew how kindly that lady had presented the prizes last year, and he was quite sure Mr. Marston had received great help from Mrs. M. in carrying out the affair.

Mr. R. B. Marston, in reply, thanked them all, both for himself and Mrs. Marston, for their very hearty vote of thanks. He could assure them that Mrs. M. had helped him very considerably in various ways, and took great interest in the tournament. Next year he hoped the weather would give them all a chance, for rain and wind were much worse for the competitors than for the spectators, and greatly affected the results.

Mr. Spreckley then proposed a vote of thanks to the judges and the other gentlemen who had acted as officers. He had noticed particularly how energetically and well they performed their duties, although wet through. The success of the affair was greatly owing to their tact and exertions.

Mr. Murphy and Mr. Chambers replied.

Mr. Field then proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Ghurney, which, after being seconded by Mr. Simpson, was, like the previous resolutions, carried unanimously.

Mr. Ghurney said it was a duty as well as a pleasure to him to do all in his power to aid the Benevolent Society, and he was quite sure these tournaments had been the means of making the Society known far and wide. It was going on very satisfactorily. They had £120 in hand, after recently paying out over £80 for cases which required relief. (Hear, hear.) They had a considerable number of prizes which had not been won, but which would be most useful next year. Those who had not received their prizes could get them at 9 o'clock, next Friday, Sept. 5th, at Foresters' Hall, Clerkenwell. Country competitors should write and say where their prizes are to be sent.

The meeting then broke up, and the committee of the Anglers' Benevolent Society discussed a case which was before them for relief, and decided to send £4 at once to a poor widow whose late husband had been a member of the Society.

The annual subscription is only one shilling, and every angler ought to become a member of this most excellent charity.

## ALLEGED POACHING AT OXFORD.

Before the Deputy-Mayor (A. Wheeler, Esq.), president of the Oxford Angling and Thames Preservation Society, Aldermen Carr, Cavel, and Lowe, and W. Ward, Geo. Ward, and W. Brain, Esqrs., Thomas Johnston, of Osney, was summoned, at the instance of the Oxford Angling and Thames Preservation Society, for refusing to stop his boat, on the 19th inst., when so required by two duly appointed water bailiffs.

Mr. Dudley, who prosecuted on behalf of the Thames Angling Preservation Society, said the summons was not taken out with the idea of asking the magistrates to inflict a heavy penalty if they thought the offence had been committed, but simply to convince the general public of Oxford that conduct of this kind was contrary to the Act of Parliament.

Mr. George Randall Cooper, water bailiff, gave evidence, and said, about a quarter past seven on the night in question he went to the upper fisheries and another water bailiff went on the path on the other side of the water. Mr. English, the other bailiff, asked some men in a boat to allow him to examine it, and they immediately punted up river to the London and North-Western Allotment Gardens, instead of complying with his request. He and Mr. English followed them in a boat, and examined the punt in which the defendant was, and they found it was wet and dirty, as if it had been recently used for netting. Cross-examined by the defendant : He could swear to the defendant, but he could not say who the other two men were. He had inquired of persons in the Fisherow whom they had seen in the punt with Johnson, because he was anxious to discover their names. By Mr. Mattam, Magistrates' Clerk : What did you consider the defendant had been doing ? Mr. Cooper : Netting in the river, and that is an offence at that time of night. The defendant, labouring under the impulse of the moment, truthfully remarked, "I have been everything that is bad, but I have never been a poacher at night in my life." (Incredulous laughter.)

Mr. H. English, bookseller and newsagent, 38, St. Ebbes-street, gave corroborative evidence—three men were in the boat, and one was Johnson. He saw them putting something in a sack. He asked them what they were doing, and one replied they were cleaning out their boat. They punted towards the opposite side, and then went rapidly up river. He told the men that he was a water bailiff, and if they refused to have the boat examined they must take the consequences. He afterwards entered the punt, and found it was very wet. Cross-examined by the defendant : He did not tell the men that he was a water bailiff until they were going up the river. It was rather a dark night. He had not been "knocking about Hythe Bridge, treating people to find out who was in the boat. In reply to Mr. Dudley, Mr. English said he had been endeavouring to discover Johnson's accomplices. By Mr. Mallam : The men did not make any reply when he asked them to allow him to examine the boat. They must have heard him when he called to them. He did not see any of the men taking fish.

Mr. Mallam stated that, in his opinion, the men must first have committed an offence before they could be called upon to stop. Mr. Dudley maintained that if the bailiffs had reasonable suspicions that the men were on the river for the purpose of taking fish, they had a perfect right to call upon them to stop, and the refusal to do so was an offence under the Act of Parliament. The defendant facetiously said he frequently brought his young "gal" down the river in a boat. (Laughter.) If the man called on him to bring the punt, how was he to know who he was ? This was private water. When he was called in this way, was he to take the boat at once to the bank ? How did he know they wouldn't chuck him and his "gal " into the water ? (Laughter.) He was not on the river at the time it was stated. The neighbours would say these two men kicked up more row than if there were sixteen people being drowned. (Laughter.)

The magistrates retired to consider the case, and on returning into Court the Deputy Mayor said they had taken great pains to arrive at a decision, and they were of opinion that the words of the Act of Parliament were so vague that, notwithstanding the suspicious circumstances surrounding the case, they could not convict. Mr. Dudley asked, if it was necessary, would the magistrates grant a case ? It was an important matter, and the words of the Act of Parliament were so vague that it might be thought proper to finally settle the meaning of the word "stop." The Deputy Mayor said he thought the Bench would be pleased to grant a case. It was a matter that should be cleared up. Mr. Dudley : Then a case would be granted. The Deputy Mayor : Certainly ; that is the unanimous feeling of the magistrates.

Bewlay and Co.'s Tobacco.—We have received for notice some of the most excellent tobacco sold by Messrs. Bewlay and Co., 49, Strand, and 143, Cheapside—"Shag," "Bird's-eye," and "London Mixture." The shag we gave to a friend, who says he never smoked better, and the other we consumed with much gratification in a sweet, old "briar." It was while on an angling visit to one of England's greatest novelists that we were first introduced, and, with due ceremony, to Bewlay's bird's-eye. "I have smoked it for thirty years, and I can never get any equal to this," he says, as he hands us a magnificent and finely-coloured meerschaum in which to try it ; and certainly it is the perfection of "bird's-eye" tobacco. Their "London Mixture," while much stronger, is another equally good, and also absolutely pure, tobacco.

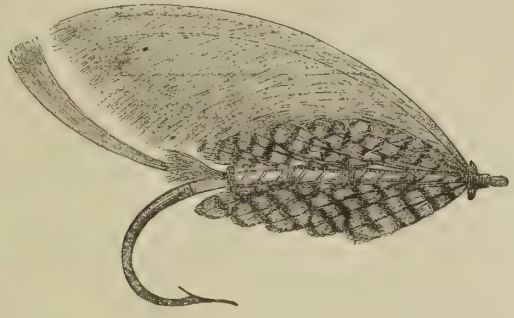
## ON THE DESCRIPTION OF SALMON FLIES.

BY MR. GEO. M. KELSON.

### MAJOR TRAHERNE'S PATTERNS *(Continued).*

### NO. 12.—THE "JAY P.T."

IT seems so strange that ideas which awaken and urge on the desire of what is erroneous in fishing and in fly-tying find so ready an access to our untutored minds. Is not the young wader roving about up round his waist in a bouldery pool certain to pick up objectionable tricks which invariably leave their trace behind ?—their indelible evidences to assuredly distract and discourage him in the future. Ask, for example, any angler who involuntarily "drops his fly" (an acquisition easily attained, let me assure you, and although the habit may not be attended with any special danger in certain localities, he would, in others, be breaking every hook)—ask, whether it is not next to an impossibility for him to keep the fly well in the air behind, and whether any attempt to do so is not dreadfully fatiguing. I think we may depend, that, in either pursuit, good habits are inculcated by acts of reason in a continued struggle through many tempting moments. And now that we are drawing near to the more confused and less comprehensible branches of this study where crippled creeds must not go groping about in twilight, I may remind those who have never yet made a tapered body that it is much more difficult to forget and overcome bad habits than to acquire good ones.



It was the hackle question we were on, and if we get wrong with these feathers, it will not be very easy to get right. Ordinary hackles—I mean from poultry—that run up the body of a fly are better fixed in at the beginning of the second turn of the ribs, than at the butt ; but in placing them there under a tinselled body, avoid making an unsightly ridge. Form a miniature gutter with the point of the stiletto in the floss silk underneath the tinsel before the varnish on it is dry, and you can stroke and shape the point of the hackle, if you wet it first, to fit in it. The hackle need not be tied there, as the tinsel holds it sufficiently.

When feathers are inserted along the body, such as "Jay" (see illustration), tippets, red crow, &c., this grooving business is very essential on both sides of the hook ; then the vice, which is of the greatest service sometimes to those who treat fly dressing as a hobby, is called into requisition. The hook, as usual, being secured at the bend, you take a fine needle at the point in one hand and at the eye in the other, and press it into the undried varnished silk, parallel with the shank.

These patterns, though so much more elaborate than any of the old, ordinary type, are not so expensive as fishermen imagine. One dozen toppings of this size cost about three shillings, and five would probably be ample for this one. The other feathers in it may be bought at a mere lynominal price. There are one or two first-class dressers to be found who would charge no more than £2 per dozen for some of these magnificent specimens.

The "Chatterer" (No. 9) is certainly an exception ; but salmon anglers are not always so very particular, if the flies are well made. I should think two-and-sixpence a fair price for "Bluebell" (No. 1). This is less than some metropolitan firms charge for Britannia, The Popham, and other standard patterns.

The time of year for most of these is past—to return in the opening of the season '85, when no doubt my remarks will appear insignificant, and my praises of them inadequate.

When upon the subject of "Jay" as a hackle, I may give an illustration as well as my ideas of its management. The feather is one of the cheapest and yet most useful to us. It is only in the old birds we find the blue bars bright and distinct ; the colours in the inferior feathers have the appearance of running one into the other, and are not nearly so attractive.

The above illustration is one of the best I have been able to get, and gives a fair idea of the perfection of the workmanship. I am aware some of the former are below par ; but engravers are not very familiar with the shape and perspective of salmon flies ; and as these were in the Exhibition for six months, and have been conveyed several hundred miles, the feathers are consequently slightly shaken and out of place. This one may be described as follows :—

Tag : Silver twist and canary-coloured floss.
Tail : Topping and red crow.
Butt : Black herl.
Body : In four sections, butted. No. 1 : Topping-coloured silk, with four Jay points (as illustrated)—two above and below. 2 : Tippet-coloured silk, and repeat the Jay's. 3 : Red crow coloured silk and Jays. 4 : Red claret silk and Jays, as before.
Ribbed : Fine oval tinsel.
Wings : Toppings.
Horns : Red macaw.
Head : Black herl.

## THE TROUT STREAMS OF ABERDEENSHIRE.

### THE EBRIE.

OF the many excellent trouting streams in Aberdeenshire, few possess greater attractions for the angler than the subject of this notice. Unless the water is unusually small, good baskets can always be counted on. The Ebrie rises in the parish of New Deer, and after pursuing an eastward course for about 10 miles, falls into the river Ythan, at Inverebrie, four miles from the village of Ellon. The chief proprietors are Lord Aberdeen, Mrs. Leslie, of Nethermuir ; Mr. Ross, of Arnage ; and the Gordon's Hospital Trust. The laird of Arnage alone preserves. The greatest extent, and perhaps the cream of the water, is bounded by the property of the Earl of Aberdeen, who generously allows free scope to anglers, provided no damage is done to his tenants' belongings. With this privilege accorded, it is distinctly stipulated that there must be no trespassing in the adjacent fields or injury done to the growing crop.

The Ebrie has little wood along its bank, although the country is generally well wooded round about. The district is more agricultural than pastoral, and though tending to be hilly and uneven, is entirely reclaimed unless where planted. Above Arnage there are some beautiful pools. Indeed, within a couple of miles of Arnage station, on either side, the best of the fishing can always be had. The Ebrie has a nice rippling flow in the main, pool and stream alternating almost every 10 or 15 yards. It is more sandy in the bottom than anything else—pebbly in some parts, rocky in others, but never muddy, except where weirs impede the current. Possessed of an abundance of aquatic vegetation and low water-rutted banks, the Ebrie affords its trout excellent shelter. Taking it all over, we may regard it as one of our best-fed streams. Insect life in great variety abounds in the rank luxuriant grass that grows along its margin. For miles in the primrose season its banks are turned into a veritable garden. In April, May, and June capital trouting is got in the Ebrie. Owing to the sharp nature of the stream, the trout are free risers, and though not large in size, are excellent in quality. In July, August, and September the sport is much inferior to that obtained in the earlier months. So soon as rainy weather sets in in the autumn sea trout and finnock ascend in great numbers. The last fortnight in September is good, but the month of October is always the best time for these. Splendid sport is always got when the stream is subsiding after a spate ; thirty a day to a single rod being nothing uncommon.

In fishing for yellow trout in May and June, a fair day's catch would be eight dozen, averaging three to the lb. In April, fewer would likely be got, but the average would be somewhat greater. Large trout are scarce. Though we ourselves have sometimes basketed about ten dozen in a day, we never succeeded in including any over 1½lb. in weight. Most of the trout are pretty clean, plump, and of fine proportion. Worm is a deadly bait when the water is anywise discoloured. The flies that take best in the earlier months are the March brown, hare lug, and partridge ruff : later on the professor, cow dung, coachman, grey dun, and black and red spiders will be found the most serviceable range. Fine tackle is very desirable.

The sea trout got in the Ebrie average 1½lb. ; the whitling about ¾lb. Black and red palmers, and a fly with orange body, woodcock wing, and cochybondu hackle are very deadly ; but perhaps the dew worm, more than anything else, ensures good sport when the water is fairly large. The dam dykes, about half a mile from the Ebrie's conference with the Ythan, create a long, deep pool in the river above, in which salmon rest in October after ascending. A few are got here every year with the Jock Scott, Lady Caroline, and Brown's phantom. The flies used for salmon are about an inch ; for sea trout and finnock, 7, 8, and 9 double irons are the most suitable sizes.

Grilse rarely ascend the Ebrie, and it is quite unusual to hear of any being caught in it during the summer. A few stragglers ascend with the salmon and sea trout in the autumn, but further than this there is no run. Anglers wishing to enjoy good white trout fishing ought to pay the Ebrie a visit in October.

Arnage station, the central point for the unrestricted Ebrie water, is distant from Aberdeen a full half-hour's ride per rail on the Buchan section of the Great North of Scotland Railway. The stream is distant about 300 yards from the station. Crossing the bridge and taking the south bank, anglers have three miles of good water either way, up or down—up to Auchnagatt, or down to the Ythan.

Undoubtedly the most convenient point for anglers to stay at is Auchnagatt, where excellent accommodation at moderate terms can be had at the Barron's Inn. Anglers can proceed from thence all the way down the south side of the stream till the Ythan is reached, and fish up again as far as Arnage station, from whence train can be taken to Auchnagatt. Lodgings at the farmhouses in the neighbourhood of Arnage is usually obtainable. The village of Ellon is a place of quiet beauty and worthy of a visit. Haddo House, the family seat of the Aberdeen family, is within easy driving distance. The Mansion House of Nethermuir is close to Auchnagatt, and its grounds are usually open to strangers. Rod season for the Ebrie, 28th February to 31st October ; rail to Aberdeen, thence as directed.

Enquiries for additional information addressed to us through the Editor of the GAZETTE will receive ready notice. W. M.

CLOSE OF THE TAY NET FISHING.—The fishing on the Tay closed for the season at twelve o'clock on Wednesday night, August 20th. The unprecedented success of the two opening months of the fishings had been somewhat counteracted by the scarcity of salmon and grilse during May and June. Several causes may account for this : the extreme lowness of the river caused by the protracted drought, the fact that grilse were about three weeks later than last season, or the great mortality amongst spawning fish last winter. With a rise of the water in July, the fishings improved greatly, and continued to improve until 9th or 10th curt., when the run of salmon seemed to be exhausted. During the last week the catch has been below the average for the last week of the season. The number of salmon got, weighing above 40lb., has been much above the average ; but on the whole, the average weight of the fish caught have been somewhat light, and scarcely up to previous years. Taken as a whole, the season has been fairly good, and but for the falling off in May and June, would have been extra good. The angling season in the Tay remains open to the 10th October, and on the Earn till the 31st October, and as there are plenty of fish in the river, good sport is anticipated.—J. M'G.

FISH CULTURE IN OLDEN TIMES.—From an early treatise on fishing and fish culture, entitled "A Booke on Fishing with Hooke and Line" (1590), we glean the following item concerning ancient pisciculture. "It shall be good for all gentlemen and others hauing the gouerment of any riuers, brookes, or standing pooles, to replenish them with all such kinde of fish as may there be preserued or bred as well of straying as others. There is a kinde of fish in Holland, in the fennes beside Peterborrow, which they call a poult ; they be like in making and greatness to the Whiting, but of the cullour of the Loch ; they come foorth of the fenne brookes into the riuers nigh there about, as in Wansworth riuer there are many of them. They stirre not all the Summer, but in the Winter when it is most coldest weather. They are taken at Milles in Welles, and at wayers likewise. They are a pleasant meat, and some do thinke they would be as well in other riuers and running waters, as Huntingdon, Ware, and such like, if those waters were replenished with them, as they may with small charge." [Probably the fish referred to is the eel-pout.—ED.]

GEORGE JAMES EATON, of Starkholmes, Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required, from gentlemen who can fish, to prove whether they may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices : Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen ; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—(ADVT.)

## ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

**G. Henshall** (Bingham).—We should think your best plan would be to employ some farmer's boy in the neighbourhood to rob a wasp's nest for you. The only man who sells them in London, as far as we know, is J. Haydon, Coleman-street, Camberwell. He does a good business among London club anglers. They are a good bait for any coarse fish, as well as eels, trout, &c. We prefer to use them fresh and alive, throwing in a few now and then.—Ed.

**Red Quill Gnat.**—(1) The Thames Angling Preservation Society have no jurisdiction over the Colne or other tributaries of the Thames further than the power to see that the fish have free course and are not stopped by any artificial means. They have a case of this kind on near Sunbury now. They do not regulate the "sizes of fish in the Colne or the other tributaries." (2) The trout stream at St. Mary Cray is strictly preserved.

**H. W. Taylor** (Leeds).—It is not uncommon to find fish with roe in them months after the proper season. In future please put a little disinfectant with anything you send of this kind; we had to burn it at once.

**Jack Snipe** (R.Q.P. Yacht Club, Dover).—We have to thank you for kindly sending the names and addresses of officers who are also anglers. We shonld be glad to have a short account of the bream incident, and should be obliged if you would add a few words as to the nature of the fishing to be had in the neighbourhood of Ostend and Bruges. Do the fish run a good size? and is permission to fish easily got?

# CORRESPONDENCE.

[*We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.*]

## FLOATING GROG SHOPS.

Sir,—Public attention has once more been called to that pest of the North Sea, the floating grog shop, which cruises with the trawling fleets. A writer in one of your weekly contemporaries remarks that what has already been done by legislation to check this evil "amounts to an excellent imitation of nothing." The fault is not, however, in the nature of the remedies, but in the difficulty of their application. The *Cooper* is practically beyond the reach of the law, and the question has been, not how the traffic may be put down, but how the *Coopers* themselves may be kept out of the fleets.

Let me illustrate what I mean. On a recent Sunday morning, in the "Short Blue" fleet, 25 smacks' boats were to be seen towing astern of the floating church, and only three astern of the *Cooper*. About the same date, in one of the Grimsby fleets, two Dutch *Coopers* appeared just as the smacksmen were assembling for morning service on board the Mission-ship, whose skipper, having witnessed on similar occasions scenes of rioting and drunkenness, feared their arrival would greatly diminish his congregation; but only one solitary boat pulled off to the *Coopers*, and the unwelcome visitors, declining an invitation to remain and attend Divine service, presently bore away in different directions in search of easier prey.

It is now three years since the Thames Church Mission, of which I am President, inaugurated its "Mission to Deep-Sea Fishermen," under the conviction, amply corroborated by results, that the best antidote for the evil wrought by the *Cooper* would be the presence with each fleet of a vessel which should be at once a church, Dispensary, Library, Temperance Hall, and Club—a vessel whose influence should extend to and be acknowledged by the roughest and most depraved.

Four such ships are now stationed in the North Sea, and by the men in the fleets and the wives and children ashore they are regarded with gratitude and affection.

Owners, too, have spontaneously acknowledged the vast benefit conferred, and one large firm, in writing to the Secretary, said, "Our men have been completely revolutionised, and we gladly become annual subscribers of ten guineas to the funds of the Mission."

Services are conducted on board the Mission Smacks by clergy or suitable lay missionaries, and medical and surgical assistance is dispensed to many poor fellows who but for this boon would be in imminent danger of losing life or limb. In fine weather the lending library is extensively used, while instruction in reading and writing is afforded to those who are ignorant of these rudiments, and in many other ways the men are taught to appreciate the Mission Ship.

This important and successful effort has, in my opinion, practically dealt a mortal blow to the *Cooper's* pestilent trade; and my friend Mr. Edward Birkbeck, M.P., whose sympathy with the fishermen is so widely known, when speaking of the many cases of direct evil wrought by the floating grog shop, observes: "Such facts convince me more and more that if there is one way in which great good can be done among deep-sea fishermen, it is through the instrumentality of the smacks sent out by the Thames Church Mission. They are doing in the North Sea a grand work, worthy of the support of a great maritime nation like England; and I believe that the results of their effort, great as they are in the present, would, if only supported liberally by the public, be of untold value in the future."

Such work as this does, indeed, deserve (as it greatly needs) liberal support, and contributions in its aid will, I know, be very gladly received by the Secretary, 31, New Bridge-street, E.C.

In the words of Lord Shaftesbury, "For moral purposes, for patriotic purposes, for social purposes, for religious purposes, there was never devised a better agency than the Thames Church Mission, and it ought not to want the means which are necessary to extend its operations."—I am, &c., R. N. Fowler, Lord Mayor.

Mansion House, E.C., Aug. 26.

[We see in the *German Fishing Gazette* frequently accounts of lawless acts on the part of British fishermen. There may be some truth in them; but this lawlessness is chiefly the result of the vile liquors supplied by Dutch, Belgian, and German bumboats. We are very glad to see the matter has been taken up by such influential and energetic gentlemen as the Lord Mayor, Lord Shaftesbury, and Mr. Edward Birkbeck, M.P. Whenever Mr. Birkbeck puts his shoulder to a wheel, it has to get out of the rut.—Ed.]

## WET OR DRY FLY.

Sir,—Throwing the dry fly neatly over a rising fish, whether he take it or not, is a very beautiful accomplishment, and deserves every success; but the constant whipping necessary requires so much exertion that old arms like mine are not capable of standing the fatigue; I must, therefore, be contented with the old method, and only occasionally throwing the dry fly. I am no glutton, and if I can get three or four brace of good fish in a day I am qu'te satisfied. I had a few days fishing in July, and on three of these days I had, as my companions, two well-known fly-fishers, both thorough adepts at throwing the dry fly. The comparison of our baskets may not be uninteresting to those who still continue to use the old system. On July 5th, water low and clear, wind S.W., sun and shade alternating, with very slight ripple on the water—we divided the water, my friend taking the upper, whilst I took the lower water—both having long stretches of still, deep water (two mill-heads) and also running streams.

At 3 o'clock, when we met for dinner, he had taken two brace of fish—fishing with the dry fly—all good fish—flies, small governor and quill gnat. I had got 2½ brace nice fish with the wet fly—flies, small alder and small governor—only using one fly at a time.

After 5 o'clock we went out again, and with red spinner and large alder, and got 2 brace of good fish.

On the 7th there appeared every prospect of a fine fishing day, but before 10.30 the clouds had cleared off and the sun came out very strong, the breeze died away. By sinking a small alder, I managed to get a brace of fish, one over 2lb., and although the fish were rising, they would not look at the dry fly. I hooked another, but lost him, and tired of throwing over them, we gave it up at 2 o'clock, hoping for better sport later. At 5 I went out again, with the remark from my friend, "What's the use, it is too bright, and it will be labour lost." However, out I went, and although the sun threw a bright glare on the water, by kneeling down and throwing up-stream close to the bank on my side, with a wet soldier palmer I killed two brace of very fine fish. They never broke the surface; but by watching for a slight movement of the water, I knew when to strike. Just a turn of the wrist was all that was wanted. At 6 o'clock I changed to the red-spinner, and got three more fine fish, and a brace of grand fellows with the large alder. My friend was unfortunate, for, although the fish rose well between 7 and 9 o'clock, they would not take the dry fly. He only got three, but they were good ones.

On July 14th, I was fishing with another friend, a great advocate for the dry system, and a first-rate fly-fisher. We had a day given us on some strictly preserved water on the Kennet, and, although it looked a first-rate day, the big fish would not rise. We both took about equal both in size and quality, and before 3 o'clock had returned to the water at least 10 brace of fish, most of them not quite up to the size, but some of them over 1lb. each. At 5 o'clock we went out again. I got 3 brace of fine fish with a small wet red-spinner, and a brace with the large alder; my friend 2 brace with the governor. I am, therefore, quite satisfied with the wet fly. I am, &c.—Silver Doctor.

[Silver Doctor's experience certainly justifies him in fishing as he does, and there is a great deal to be said (in this hot weather especially!) for any system which reduces the labour of fishing. The fact is it does not pay to tire oneself too much; it not only makes the pleasure too much of a labour, but when one's arms and legs are tired out it is impossible to fish properly. We townsmen are all so glad to get to the river that we grudge time for anything that takes us away from it; country anglers, who can fish almost when they like, wisely take things much more easily.—Ed.]

## THE STATE OF THE LEA BELOW TOTTENHAM.

Sir,—The other evening I took a *short* walk along the River Lea with a lady friend from the country, whom I wished to impress with the beauties of that sweet stream. The result is that I can fully indorse the remarks contained in your recent letter to the *Times* as to the abominable state of the river at the present time; the stench was so overpowering that we were glad to escape up the nearest road which led off again; and I think, for the strongest reasons, that if nothing else can be done at present, that the boating should be prohibited until the long-expected rain does the necessary work of purification.—I am, &c,,

H. Richardson.

77, Finsbury-pavement.

P.S.—Permit me to thank you for the very kind notice you gave me in connection with the tournament prizes.

## CRAWSHAW'S SCARLET DYE.

Sir,—In your issue of the 23rd inst. I see that Mr. George Bankart inquires for a fast scarlet or blood-red dye. If he dyes his own dubbing, let him try Crawshaw's "scarlet" dye, and I think he will obtain what he requires, both as to shade and fastness. If this does not suit his wishes, as to shade, I think he will get it from either Crawshaw's "Cardinal" or "Crimson." I inclose a few feathers dyed from the dyes I have mentioned, which perhaps you might consider worth forwarding to your correspondent Mr. Bankart. I have not tried these dyes myself upon any material used as "dubbing," but I have seen seals fur dyed, I believe. with these dyes, and the result was quite as satisfactory in it as it is in the feathers.

I much wonder if Ephemera's "Dunkeld" is known as a salmon fly to Mr. Bankart? or, dressed smaller, as a white trout fly? for I cannot but think that where a "Wickham Fancy" will kill, a small Dunkeld would surpass it, and if Mr. Bankart would try my recipes for dyeing "Golden Olives," and then give the hackles a dip in the Brazil wood decoction, I feel sure that he will get as much "lustre" as he can desire, or perhaps Crawshaw's "Orange" would give him the shade he wants. A few feathers dyed from it I also inclose.—I am &c. Eastern.

Ballymoney, Co. Antrim.

[The samples appear to us to be very brilliant, and "Eastern's" testimony to the durability of the colour is as good as a certificate. The following is "Ephemera's" dressing of the Dunkeld.—Ed.:—"Body, gold tinsel rolled close, and ribbed with silver twist and yellow hackle; tag of black ostrich, tipped with gold tinsel, small topping and small jungle cock's feather; a little blue jay at shoulder; wings, two small toppings, mixed with brown mallard and peacock's wing feather; and blue, yellow, and red macaw feelers, and black ostrich head."]

## OUSE (OFFORD), NEAR HUNTINGDON.

Sir,—My wife and self have been fishing for three weeks, from July 28th to August 16th, and the following is the result of our takes:—Roach, 965; bream, 50; perch, 29; chub, 5; eels, 9—total, 1,058. All these were sizeable fish, and the total does not include small ones which were returned to the river. The weather was very fine the whole of the time, sometimes too hot for fishing in the middle of the day. Our largest individual take was on August 2nd, fishing from four o'clock in the afternoon till dusk, my wife catching 42 roach and myself 45 and one large perch. The perch was caught in rather a peculiar manner. He came to the top of the water after a fine roach which my wife was playing, and so intent was he after his prey that I was able to put the landing net under him and lift him out. My largest take of bream was on the 14th, fishing from 4 a.m. till noon, at a place baited overnight; it consisted of 13 bream, weighing 2½ stones, besides, of course, a lot of roach. The largest roach I caught, strange to say, was my first, and I had not been fishing a quarter of an hour; it turned 1½lb., and the largest bream weighed 3¾lb. The water was in splendid condition all the time; if anything, rather too clear. Fished with boiled wheat for roach, and lobs and brandlings for bream; found the big bream preferred the tail of a lob. Many parts of the river are entirely free; in fact, from the Mill downwards towards Brampton it is so for miles. Am sorry I cannot give the total weight, as I did not take it on all occasions; time of fishing, 127 hours.—I am, &c.. Rover.

Preston.

## FISHING AT FOLKESTONE.

Sir,—Your correspondent, "J.," will get good sea-fishing now at Folkestone. I advise him to put himself into the hands of Baker, the fisherman, near the harbour, or another respectable man, Coghlan, well known on the beach.

I had a couple of hours in one of Baker's sailing boats the other evening, and we caught half a dozen nice conger eels, some of them 3lb. to 4lb. Two congers bit the sea lines as we were drawing them in. "J." may return the hooks if he catches the fish.

I killed two nice pollack, about this time last year, at Folkestone, spinning an indiarubber sand-eel with the rod, while running out to the anchor for the hand-line fishing. He ought to try this as well.

There is no freshwater fishing worth going for that I know of, the canal at Hythe being almost dried up.—I am, &c., James Canaghan.

Sydenham, 23rd August, 1884.

## SORREL-COLOURED GUT LINES.

Sir,—I first saw casting lines of this colour some seven years since at S. Price's, 8, Seymour-street, Euston-square. I purchased some, and was so successful with them that I rarely used any others. All roach fishers who use hair prefer this colour, as it shows less in the water than white.—I am, &c., E. Gosling.

Budleigh Salterton, Aug. 23.

## FINE ROACH.

Sir,—Seeing your mention of the fine roach you have in your possession, I thought I would let you know that a few years ago, I caught a fine roach at West Drayton; weight when taken to the house 2lb. 6oz., when taken next morning at Rowland Ward's 2lb. 4¼oz. It was in the Fisheries Exhibition last year, and is now in the Health Exhibition. If any of your readers want good sport in roach, dace, and tench, or even trout, they cannot do better than go there. If you have space in your paper for this, our club will be grateful to you. I am an old subscriber to your paper, having two copies weekly excepting No. 2, which I have tried to procure but cannot.—I am, &c., J. H. Davie.

Hammersmith.

## FISHING AT SKEGNESS.

Sir,—In reply to your enquiry, I can inform you that there is a fair amout of amateur fishing done here in the spring and autumn for hallibut, plaice, soles, lobsters, &c. We have not much freshwater fishing.—I am, &c., J. T.

Skegness, Aug. 23, 1884.

## LOSS OF A VALUABLE FLY BOOK AT HALLIFORD.

Sir,—Knowing the very generous way in which you so often come forward to assist your brethren of the angle, I am led to ask your assistance under the following circumstances. I may just mention my business has only very recently brought me to reside in London. On August 1st I, with a friend, made my first visit to the Thames. We were recommended to Halliford and went there, putting up at the Ship Hotel, with the intention of staying over the following Monday. On the Friday afternoon we engaged a punt, giving our rods, &c., into the charge of the fisherman before starting, and on our return in the evening to our quarters we gave them into his charge, and requested him to see everything safely brought into the hotel. This he distinctly stated he had carried out. But what was my disgust the following morning when I came to look my traps over, to find a small black leather handbag, containing a valuable fly-book and also a bronzed reel with sixty yards of fine tapered silk line, were missing. I promised, at the request and in due deference to the landlord, to wait a week or so to see if anybody had taken it away in mistake; but, having had no tidings, I placed the matter in the hands of the police, who informed me, much to my astonishment, that this was not the first case they had had reported of fishing-tackle being taken from the same place. I think, Sir, you can assist me by publishing in the Gazette this letter, along with the description of the book, which I hand you herewith, so that if any of your numerous readers should come across it in any shape or form, being offered for sale or otherwise, for I hold it can be of very little use to anybody but a fisherman, they will communicate the fact through you, and so assist in the recovery.—I am, &c., Thos. J. Hodson.

2, Dunster House, Mincing-lane, E.C.

### Description of Book and Contents.

It is made of light brown leather (calf skin), 10in. in length, 6in. in width, and 2in. in thickness, with a strap of same leather round the middle. On the inside of the flap is written in plain letters with black ink, Thomas Jno. Hodson, Manchester, 1882. There are four pockets inside, of leather, two on each side; one of them covers over with a flap. The two first contained a few feathers and silks, also a quantity of salmon and other gut and gut casts. There was also a small pair of scissors and one or two pairs of pliers for fly-dressing in the sheaths outside the two first pockets. The flys were arranged in the parchment sections of the book in the following order:—A few February reds and a number of March browns on the first page, some of these were dressed on horsehair; then follows on the next pages a number of blue duns, hares-ear duns, yellow duns, principally dressed by Mrs. Ogden Smith, of Cheltenham; after these follow a considerable number of Winchester patterns, dressed by Mrs. Cox; then come two pockets in the middle of the book. These are lined with buff, glazed linen, with flannel outside. On the flannels are a number of flies, many of them dressed on eyed-hooks. The remaining portion of the book is sectioned off for salmon flies, with strips of blue parchment across the pages. The sections I had filled up with a considerable variety of May flies—Loch Leven and sundry Irish patterns, finishing with a dozen or fifteen standard salmon flies on medium-sized hooks. In one of the two end pockets there were two artificial minnows, made of mother of pearl, and beautifully painted and set up with small triangle hooks. There was also a few floats and a little rough tackle, which accounted for my taking the book with me on this day. The book has been seen and could be easily recognised by a number of anglers on the Wye and Derwent in Derbyshire, if it should get in that direction, and also on other rivers up north.

## PREVENTITIVE FOR STAINS ON FLOSS BODIES OF SALMON FLIES.

Sir,—In your issue of August 16th, I see that Mr. George Kelson, in his article on "The Description of Salmon Flies," alludes to the remarks of a correspondent in a former Gazette on "cobbler's wax" spoiling the colour of the floss silk" used in the bodies of salmon flies; and that this same "spoiling" has been a source of trouble to others may be inferred from the different kinds of wax used by tyers, presumably as a preventitive to stains appearing on floss bodies. We have Rogan's "greaseless wax," Mr. Fennell's "colourless wax," &c., &c., all of them good, no doubt, but, in my humble opinion, none so good as cobbler's wax. But, so far as my experience goes, stains will appear at times on floss bodies when put over cobbler's wax. A friend of mine made the following suggestion to me as a preventitive to the staining of the bodies, and I have proved its efficacy beyond doubt:—"After tying on the gut, why not varnish the tying?" said he; and I need hardly say that this simple expedient renders any stain coming from the wax impossible, of course letting the varnish dry before winding on the floss. The varnish used is the common shellac varnish.

I think that there is another possible cause for stains appearing on the floss bodies, and that is the blood of the fish. We cannot say how much blood may come from a fish on being hooked, but I think it quite possible that it may be more than sufficient to permanently stain the body of a fly.—I am, &c., Eastern.

## DOUBLE-POINTED HOOKS AND COLOURED HOOKS.

Sir,—Under the heading "Bait Hooks" in last week's Gazette you say, referring to a sample of hooks submitted to you by Messrs. T. Hemming and Sons:—"Mr. Guise, of Redditch, last year showed us this hook, which he said was his invention." This is the first intimation I have received of the firm you name having made the double-pointed hook, for which I hold a provisional patent, No. 749, and dated from the Patent Office Jan. 29, 1884. When I took out the patent I was under the firm belief that the invention was original. I, however, afterwards learnt from Messrs. W. Bartlett and Sons, from a personal interview, that they had made a hook very similar for nearly twenty years. This, Sir, if my memory serves me, I told you in February last, and that I may possibly, in consequence, abandon the patent. Its validity has never been officially or legally disputed. So far, this is all I can say in the matter. While on the subject of new tackle, allow me to remind you that some time ago I sent you samples of flies with hooks so made as to blend with them in colour. You expressed your admiration of the samples so far as variety went, remarking you should like to see other colours, among which was a green. I have till now been too much occupied with other matters to give this my personal attention. I now send you a copy of the "Green insect" for trout and grayling, on a green enamelled rust-proof hook, also reds and yellows. Thanking you in anticipation,—I am, &c., W. Guise.

Redditch, Aug. 27.

[Mr. Guise has been very successful, especially with the green enamel. All green-bodied flies would be more natural if made on this hook.—Ed.]

## FISHING IN THE LONDON DOCKS, &c.

Sir,—Could yon kindly give me and my friends any information as to fishing in the Docks about London, as we are anxious to give them a trial? Can we fish there on Sunday? Last Monday, at Wimbledon Lake, 7 fine bream and one roach, a magnificent fellow. All caught with paste between 6.30 and 9.30 a.m., after which I did not have another bite for the rest of the day. The Lea, at Ferry Boat House, is swarming with multitudes of fine fish; but they are not yet well on the feed.—I am, &c., H. M.

[We do not think any of the Dock Companies would object to "H. M.'s" fishing; but we should be very much surprised if he caught anything but dead dogs, cats, rats, or other of the flotsam and jetsam which, with liquid sewage, forms the bulk of the Thames below London-bridge. It is many years now since there was any good fishing in any of the London Docks; but in old books on angling, they are often referred to as being good resorts.—Ed.]

## ROACH TAKEN ON SPINNING BAIT.

Sir,—Some years since I wrote to the Gazette, stating that I saw Dr. L. M. Thomas take a roach on a medium-sized Totness minnow, when fishing at Penton Hook. The fish was hooked well in the mouth.—I am, &c., E. Gosling.

Budleigh Salterton, Aug. 23rd.

## FISHING AT KESWICK.

Sir,—Can you or any of your readers give me any information as to the fishing at or about Keswick, other than that contained in the "Angler's Diary," also as to hotels or lodgings, the latter I would prefer to get (if possible) at a fisherman's house, where I could get some information about pike fishing, not being very well up in same. I see the season closes on the 20th September. Could I get permission to fish in private waters after that date, and where? Also as to the best kind of baits.

Any information will be greatly esteemed by yours— R. Shipton.

P.S.—Please accept my thinks for the sample of fly line suitable for the Marston rod.

[Perhaps some of our readers can help Mr. Shipton. We see from Little's "Angler's Annual") a most useful guide) that boats, which carry licenses to angle, may be had of Mrs. Bell, Portinscale Hotel, Keswick. Visitors to hotels have generally better chances of angling than those who go to lodgings, the privilege of giving permission to angle being generally accorded to the local hotel by the local landowner.—Ed.]

## FISHING NEAR SIDMOUTH.

Sir,—Is there any trout fishing to be had in this neighbourhood?—I am, &c.,

Tunbridge. Yellow-Hammer.

[There is a little trout fishing on the Sid. We believe that Lady Roll, who owns about ten miles of the best part of the river Otter, issues a limited number of tickets to her friends and tenants, and it is very difficult for a stranger to get permission. The Otter is one of the best streams in Devonshire, and its trout are said to be the finest and heaviest.—Ed.]

## PORTOBELLO, SCOTLAND.

Sir,—Can you or any correspondent inform me whether any sea fishing with rod and line from shore or pier is to be had at Portobello, Scotland, during the month of September, what fish are to be taken, and a few hints as to the time of tide, bait, &c.?—I am, &c., Montrose.

## WEYMOUTH.

Sir,—I think of taking my family to Weymouth for about three weeks; will any of your readers kindly give me any information as to the fresh-water fishing near here or Dorchester? If they will, I shall deem it a great favour.—I am, &c., H. T. M.

[There is capital sea fishing; but we think very little fresh-water fishing near Weymouth. The local fishing tackle maker would give information.—Ed.]

## THE SEVERN FISHERY BOARD, AND THE POLLUTION BY FACTORIES.—IMPORTANT CONVICTIONS.

William Munday, of Low Town, Bridgnorth, Salop, was summoned, on Monday, before Messrs. McMichael, Colley, and Southwell, Esqs., at the instance of the Severn Board of Conservators (under the Salmon Fishery Act, 1861), on the 21st and 23rd ultimo, for unlawfully causing, or knowingly permitting, to flow into the Severn, which is a salmon river, certain liquid matter to such an extent as to kill the fish. Mr. Stallard, Worcester, Clerk to the Board, prosecuted, and Mr. F. R. Haslewood defended. The hearing of the case lasted two hours. Mr. A. Moran stated that he had known the tan-yard in question (at Munday's) for some years. There is a pipe from the tan-yard which empties into the river. Soon after being appointed bailiff he received complaints as to fish being poisoned, on which he inspected the premises in company with the late proprietor and Mr. George (then Clerk to the Board), after which the nuisance was abated; and, until the end of May in the present year, no complaints had been received by him. He had noticed liquid matter coming from the pipe several times, similar to liquid in the tank. Cross-examined by Mr. Haslewood.—Witness knew it was lime-water by its appearance. He had seen over 100 fish close to the pipe, dead; they were of different sizes. He had also noticed spawn dead under the bridge in hundreds. He did not know of any other poisonous drain in the neighbourhood, and he had never heard of dead fish above the Town Mills. William Humphries, a fisherman, gave evidence as to the great damage done by the contamination. For the defence, William Corfield, waterman, whose knowledge of the river dates 50 years back, said he had caught bait when liquid was coming from the pipe. He had caught them out of the thick matter. He had never seen dead spawn. Witness admitted he had not fished near the pipe for the last few months. Similar evidence was addressed in a second charge. The Bench inflicted a penalty of 5s. and costs in each case.

[What is the use of such trumpery fines as these?—Ed.]

## STATE OF THE WYE AT BUXTON.

In this week's instalment of our correspondent, "Amateur Angler's" interesting letters from Derbyshire, will be found a reference to the state of that beautiful trout stream the Wye, which is both a disgrace and a danger to Buxton. Fancy turning all the raw sewage of the 6,000 inhabitants and 6,000 visitors and the refuse from the gasworks into this classic stream! The stench below Buxton is fearful.

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SALMON AND TROUT FLIES, SUITABLE FOR
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## EXCHANGE.

### Things Wanted—to BUY, to SELL, or to EXCHANGE.

N.B.—We take no responsibility whatever in connection with advertisements inserted in this or other parts of this paper; but beg our readers to expose any case of imposition. The prices for inserting advertisements in this "EXCHANGE" Column are 6d. per line for one, or 4d. per line for more than one insertion.—Address, Manager, Fishing Gazette, 12 and 13, Fetter Lane, London, and send stamps with the order, or the advertisement cannot be inserted.

WANTED.—Particulars and Prices of Second-hand Books on Angling and Fish Culture. Must be in good condition.—Address Editor, Fishing Gazette, 12 and 13, Fetter-lane, London, E.C.

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This Edition contains an Appendix by the late Henry Fox Talbot.

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London: Sampson Low, Marston, Searle and Rivington, 188, Fleet-street.

Schweppe's These Waters are supplied To the Queen. Table Waters

# SPECIAL NOTICE.

## THE HOLIDAY & TOURIST NUMBER
OF THE
"FISHING GAZETTE"
WILL BE PUBLISHED ON SATURDAY NEXT.

It will contain, among other Illustrated Articles, a
FULL-PAGE, FULL LENGTH
*Portrait of Mr. Francis Francis,*
Late Fishing Editor of the *Field*, with a Biographical Notice.

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As an Advertisement of the Gazette, and in the hope of getting many new subscribers, we intend to send this Special number to

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# RIVER REPORTS.

## TIME OF HIGH WATER IN THE THAMES.

To find the time of high water in the Thames at any of the following places, to the time of high water at London Bridge (given below).

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Add | 30 minutes for | Chelsea. |
| | 40 „ | Putney. |
| | 45 „ | Hammersmith. |
| | 50 „ | Barnes. |
| | 55 „ | Kew. |
| | 75 „ | Richmond. |
| | 80 „ | Twickenham. |
| | 85 „ | Teddington. |

Example:—If it is high water at 2 o'clock at London Bridge, it will be high water at Teddington about 3.25, or eighty-five minutes later; but it must be remembered that a strong wind accelerates or retards the tide very much.

For Times of High Water at London Bridge.

| | Morning. | Afternoon. |
|---|---|---|
| Saturday, August 30 | 7.59 | 8.33 |
| Sunday, „ 31 | 9.14 | 9.59 |
| Monday, September 1 | 10.37 | 11.13 |
| Tuesday, „ 2 | 11.45 | 12.0 |
| Wednesday, „ 3 | 12.14 | 12.39 |
| Thursday, „ 4 | 1.0 | 1.21 |
| Friday, „ 5 | 1.42 | 1.59 |

## THE LOWER THAMES.

### General Remarks.

Thames anglers writing from Bloaterland report some extraordinary takes of fish this season in the various Broads of Norfolk and Suffolk, and one of them says: "Fishing everywhere has been good, and both local as well as Thames anglers speak of the excellent character of sport they have been getting, especially at Fritton, Oulton Broad, Cantley, and Ormesby. In the Thames the angling still continues good, in spite of the want of rain and water. The report from the Tidal district is : "The water just now in the tideway is like pea-soup. The fish are plentiful, and good barbel fishing is quite remarkable, and nearly all are caught with the float." In writing from Kingston, John Johnson, sen., says : "There has been any amount of fine bream and barbel taken from the bank in night fishing. I have seen some of the bream over 6lb. each."

### Angling Results.

**Richmond.**—Christopher Brown, in four days, has taken twelve barbel and forty-eight dozen of dace, and in two other days, 45lb. weight of dace. Henry Wheeler, during the week, 80lb. weight roach and dace. Henry Mansell, in one day, with Mr. Johnson, 35lb. of roach and dace, and, in four other days, 80lb and nine barbel. Job Brain, during the week, 70lb. and seventeen barbel. F. Brown, in four days, forty-eight dozen and four barbel. Henry Howard, in the same time, 70lb. and twelve barbel. One of the bank anglers got five barbel and several roach and dace.

**Twickenham.**—Samuel Cole, in two days, with Mr. Howlett, forty-two dozen of roach and dace and seven barbel, and in five other days, thirty-five dozen of roach and dace, and a couple of barbel. Paul Hammerton, in six days, 120lb. of roach and dace and five barbel. James Coxen, in five days, forty-two dozen and five barbel. John Spong, one day, with Mr. Wagstaff, eight dozen and a couple of barbel ; another day, with Mr. Key, nine dozen, and in three other days, twenty-four dozen and two barbel. John Coxen, jun., in two days, twelve dozen and four barbel. George Coxen, in three days, 50lb. of roach and dace, including two barbel. Joseph Dobbin, in four days, thirty-two dozen of dace and five barbel, one of the latter scaling 6lb., and in good condition. C. Hennessey, in one day, 14lb. of roach and dace, and in two other days thirteen dozen and one barbel. W. Spong, in three days, twenty-four dozen. Edward Finch, in one day, with Mr. Whiteley, 30lb. of roach and dace, and five barbel ; and in two other half-days, six dozen of dace and a couple of barbel. Henry Spiers, in three half-days, seventeen dozen of roach and dace, two chub, and two barbel—one day ten dozen, and another day 18lb.

**Teddington.**—Charles Baldwin, in three days, five dozen of good roach, and ten dozen of dace. Joseph Baldwin, in four days, twenty-one dozen of roach and dace ; and B. Stevens, in the same time, nine dozen of roach and dace, and five good barbel.

**Kingston.**—John Johnson, jun., in five days, twenty-seven barbel (the largest 4lb.), a brace of jack, and twenty-four dozen of roach and dace. John Johnson, sen., twenty-nine dozen of roach and dace, four bream (the largest 4lb.), three dozen of gudgeon, and one brace of perch, in three days and one half-day. James Wilks, in three days, twenty-three dozen of gudgeon, fifteen dozen of roach and dace, and two brace of perch. F. Eastland, in four days, thirty dozen of roach and dace, and three dozen of gudgeon. The bank anglers have been doing some fine business, and it has been computed, in addition to roach, dace, perch, chub, and gudgeon, they have taken seventy bream up to 7lb. each, thirty barbel up to 4lb. each, and some good eels. They have also done well at Surbiton with perch, chub, and barbel.

**Long Ditton and Thames Ditton.**—C. Buttery, in one day, seven dozen of gudgeon. C. Tagg, nine dozen of roach, dace, and gudgeon. E. Tagg, three dozen of roach and dace. Mr. Lawlis, in one day, twenty-one dozen of roach, dace, and gudgeon. The bank fishers have been getting a nice quantity of roach, dace, and gudgeon.

**Hampton Court and Hampton.**—Charles Davis, in three days, six barbel, one dozen of roach and dace, and twenty dozen of gudgeon. Thomas Wheeler, in four days, sixteen dozen of gudgeon, six brace of perch, ten barbel (the largest 4lb.), and ten dozen of roach and dace. C. Stone, in two days, fourteen dozen of roach and dace, and five barbel, the largest 9lb. Thomas Davis, in two days, eleven dozen of roach and dace. William Millbourne, during the week, seven barbel, and twenty dozen of roach and dace. G. Martin, in one day, twenty dozen of gudgeon and two brace of perch. At "Tagg's Island Fishery" the anglers have shown in during the week thirty dozen of roach, dace, and gudgeon. James Langshaw, in one day, ten dozen of gudgeon. The bank fishers have had some capital sport amongst the perch, chub, roach, dace, and gudgeon.

**Sunbury.**—Edward Clarke, jun., in four days, twenty bream (the largest 5lb.) twenty dozen of roach and dace, and five dozen of gudgeon. Some good specimens of roach, dace, perch, and gudgeon have been taken from the banks, and they are all described as being in good condition.

**Walton.**—George Hone, one day, three dozen of roach, six dace, and three bream ; another day, with Mr. Cababe, five dozen of roach ; another day, with Mr. G. Lewis, three dozen of roach, two dozen of gudgeon, and two brace of perch ; and one evening, with Mr. Abbott, six dozen of roach. John Hone, one day, six dozen of roach and three bream ; and another day four dozen of roach and eight bream. R. Watford, one day, with Mr. Alderson, six dozen of roach, and six bream averaging 3lb. each ; another day, five dozen of roach and four bream ; and in two half days eight dozen of roach and three bream. George Hone, jun., has had some good takes of roach, dace, gudgeon, and bream.

**Halliford.**—E. D. Rosewell, in three days, thirty-six dozen of gudgeon, six brace of perch, and two dozen of roach and dace.

**Shepperton.**—F. Purdue, one day, eight dozen of gudgeon, two brace of perch, and four dozen of dace ; another day five dozen of gudgeon, three perch, and two dozen of dace ; and another day five dozen of gudgeon and two and a half dozen of dace ; and H. Purdue, in one day, twenty dozen of gudgeon and five perch.

**Weybridge.**—Herbert Carr, one day, with the Rev. H. Lewis, ten dozen of roach and dace and a jack of 2½lb., and at the end of the day were all returned to the river again ; and another day, in two hours, Mrs. Money-Coutts caught three dozen of gudgeon and a brace of perch.

**Chertsey.**—John Poulter, in one day, three bream, a roach of 1½lb., one perch, and some very fine dace ; another day one barbel, a couple of bream, and six dozen of roach and dace ; and another day ten dozen of gudgeon. The new proprietor of the Chertsey Bridge hotel, Mr. G. F. Spencer, well known to Thames anglers as the president of the Larkhall Angling Society, is, by his genial activity and satisfactory hotel arrangements, giving a great impetus to piscatorial matters in this neighbourhood.

**Staines.**—Angling has been very brisk during the week in this neighbourhood. Charles Hone, one day, with Mr. Randall, twelve dozen of dace and a barbel of 3lb. 6oz. ; another day three dozen of dace and two barbel ; another day, with Mr. Mason, four dozen of dace and one barbel ; and another day, with Mr. Solomon, six dozen of dace. G. Osman, one day, five dozen of roach and dace ; another day 28lb. ; and another day two dozen. T. Spicer, one day, three dozen, and another day six dozen. John Keene, jun., one day, eleven barbel ; another day nine dozen of roach ; another day six dozen of dace and three barbel ; another day fourteen dozen of roach and four barbel ; another day eight dozen of dace and three barbel ; and another day six dozen of dace and seven barbel. John Keene, sen., in two days, with Mr. and Mrs. Sutherland, 32lb. weight of fish and five barbel.

## UPPER THAMES.

The much-needed rain has not as yet descended, and the river is as low and bright, and the weeds are as rampant, as ever. I have been roaming near the river in various quarters during the past week, and although punts and bankers seem to have put in an appearance better than heretofore, I could not glean any very enticing information for the use of the "coming men." Roach, except in sharp mill-tails, seem dead off. Chub are dormant to all the attractiveness of fly, lob, or bunches of gentles. Perch disdain the well-scoured tail of lob or brandling, but may be tempted with a minnow on very fine float tackle, paternoster seemingly being useless, as the fish do not seem on the bottom but *in medias res.* At Henley and Hambledon, a few barbel have been had ; and one banker, from the Eddy below Hambledon lock, got two dozen and three pretty perch with the red worm from leaf-mould. At Hurley, Mr. Bastick, with Tom Barnes, has had some twenty-six dozens of good roach, one small barbel, and lost a nummer of about 12lb. through the hook breaking in two halves. Mr. Ellis and Mr. Lawrence have also been busy in the Hurley district, the latter gentleman getting some fine perch opposite Harleyford. The Marlow waters have recently had a grand stock of from 300 to 400 trout, of from 1lb. to 6½lb. each —two-thirds being over 4lb. each—placed in their water through the kindness of Mr. Harding Cox, of Missenden Abbey. It appears Mr. Cox's preserves are drying up from the extreme heat and want of rain, so to save their lives they have been successfully placed in the Thames. More fish are to follow to-day, I believe. This grand fish fall will immensely add to the previous trout celebrity of Marlow—for such a grand lot of fish has NEVER been placed in the river, and the thanks of Thames anglers will, I trust, soothe the pangs of the unfortunate loss to Mr. Harding Cox's preserves. Thursday evening—wind due west, with every indication of rain ; water low and bright—gudgeon the only coming fish.—Marlow Buzz.

### Thames (Dockett Point.)

Fishing with J. L. Meyers, since my last report : one day, five barbel, two chub, one perch ; next day, four barbel, one chub, roach, and dace ; next day, three barbel, roach, and dace, ledgering ; next day, gudgeon fishing, two punts, eighteen dozen ; three perch put back. Monday : wind in the north, very cold, fish off feed ; next day, two bream, roach, and dace, one perch ; next day, one barbel, two chub, one perch, roach and dace ledgering.—James Haslett.

### Goring (Thames).

Water very low ; not much doing in the way of fishing, and there will not be till we get a lot of rain ; my best day's fishing being fourteen dozen of gudgeon, one dozen of very good perch, and two small jack which were put back again.—John Rush.

### Thames (Oxford).

I quite agree with the American naturalist who sagely remarked that extremes, whether pertaining to wasps or weather, are bad. Since Monday, it has been piercingly cold ; and the contrast to the burning heat which preceded the change is, to say the least of it, unpleasant. Interesting fishy items are like swallows in the early spring—very scarce. The chief subject on the tapis being the defeat of the Angling Society in their case against a well-known character named Thomas Johnston. In engaging Mr. Dudley to conduct the prosecution the society committed a palpable error. There is no doubt Mr. Dudley is a fairly good advocate as far as assaults or cases easily argued. But where a delicate point, such as the wording of an Act of Parliament, is to be dealt with, it requires a lawyer with extensive legal knowledge. I am informed by one of our workmen that a nice trout of 2lb. was taken on Wednesday between Bessly's Cabin and the Manor House by a gentleman whilst spinning. On Thursday, the Angling Society held their second competition below Eynsham ; but owing to the heat the bags were poor, considering the overwhelming talent at work. At Shelton's Mill cut, at Osney, Mr. Brook landed two large barbel going 10 and 11lb. each. This being a private cutting under the eye of the proprietor, is the best piece of all-round fishing within ten miles of Oxford. On Friday, Mr. Fletcher had four splendid roach weighing 1lb. each, the whole making a very fine show. On the 24th, two small trout, estimated at ¼lb. and ½lb., were spotted by one of the knowing ones on the scour at the head of the deep hole at Ferrey Hinksey Bridge. Before now I have excited the derision of a few ignorant idiots who profess to be piscatorial alphas and omegas, by asserting the existence of trout in the Oxford waters, and I now go further by prognosticating that with careful protection we shall have some of the finest trout on the Thames, and without any stocking required. At Lechlade, Mr. Kelson has averaged from 10 to 12lb. of roach per diem. Below St. John's Bridge, Bryan grassed a barbel of 9½lb., and a roach of 4lb. 6oz. From Mr. W. Kelson, who has been staying at that halcyon fishing resort, I learn that he had two fine chub scaling 3½lb. and 4lb. On Monday, I despatched 100 of the finest crayfish I have ever seen to the Healtheries. Many of the specimens must have weighed from 5oz. to 6oz., and with a good supply of water they should do well.—Cherwell Otter.

### The Thames (Sonning).

It is some time since I sent you a report from this quarter ; in fact, there has been no fishing to speak of. I have been here over 17 years, and never saw the water keep so low. Mr. Hughes was out barbel fishing last Saturday ; he got nearly 100lb. He took the greater part where Mr. Wheldon took his large take a few years ago. I know of several gentlemen that have got some good chub ; they tell me they get them before any boat or steamer gets on the river early in the morning. What a shame it is to see so many people shooting the moorhens about ! I saw one boat with seven in it, some not larger than a blackbird.—W. Hull.

### Ancholme District.

A great many anglers have been over from Sheffield since my last report. Two hundred were there on Monday week, and still more have been this week. A local match, got up by Mr. J. Walker, with 20 competitors came off about a week ago. The waters are still very low and fine, and the fish have, owing to lower temperature, fed better during the day-time.—Thomas Ford, Caistor.

Fishing on the Ancholme has been somewhat flat, but from what has come to my knowledge, there is little doubt with a change of water the sport would become fine. Roach, dace, perch, &c., can be got, but they take a good deal of patience. Harvest operations are getting quite forward, and this always influences the fishing in waters where the drainage from cornfields or corn countries get into the water.—X.

### Bala Lake (North Wales).

The weather for several weeks has been very hot, dry, and calm ; consequently, there has been no pike fishing going on. Perch have been doing well during the hot weather, and several good baskets were taken. To-day (Wednesday) the weather is dull, with a nice breeze on the Lake, and the heaviest pike, so far this season, was taken, weight 25lb., in splendid condition, by H. Robertson, Esq., Pale Hall, a well-known angler. We hope to see a few more monsters taken during the season.

### Ballynahinch.

Since my last report the weather has been more favourable for angling. The following are the takes for the last fortnight :—Colonel Biden, in twelve days, two salmon (15lb.) and 131 trout ; Mr. Smith, one day, 10 trout ; Major Wilmot, in six days, three salmon (26lb.) and 28 trout ; Mr. Debenham and son, in twelve days, and Mr. Dutton, in eight days, one salmon (6lb.) and 161 sea trout ; Major Malone, in ten days, one salmon (9½lb.) and 100 sea trout ; Mr. Frewn and Captain Billington, in twelve days, one salmon (9½lb.) and 210 sea trout ; Mr. Mostyn, in six days, 56 trout ; Mr. Boughy, in six days, one salmon (8½lb.) and 24 sea trout ; Dr. Whipman, in six days, 50 sea trout ; Signor Foli, in five days, 30 trout ; Mr. B., in six days, 106 sea trout ; Mr. Grissel, in two days, one salmon (6lb.) and 25 sea trout—total for the fortnight, 10 salmon (76½lb.) and 931 sea trout. Weather much improved for angling, and water in very fair order.—Walter Blackadder.

### The Bure (Norwich).

During the past week sport on this river has been uncertain ; but, in several instances remarkably good catches have been made. Last Saturday three local anglers succeeded in landing upwards of 12 stone of bream at Wroxham. The reports from Host Whittaker, "The Horseshoes," and also from Simpson's, are very encouraging to those thinking of visiting the Broad district during the next month. Jack should be had easily with a spoon, or dead bait ; the reaches above Wroxham, up to Coltishall, should yield good sport, as should the reaches down past Salhouse and Horning Ferry. Those staying at Acle or Potter Heigham (Thurne), cannot do better than try spinning or trailing at Thurne Mouth. Reports from Acle are good, though, in some cases, complaints are made of the size of the fish, and I sincerely trust some means may be taken next year to rid this beautiful river of some of the small fry, to the advantage of some stream where roach and bream are scarce. Wroxham, Horning Ferry, and Acle are all as busy as can be, and the weather has been up to last Monday (when 26 degrees change at noon was registered) everything that could be wished. Prospects good.—Robert Moll.

### Chichester.

The canal has latterly much felt the want of rain, and is getting low. Good sport has been had among the smaller members of the order of Pisces, but I hear of nothing big coming to hand. Some break aways have occurred, of course, with monster fish. From Selham Mr. Willison sends me a good report: fish feeding well, and of fair size. With rain angling must greatly improve.—George F. Salter.

### Eden (Carlisle).

It is tantalising to read the reports in the Fishing Gazette of the sport there has been lately among the sea trout and whiting in some of the rivers and lochs in Scotland, for there is very little doing here. A good many anglers are out every night from 8 o'clock till nearly mid-night, but the average baskets would hardly pay for shoe-leather. The Esk fishers are doing better, such men as Dick Routledge getting from 8lb. to 12lb. nearly every night. I hear the whiting are more numerous in the Esk than the Eden this season. Some anglers will have it that the Eden is being systematically poached, in spite of the river bailiffs; but I think the alteration in the "lead" from the Solway into these two rivers has a good deal to do with it. The "lead" into the Esk is better than it was last year, whilst that into the Eden is worse. Another reason may be that the fish are more condensed in the Esk. They get lifted up by the tides, and left in small pools, from which they cannot get away without passing over very shallow water indeed. All the rivers hereabouts are lower than they have been all the summer.—Silver Gray.

### Exe (Exeter).

River very low, and the intense heat has cooled our ardour and damped our spirits. Some nice roach, up to 1¼lb., have been taken by Messrs. Whitelock and Kelley, also a few good perch and roach in the Canal; minnow, worm, and paste were the baits. There seems a prospect of change in temperature, and if we get it, and plenty of rain, we shall soon be busy. I had one nice trout, 1¼lb. with Guise and Son's blue-bottle fly, a masterpiece of deception, and I am beginning to swear by, and not at, the noted firm.—J. A. Kelley.

### Eynsham.

Thursday and Friday in last week Mr. Geen and friend had some good sport with roach and perch, a few chub, and barbel. Mr. Emery, in three days 10 barbel, weighing from 3lb. to 7lb. each, several smaller ones, a few good chub, and perch. Mr. Manning also took some good roach and perch—these all taken in the Thames. Mr. Emery and Mr. Manning, in two days in the Evenlode, a good take of roach and perch: one eel 2lb., one trout 2lb., weight altogether 30lb. I have also been very successful among the perch and roach and a few jack, all caught in the Evenlode, Mr. Emery to-day has again been busy with the barbel, having taken six fish averaging 4lb. each.—W. B. Howe.

### Ilfracombe.

Sea Fishing.—Visitors who have come here this season to enjoy the fishing have up to the present had good sport, fish being plentiful and in good condition. On Thursday we had an unlooked for visitor in the shape of a large sturgeon, measuring 7ft. in length and about 200lb. weight. It was captured in the Channel by a crew of tug-boat men. G. Ley and party, fishing off Lee, caught 120lb. of bass; J. Redmore, 50lb. bream; W. Redmore, 53lb. bream. Friday: J. Comer's party, 90lb. bream; R. Brooks, 85lb.; J. Redmore, 30lb.; R. Souch, 30lb. bream, and a few whiting pout; W. Redmore, 31lb. bream; they also hooked a large fish, which, after nearly half an hour's play, they got up alongside the boat, but before they could secure it it parted the gear and made off. Several times their gear was terribly entangled by big fish, They report fish biting like mad. On Saturday a gentleman named Neil, fishing off Pebble Cove Point, caught 30lb. bream, a conger 35lb., 4lb. whiting pout, a lobster 2lb., a shark 40lb., two sand rays, and two gurnet. R. Souch, from a hole in the rocks, caught a lobster, 6lb.; T. Tucker, 20lb. bream, and some whiting pout, and one ling. Monday and Tuesday wind blowing strong from the north; no boats out. Wednesday, change in the weather; B. Williams, 40lb. whiting pout; others had good catches. One fisherman caught in one of his lobster-pots six lobsters and one crab. Weather fine.—E. Comer.

### Leicester.

As your readers will be aware, an extraordinary change in the weather occurred at the commencement of the present week, and from extreme tropical heat we have been plunged into cold, chilly days of late autumn. This atmospherical change has been very generally welcomed by anglers. In the local society's waters on Monday some satisfactory takes of fish were had, roach, perch, and pike, each being well on the feed; consequently, some splendid baskets were made, large fish being the rule. A good many roach weighing over 1lb. were caught, the best scaled respectively, 1lb. 2oz., 1lb. 3oz., and 1lb. 8oz., and several pike were also landed, averaging between 4lb. and 6lb. from the Aylestone brook, and some fine lots of perch have been taken during the week. The following anglers have been well to the fore lately:—Messrs. Gamley, Bird, Hollis, Devereux, Bee, and Adams. Future prospects of sport in the home waters appear favourable. Hardly the usual number of anglers have visited the out-of-town resorts, but the sport has been, on the whole, of a fairly good character. From the Wreake and Narborough some nice lots of roach and perch have been weighed in at the clubs. The Leicester Folly Anglers' Club fish their annual contest at Asfordby to-day (Saturday.) The weather at the time of writing, late on Thursday evening, was of a somewhat milder kind.—Alert.

### Littleport.

The weeds are very troublesome. Looking from the bridge this (Thursday) morning the prospect was very discouraging, the river, both up and down stream, being completely covered; but with an east or west wind it is not so bad, as either of those winds will blow the weeds to one or other side, the river running nearly due north and south. A lot of good anglers have been out since last report, but the following is the best I can do:—August 17th, Sergeant B. Brashier, of Littleport, 8½lb. nice roach and perch before breakfast (omitted last week). August 21st, Messrs. H. F. and L. A. Cross, Cambridge, 15lb. very nice roach; Mr. H. B. Flack, Cambridge, 7lb. good roach; Mr. A. Clifton, Lynn, 3lb., in short time. August 26th, Mr. and Mrs. W. Clarke, Merton, Surrey, with Mrs. Tillett, Littleport, fishing early morning and late evenings, 11lb. nice roach. August 27th, Mr. and Mrs. W. Clarke, 7lb. nice roach during morning; Mr. W. Clarke, 4lb. again during afternoon. Mr. S. Ratcliffe, London, about same weight; Mrs. W. and J. Wilkinson, Ely, four dozen nice roach during afternoon.—Charles South.

### Lugg and Arrow (Leominster).

Both these streams are still in good angling order. They are very low and clear, and in great want of a good downpour of rain. Both streams have been visited freely this week, and the fish have been sporting well, and several very good dishes have been landed. The best flies are the pale blue, red ant, and whirling blue. Good dishes of fish have been taken with the wasp grub. On Friday, a gentleman visited the Lugg, near Kingsland, and with the pale blue landed a very good basket of fine grayling and trout. Fishing with the wasp grub a gentleman took nine very good fish. The Arrow was tried the same day, and very good sport was had, as the fish were biting well, with the whirling blue and the red ant. A gentleman landed a basket of 6lb. of trout and grayling. A few very nice trout were taken with the maggot. Some good trout were landed in the Lugg at Aymestry with the whirling blue on Saturday. A gentleman visited the Arrow with the wasp grub in the Eardisland water, and landed a very good dish of trout, averaging ½lb. each. Some very good grayling were taken with the pale blue the same day. On Monday, the Arrow was tried near Ivington, and a gentleman with the fly took a very nice basket of fine trout and grayling. In the Lugg, near Ford's Bridge, the fish were rising well at the fly. One gentleman landed seven very good trout with the red ant, and another good lot was taken with the fly. On Tuesday the fish were sporting well, A gentleman tried the Lugg at Bodenham with the pale blue, and landed a good basket of fine trout. With the fly, a little below the town, a very nice lot of grayling were taken. Some very good fish were taken in the Arrow with the wasp grub the same day. The Pinsley is in good angling order, but low. The fish rise well at the fly, and some very good fish have been landed with the wasp grub. Some very good trout have been taken.—Gwynne.

### Medway (Tunbridge).

During the week there have been some good bags of fish made by Mr. Ede and Mr. F. Law amongst the bream and roach, while other anglers have also been successful in the same time, and also amongst the chub, which rise at a fly well, and are not averse to a piece of wasp grub. To-day (Thursday) we have had a nice sprinkle of rain, but not enough, I fear, to bring the fish ravenously on the feed.—Ye Medway Water Rat.

### Ouse (Huntingdon).

The water is in splendid condition, and fish are well on the feed. Numbers are taken daily, both bream and roach. On the 27th I took 13½lb. of fine roach. I have not been out only the day mentioned, but I have witnessed several takes. On the 24th, one gentleman took 26 fine bream. Lobs and wheat are the principal bait. There is every prospect for fishing, for the weather is very favourable.—H. Rout.

### Pickering.

An agreeable change in the weather has very much improved fishing prospects in this district, although waters are still very low. Fine rains have fallen in all directions within the last few days. On Monday last, at the Pickering Petty Session, two important fishery prosecutions took place at the instance of the Yorkshire Fishery Board. In the first place, two youths were seen in the act of trying to snare trout in the Pickering beck. In the other case, three youths were caught by a police constable in the act of click-hooking trout, &c., in Thornton Beck. The offences having been admitted, the defendants in both cases were cautioned and ordered to pay costs—no conviction being registered. But few anglers have wasted time in the pursuit of their favourite sport during the recent tropical weather, but the fine rains have cooled the air, and rendered an outing by the streams pleasant, if not very profitable in the yield of fish. A large number salmon and sea trout are reported to have run up the river Esk during the freshet caused by the storm of 12th August, and two salmon, 12lb. and 8lb., have been taken by worm.—North East.

### Severn (Shrewsbury).

This river is lower than it has been known for many years, and little or no fishing has been doing during the past week among the members of the angling society. An outing of the club was to have taken place to-day (Thursday), but in consequence of the low state of the river only about half a dozen members turned out, and they travelled to Llanymynech by the 10 o'clock train, so that they would not be able to commence fishing before noon. I shall not be surprised to hear that some of them have been well rewarded, as rain fell heavily during the night, which will doubtless stir the fish. I have seen several good baskets of fish which have been taken with the nets. On Saturday last I saw two men with at least a hundred weight of pike and others; and yesterday, that well-known local fish hawker, Mr. "Punch," had several pounds of perch, some very good fish, which he assured me were "all cheap." I hear that several of the local fishermen have been laying their lines again within the borough, so that doubtless there will be more prosecutions. It is to be hoped that the result of the prosecution of Messrs. Newton and Gough, Tanners' Weir, will be a caution to the Shrewsbury tanners not to turn lime or other poison into the sewer; and if they do persist, I hope the board will take the same steps in their case as they have at Wem. In consequence of the rain which fell last night the river is this evening slightly discoloured, although up to the present it has not commenced to rise.—Severn Salmon.

### Severn (Kidderminster).

I have no news to report in respect to the fishing in this river, which still remains very low and fine. Though the clouds look ominous now and again, yet the much-desired downpour passes away. The land about here is getting very parched, and the different roots will soon begin to suffer if this dry weather continues much longer, to say nothing of the filthy state of the rivers. Some of the members of the United Brothers Anglers have had some fair takes of roach from the river Stour this last week, but the working of the different mills on the river tends to make the water in better condition for angling. Baits in use most are paste and gentles. The annual contest of the above society takes place on Saturday next, August 30th, at Holt Fleet, a small village on the Severn, situated about six miles above Worcester. I am afraid the takes will be small, owing to the fineness of the water. The first prize is a silver challenge cup and a silver medal, the medal to be the property of the winner. The cup was won last year by Thomas Pearsale, who brought it back to the club-room last club night, but not before he had seasoned it a few times with mountain dew. We have other valuable prizes which I shall name with the winners in my next report.—E. Earp, hon. sec.

### The Swale.

The Swale has now got over the killing of the fish which took place by the bursting of Moss Dam two or three years ago. There is good fishing now in the neighbourhood of Reeth, but the waters are low. In February of last year, Major Charlesworth put in a few thousand *Fontinalis* fry, and, singular to say, he is the first gentleman to catch one. Leaving the grouse for an hour or two the other day, amongst a nice dish of trout he had one of these which was nicely grown. They were supplied by Mr. Ford, of the Manor Fishery, Caistor.—Peter Pedagogue.

### Teme (Ludlow).

The Teme and its tributaries are all getting lower and lower, and in some parts the bottom of the Teme is as dry as the stone pavements of the streets, the rocky bottom being quite clear of water. Above the Ludlow Castle there is little difference from last week, but the water is getting foul and nasty. There has been plenty of fishing going on this week and since last week's report; but the hot weather tells against the fisherman and his pursuits sadly. On the 24th inst the thermometer in the sun was 100deg. at mid-day, just one degree lower than on the 17th inst. I heard of a gentleman on Saturday evening catching eighteen roach, at the point where the river Ony joins the Teme. They were fine fish, some of them ¾lb. weight each; the same gentleman landed a fine trout from the same spot; the bait used was the wasp grub. A gentleman staying in Ludlow for a week or two fishing, has paid several visits to the Saltmoor waters towards evening. He has always succeeded in landing some good fish each night with the wasp grub or paste. There was some strong talk about erecting a salmon ladder at Ashford weir; but, for some reason or other, it has to all appearance dropped through again for the present. There appears no real difficulty to the erection of a ladder if those interested would bestir themselves in the matter. We have not heard of the pike in the Folly and under Whitecliffe being hooked yet, though several have been trying their hands at the fish. I saw a gentleman on Monday who caught seven trout and nine grayling, all grand fish, in the Onibury waters with the wasp grub. There is comparatively nothing worth mentioning going on in the Clun. All quiet in the Letwyche. The Corve has produced some very good grayling and trout towards night-time.—S. Ludlow.

### Teme (Tenbury).

This stream has been visited freely in the evenings this week. The water is still very low and clear. The fish are sporting well, and some very good fish have been landed with the fly, which are on the water in great numbers. Good perch have been taken in the morning with the wasp grub and maggot. The water from Little Hereford to Tenbury was fished on Friday by a gentleman with the whirling blue and red ant, who landed a very good basket of fine trout and grayling, weighing 6lb, the lot. Near to Eastham, a gentleman with the wasp grub landed some very nice grayling. A very good dish of fish were taken with the maggot near the bridge. In the water at Berrington Court some very good fish were taken on Saturday with the green insect. A very nice lot of trout were taken by a gentleman who was fishing with the wasp grub. A visit to the water near Corn Brook resulted in a good basket of fish being taken with the whirling blue. On Monday, the water was tried near the town by a gentleman, who with the wasp grub landed eight very good trout and three grayling. At Rochford the fish are sporting well. One gentleman with the fly landed a very good dish of trout, and a very nice lot were taken with the maggot. The fish were taking the fly well on Tuesday morning. A gentleman fishing near Easton Court with the fly landed a splendid dish of fine grayling. Good fishing has been had in the Association waters, and some very good fish have been taken with the fly. The Ledwyche, Rea, and Kyre are in good fishing order, but very low. A few very good fish have been taken in the Ledwyche. In the Rea, at Neen Sollars, some very fine trout have been taken with the wasp grub, and some good trout have been landed up Stoddeston way. A few very nice trout have been landed in the Kyre with the fly this week, and some nice ones with the wasp grub.—Worcester.

### Trent (Newark).

The sudden and startling change in the weather, from nearly tropical heat to a British winter, seems to have knocked the fish completely off the feed. I have nothing worth reporting this week, with the exception of a few chub being had with wasp grubs, and a lot or two of roach, dace, bream, &c., being had with creed-wheat, gentles, and worms, during the latter part of last week and the beginning of this. The cold east wind of the last day or two seemed to upset all calculations, for several of the best swims have been tried ; but nothing has been done. Water very low and clear, and a bit of an improvement in the weather to-day, Thursday.—The Trent Otter.

### Trent (Nottingham).

There has been rain during the week, but the downfall has been insufficient to cause any difference in the height of the river, which remains as low and clear as when our last report appeared. The lower reaches account for a few barbel, and in the swims at Wilford moderate sport has been met with. Salmon have been showing in abundance at Shardlow and in Sir H. Bromley's allotment at Stoke, but, pending a rise, they do not seem inclined to feed. The bottom of the river is still thickly covered with weed, and "legering" is thereby rendered almost useless. In last week's Gazette a paragraph appeared relative to the death of an esteemed friend of the writer—Mr. S. Sills. Mr. Sills was an enthusiastic angler, and an occasional contributor to the columns of the Gazette. That his body was found in a part of the Trent where he had killed salmon is now a thing of the past ; but beyond this I must be pardoned for offering an explanation. Oftentimes pecuniary troubles occur, and men who are distraught by them are not responsible for their own actions. A rise just now would do an immense deal of good.—The Man at the Clubs.

### Trent (Lower).

The river is remarkably low. Sport is somewhat languid, and it is quite certain that it would be much improved by a downfall of rain sufficient to raise the river to its normal height. Chub may be caught occasionally, but bream seem to have gone off almost entirely. Roach are very shy, and take much coaxing, but flounders and eels are to be found in most swims. Sport will be capital as soon as the flush comes to clear away the insects from the weeds.—Trace.

### Waveney (Beccles).

I must offer you, Mr. Editor, and your readers, apologies for not sending you my usual reports, time having been very precious with me ; but according to all accounts which have reached me from various quarters, the season up to the present has been one of the most successful known for many years past. It would be very difficult for me to make special mention of particular catches of roach, but I can say, without fear of being contradicted, that anglers have not for many years seen such nice catches as have been shown this year, roach weighing over 1lb. being the rule, and not the exception, and ½lb. and ¾lb. roach are getting a very usual thing, and anglers begin to believe there are some good fish to be captured. You will probably have a report from the secretary of the Waveney Angling Club, from which it will be seen that upwards of 46lb. of roach were taken on Saturday last, in about four hours' fishing, by six anglers, which we consider good. I hope shortly to send you reports of good catches. Pike fishing will shortly be commenced here in earnest, and I have already heard of some big ones about. Wind S.W. Prospects good for all-round fishing.—A Waveney Angler.

### Weldon Bridge.

River low, owing to dry weather. Fair trouting has been done this week. Two gentlemen four dozen good trout on Tuesday last. All we want is rain to bring the salmon up. Gentlemen wanting good sport, try the Coquet, Weldon Bridge, after next flood. Comfortable apartments.—F. Brown.

### Wharfe (Yorkshire).

Still the same unsatisfactory state of affairs ; river lower than it has ever been known, and the fish consequently all in the deeps and disinclined to feed. Chub seem to have taken a sudden affection for brandling worms. Mr. Jas. Marston, of Pool, caught one the other day scaling 1½lb ; and I have heard of other two or three instances of them being caught with the same bait—wasp grub or gentles are generally the favourite with them at this time of the year. Evening fishing is almost at an end, and in another month or so we shall be amongst the grayling once more. August dun, red ant, knotted midge, and black midge are the best flies at present. At the time of writing (Thursday morning) it is raining fast and seems likely to continue. I am informed that the reservoirs at Swinstay and Fewston are almost exhausted, owing to the long-continued drought ; several very large takes of trout have been made from them, chiefly with the wasp grub ; two anglers from Leeds one day last week, caught from 12lb. to 15lb. each.—Fras. M. Walbran.

### Witham.

There was a large number of anglers upon the Witham on the earlier days of this week. There was a great angling sweepstakes at Kirkstead, and anglers joined in it from very distant places. Two or three came from Bristol or the West of England, several from Stockton or the North, whilst a goodly sprinkling of anglers from Leeds and York joined the main body from Sheffield. The sport was exceedingly good, and the winner of the first prize had a capital show. Many of those who did not join in the match had good baskets.—Yellow Belly.

### Wye and Derwent.

Fishing in this district is wretchedly bad just now, owing to both the Wye and Derwent being so fearfully low and clear—in fact, both trout and grayling seem to have gone completely off the feed in the middle of the day. They only feed the first thing in the morning and the last thing at night. Thin baskets, from three to four brace per angler, are made. Grayling are beginning to rise much better, and are feeding mostly in the rough parts of the streams. The killing flies have been honey dun bumble, ash dun, little black, and red palmer. The bottom-fishers only fish very early in the morning and late at night, and they have succeeded in killing some fine trout and eels, with wasp grubs for bait. There has been a fair quantity of coarse fish killed on the Derwent between Ambergate and Whatstanwill, with wasp grubs for baits. Last night (Wednesday) there was a great deal of steady rain fell all over Derbyshire, which caused both rivers to be slightly discoloured to-day (Thursday), which is sure to improve fishing.—Geo. Jas. Eaton.

### The Yare (Norwich).

Excellent sport amongst the bream has been had at Buckenham Ferry during the past few days. The sudden cold has just put them off feed in early morning ; but during the warmer hours of the day good sport has been had. Professor Day caught, in a very short time, 37 bream between 2lb. and 3lb. each, and next day had very nearly as good luck. Roach fishing has been very uncertain, and the fish appear to be very fanciful, sometimes preferring red paste or gentles, and at others being tempted with nothing but white or coloured wheat. Visitors staying at Yarmouth or Lowestoft cannot do better than pay Buckenham Ferry or Brundall a visit if they desire good roach fishing ; if they prefer bream, I would recommend Cantley. The Norwich Piscatorial Society held their annual match at Buckenham to-day ; but owing to the unfavourable state of the weather sport was not good, something like 9lb. winning first prize, although 40 members competed. Prospects good ; jack fishing will soon pay.—Robert Moll.

## GOOD INTENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

The summer dinner of this society, at which 76 members sat down, was held on Monday last at the Rye House Hotel.

In addition to this large company, many ladies, wives, sisters, and sweethearts of members were present to witness the sports which followed, and which were expected to be of the most exciting and pleasing character.

The chair was filled by Mr. Philip Geen, who was supported on his right by Mr. R. Murphy, the secretary, and Mr. R. Ghurney, the secretary of the Anglers' Association. In the vice-chair, surrounded by a number of prominent members, was Mr. H. J. Tibbatts, who exerted himself throughout the day in conjunction with Mr. Murphy, Mr. Wood, and others, for the comfort and enjoyment of all.

The toasts were "The Queen," "The Prince and Princess of Wales and other members of the Royal Family," "Success to the Good Intent Angling Society," "Angling Institutions," "The Host," "The Chair and Vice-chair."

The dinner was so well placed upon the table, and was in every respect of such a first-class character, as well merited the compliment paid to the host by the company before separating.

The speeches were short, yet of just sufficient length to be interesting, as was testified by the hearty cheers with which they were received.

Mr. Geen, in proposing success to the society, gave it as his opinion that to be a member of so well managed a club as the Good Intent, should be a source of pleasure and pride—pleasure at the privilege of being one amongst so many, all of whom were glad to meet him with a hearty shake of his hand either in the club house or on the bank of the river, and equally ready to share with him their piscatorial knowledge of how and where to find sport. Proud ! aye, very proud, and he himself, as only an honorary member, was proud to be one of a society which could produce such untiring workers for anglers as Messrs. Murphy, Tibbatts, and Beckett had proved themselves to be. Was it not also a cause for pride that their society was second to none, and, in many instances, a long way first, in movements intended to promote the sport they were so much interested in ? I know you will receive this toast with enthusiasm ; but I want you to remember that Mr. Murphy, whose name I will associate with it, deserves all the assistance you can give him, and the best and most comforting of all assistance is to be in time at your Tuesday meetings. Of late much has been said against the weighing in of any fish other than specimens. I am sure the majority of you will agree with me that nothing contributes so much to the success of a society as good shows of fish, and I want you, therefore, before adopting the idea of specimen fish only, to consider whether it is altogether wise to discourage the bringing up of the catches of your ordinary hard-worked, and little time to spare members who have no opportunity to stalk those specimens which the wise ones of the earth tell us are the only fish worth looking at. I can fancy—and so can you—that a man may be as proud of his twelve or twenty roach of 8in. each as ever others were of a sack-full of big jack ; and, in my opinion, he who strives for his 8in. roach, first for the pleasure it gives him, and second for the pleasure of showing them, is worthy of our respect, and should not be ridiculed out of his club-room by men possessed of the specimen craze. I quite agree that men situated as I, and many others are, feel in duty bound to return the larger portion of the vast quantities of fish we have the opportunities of taking ; but I also feel very strongly that it is possible to carry the idea too far, and by that means to nearly improve a society out of its existence.

Mr. Ghurney, in responding to the toast of "Angling Institutions," expressed the great pleasure he felt in being their guest once more, and hoped that so useful a society would continue to prosper, as it deserved to do, if only for the kindly and efficient aid it gave the Anglers' Benevolent, and "The Anglers' Association." He felt sure they would be pleased to learn that the new association was in a most prosperous condition, and he knew he might say, on behalf of its president and its committee, that it was their full determination that the protection of their much-loved river Lea should be fully cared for. They would remember that the privilege ticket, which was their only source of income, had been offered for sixpence by the Central Association. It was pleasing to find that, notwithstanding this very dishonourable attempt to thwart their work, the numbers were few indeed who had fallen into the sixpenny trap. Anglers must know that nothing could be done for preservation out of sixpence. One or two angling societies had hesitated until matters were settled ; but now that they knew the exact position, they were taking their tickets as usual, evidently satisfied that it was better to pay two shillings to an association that did good work and rendered a half-yearly account of it, than give sixpence to those who could do nothing, and had never yet published a balance-sheet.

Mr. Tibbatts, Mr. Murphy, and others having spoken, an adjournment was made to witness the sports.

Too much praise cannot possibly be given to the three gentlemen who had charge of the sports, as they contributed an afternoon's enjoyment the interest of which was fully sustained from beginning to end. An extra word or two for the handicapper must not be forgotten, as everyone was full of praise for his remarkable judgment, which brought about a close and hotly-contended finish to almost every race. It appeared to matter not to him how varied the orders of merit of competitors might be, or how long or how short a start was required to give them a fair chance of winning ; and it was not unusual to find the twenty yards start and the scratch to finish so close together as to put the judge on his mettle to decide which finished first. Argus.

Berwick Tweed Net Fishings.—The catches continue poor for the time of the year. Grilse and trout especially are very scarce. A few salmon of large size are now being got, Goswick having had two of 39lb. and 41lb., while Throckley Burn had another of 42lb., the largest of the season. It is somewhat singular that all the large fish are got on the sea coast, where the best catches are also obtained. Prices on Saturday were :—Grilse and trout, 1s. 5d., salmon, 1s. 4d. per lb. At the corresponding period last year prices were :—Salmon and grilse, 1s. 1d., trout, 1s. per lb.—Maxwheel.

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There were nearly the usual crowds at Boston on Saturday and Monday, and again many holiday anglers. Sport was exceedingly good, and the water, though low, was in fair condition. Some capital baskets were made by the experienced anglers, but the particulars of the weights, &c., are not to hand. There was nothing very special about the sport that I am aware of, but I hear the Boston anglers are beginning to think of turning attention to the Fortyfoot, which will soon be in fishable condition.—Y. B.

# CLUB REPORTS.

### ALEXANDRA ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of the above society were out on the 24th inst. and had a very good show of fish from the Lea and Dagenham. Mr. Gripton, bream; E. Wicks roach, C. Wicks, R. E. Hunter, perch; Mr. H. Baker, perch; Flanse, perch. On Wednesday last there was a distribution of 27 prizes; John Smith taking 1st prize for the heavy weight for the year. Mr. Gripton 2nd; Mr. Coxhead jack prize; Flanse, perch prize. We had a very full room and some excellent singing.—F. WAGNER, sec.

### AMICABLE BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

Mr. Moir, bream, 10lb.; roach, 4oz. Mr. Harding, bream, 6lb.; roach, 9½oz. Mr. Lake, bream, 3lb. 15oz.; roach, 6oz., all from Dagenham. Mr. Partrick, one bream, 3lb. 3oz.; roach, 4lb. 12oz.; perch, 4oz.—J. WORLEDGE, sec.

### BATTERSEA FRIENDLY ANGLING CLUB.

On the 24th inst. several of our members, fishing at Amberley, met with very good luck. Mr. G. Mumford weighed in 7lb. 15½oz. of bream and roach, two of the bream going just over 5lb. Mr. W. Johnson, from Richmond, 1lb. 6½oz.; A. Meacock, same place, 1lb. 6½oz.; Mr. H. Martin, from Woking 4lb. 5oz.—A. SAMPSON.

### BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT AMALGAMATED ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

I have no large take to report this week, the majority of the members doing very little. Fishing at Droitwich on Saturday I took but very few, however, the quality made up for the quantity. The West End Fishing Club, held at Mr. R. Sanders', the Lamp Tavern, Bishopgate-street, Birmingham, fished their annual contest on August 25th, at Wexford, in the Arrow. They had but little sport, small catches being the order of the day. When time was called the following was the result:—1st prize, Mr. Careless; 2nd, Mr. Wainwright; 3rd, Mr. Gould; 4th, Mr. Jakes; 5th, Mr. Osborne; 6th, Mr. Randle; 7th, Mr. Cockbill; 8th, Mr. Clay; 9th, Mr. Peters; 10th, Mr. Haywood; 11th, Mr. T. Russell; 12th, Mr. A. Russell. Three prizes were not taken, and these will stand over till the next contest. 1 was present at the distribution of prizes on Tuesday night and they were very good, and reflected great credit upon the prize selection committee. A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Morris, M.D., and the host for their donations towards the prize fund and the general support they gave to the club. Mr. Morris replying in suitable terms. Mr. James Beardmore, of the Old Green Man Piscatorials, a few nice roach from the serpentine; Mr. Thorn, from the same club, dace, eel, and perch from the Arrow; Mr. Woodcock, roach, from Tamworth. I had almost forgotten to tell you that Mr. W. Hewitt was referee to the West End contest, and gave every satisfaction.—JAMES T. ALLEN, hon. sec.

### CLAPHAM JUNCTION ANGLING SOCIETY.

Takes continue small, in spite of delicate tackle and tempting baits. Several of our members have been trying the different rivers, armed with carrions, greaves, &c., *ad lib*, with but little return. Mr. Bahfield got 5lb. 10oz. of bream and roach, one bream 2lb. 1oz.; Mr. Favell, one bream 3lb. 6oz. Messrs. Weyer, Moore, and Maslin also had fish. The match for Mr. Speed's prize commenced on the 25th and ends to-morrow (31st). Thursday next being quarterly night, members are requested to show up early.—W. MASLIN, sec.

### CLAPTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The ordinary weekly meeting was held at the club-house on Monday last, Mr. Parry in the chair. The minutes of the preceding meeting were confirmed. The Secretary reported that he had arranged with Mr. Coventry, the Fox and Hounds Hotel, Sewardstone, for his vehicles to meet any members visiting the society's waters at Chingford Station, to convey the members to the waters, and to fetch them in the evening, at a uniform charge for four persons of 4s. This was thought an excellent arrangement, as the service of the G.E.R. trains was very good, and all trains stopped at Clapton, both to and from Chingford. The Chairman exhibited a remarkably handsome, well-finished Nottingham and general rod, which he had had made for him by Messrs. Hardy Bros., of Alnwick. The rod was very much admired by the members present, the patent winch fastening was highly commended. A capital selection of music, vocal and instrumental, was well rendered and thoroughly enjoyed by the members and their friends. Mr. P. Geen, and several visitors were present, Mr. Winterbottom ably presiding at the piano, and a hearty vote of thanks to the Chairman brought the evening to a satisfactory close.—HENRY HOWSE, hon. sec.

### COBDEN ANGLING SOCIETY.

On the 17th inst., a fine show of bream were weighed in by Mr. Tucker, from the Welsh Harp. They consisted of 10 fish, and weighed just over 30lb. Mr. Salmon weighed in some nice roach, one of which scaled 15½oz. Mr. Sharland also weighed in some nice roach and dace, the total weight being 3lb. 14oz. On the 24th inst. there was a beautiful display of roach, Mr. Stead having nearly 7lb., some of them being very handsome fish. Mr. T. Cox weighed in several large roach, and Messrs. Sharland, Hammans, and several other members weighed in fish of various kinds, making altogether a very creditable display.—C. REEVES, sec.

### CONVIVIAL ANGLING SOCIETY.

The first pegged-down match of this club took place on the 24th inst. at Dagenham Lake, when sixteen members competed for seven prizes, the following being the prizetakers:—1, Mr. A. Dodd (bream and roach), 6lb.; 2. Mr. J. Coote, 2lb. 15½oz.; 3, Mr. J. Nash, 2lb. 12½oz.; 4, Mr. W. Sparrow, 2lb. 6½oz.; 5, Mr. H. Kelsey, 2lb. 5½oz.; 6, Mr. W. Adams, 2lb. 2½oz.; 7, Mr. G. Denyer, 1lb. 15½oz. Fourteen members weighed in their various catches, making a total of 29lb. 6oz.—P. JUCHAN, sec.

### EASTERN COUNTIES ANGLING SOCIETY, GREAT YARMOUTH.

A meeting of this society was held on Tuesday evening, the 19th inst., at the Duke's Head Hotel Quay, the President, Dr. Mitchell, being in the chair. It was decided that in future all specimen fish—that is, fish more than usually large, or fish possessing special peculiarities—caught by any member should be set up by the naturalist to the society, Mr. Lowne, Fuller's Hill, at the society's expense, and that said fish become the property of the society, and be displayed in the club room. It was also determined that the name of the winner of any cup fished for at the society's competitions should be engraved on the prize at the expense of the society. The prizes won at the late competition, consisting of a valuable cup, a fishing rod, two silver spoons, and a tackle prize specially granted by the society out of its funds, were presented to the successful competitors by the president, who in flattering terms eulogised the winners. Several gentlemen having been proposed and balloted for were elected members. It was arranged that the second competition of the season should be fished in about a week's time. All gentlemen wishing to compete who are not members are requested to have their names sent in, to either of the honorary secretaries—viz., John Lee, Esq., 10, Kent-place, or Mr. Seaman, Duke's Head Hotel Quay—on or before the evening of Tuesday, the 26th inst. If found eligible they will be admitted members of the society, and as such will be allowed to compete. Many good catches have been weighed in during the week. Amongst them we note that of Messrs. Freeman, Brasnett, and Craney, which amounted to 91lb.; Freeman and Mitchell, 40lb.; Brasnett and Craney, 42lb.; Bacon and Harbord, 71lb.; Bunn, 42lb. In Messrs. Bacon and Harbord's catch there were four bream, which scaled 12lb. 6oz. All reports go to show that excellent sport is being had at the various fishing stations. We, the other day, saw the catches of eight anglers, who had been fishing on Ormesby Broad, at Richmond's The Sportsman's Arms; such a catch has rarely been taken from these waters in one day, fully 200lb. of magnificent bream, all the undersized fish having been returned to the water, scarcely a fish weighing less than a pound, and many scaling well up to, if not over, 3lb. The bait used were lobworms and brandlings, the lobworms being, however, the more deadly. We have just heard of a fine take of rudd, which was landed at Heigham Sounds on Wednesday by one rod. The catch scaled over 56lb., many very fine fish being amongst them; one rudd weighed over 4lb. Such a fishing season as we are now having has never been known on the Norfolk waters, and this is the more astonishing, as the Broads, from the long drought, are between two and three feet shallower than they generally are. In last week's FISHING GAZETTE we observed that some gentlemen wrote complaining of the sport they had had on the Broads and rivers in this district. Their want of success can only be accounted for from the fact of their ignorance of the really good fishing spots on the waters in question. We would recommend gentlemen who wish satisfactory sport to apply for all information pertaining to where the fish are really on the feed, to our acting secretary, Mr. Seaman, Duke's Head Hotel, Quay, opposite Southtown-bridge, who weighs in all takes caught by the members of the society, and keeps a register of the same. A glance at this register would be sufficient to put anglers, coming from a distance, on the right track at once.—A. M.

### GLOBE ANGLING SOCIETY.

Only a few of our members were out on the 24th inst., consequently our shows of fish were not very numerous. Mr. H. Lake had 5lb. 5oz. of roach and bream; Mr. D. Thomas, 4lb. 9oz. of bream; Mr. F. Lawrence, some very good roach from Amberley; Mr. W. Brown, roach from the Stourt; Messrs. S. Orrow and S. Howell had some very good fish from the old river Wey, but did not arrive at the club in time to weigh in. At our ordinary meeting on Monday evening 25th inst., two new members were elected. I shall take it as a great favour if the members will attend in full force on Monday evening next (quarter night), as I have some very important business to lay before them.—J. J. HOLMES, sec.

### GREAT NORTHERN BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

On August 17th Mr. J. K. Fitch took 6lb. 8oz. roach and dace; G. Watling, 2lb. 7oz.; F. Watling, 4lb. 1oz.; Theobald, 3lb. 6oz.; Baillie, 3lb.; Stammer, 8lb. 3oz.; Watley, 2lb. 4oz. J. Page, C. Warren, Brown, Scott, Jukes, Cowper, and Armstrong also had fish. August 24, J. K. Fitch had 7lb. 11oz. roach and dace, one roach 1lb. 3oz., and several dace over 8oz.; G. Watling, 10lb. 6oz.; W. Theobald, 5lb. 13oz., one roach 1lb. 1½oz.; F. Watling, 6lb. 8oz.; Hockham, one perch 11oz.; Greaves, 1lb. 15oz.; Baker, 1lb. 8oz.; Stammer, 1lb. 3oz.; Watley, 2lb. 5oz.—J. FITCH, sec.

### GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

The usual meeting was held on Tuesday evening, when the chair was occupied by J. C. Bartlett. The minutes of the past meeting were duly read and confirmed. The Acting-Secretary announced that a handsome barbel, weighing 7lb. 2oz., had been weighed in by Mr. Arthur Benningfield on the 21st inst. Mr. Chambers reported to the society some interesting particulars as to a fishery which he considered would be a desirable acquisition for the members of the society, and suggested that a deputation should be appointed to inspect and report thereon. Mr. Bentley also made a report to the society of another private fishery which he had visited, with regard to which he gave a most amusing description of his travelling experiences, the result of the discussion which ensued being that a similar suggestion was adopted as in the case of that mentioned by Mr. Chambers. It was also announced that the next delegate meeting of the Central Association would take place on Friday, September 5th, at 9 p.m. After some further discussion on piscatorial subjects, a vote of thanks was unanimously passed to Messrs. Bentley and Chambers for their services in connection with their inquiries after waters. The usual business being concluded, the customary musical selections were given, and the meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the chairman.—A.

### HIGHBURY ANGLING SOCIETY.

Our trays were not so well furnished on the 24th inst. as hitherto; but despite all drawbacks Mr. Anthony had about 6lb. of good bream from Dagenham; as also Mr. Lewis with roach, dace, and gudgeon from the Thames. Mr. McDermott, on the 27th inst., produced a nice show of roach from Windsor, some scaling nearly 1lb. each. On the 31st inst., we have two valuable prizes to be competed for between Broxbourne and Hertford, for the first and second heaviest weights of all fish.—J. E. WHEATLEY, sec.

### HOXTON BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

There was a good show of fish on the 24th inst., being the last day of our year. Messrs. Cole, Dean, High, Pledger, G. Hunt, and Brockett having roach, dace, and bream. Mr. Heywood, 16lb. rudd; Messrs Simpson and Harris, perch; and Ghurney, jack. The annual dinner will take place on Aug. 31st, at 2 o'clock, at the Rye House. —R. GHURNEY, sec.

### INDEPENDENT BROTHERS' ANGLING SOCIETY.

Several of our members went out on the 24th inst., and were well rewarded for their trouble, Messrs. Clark, Leader, Roberts, and Moore being the most successful with bream, roach, dace, and chub. We beg to thank all brother anglers and friends that favoured us with their company at our return visit on the 26th inst., the evening being most enjoyable. The chair was well filled by Mr. R. Clark, who sang the first song, "The Chinaman"; Mr. Coomes was next with "John Doyle"; Mr. Sheen, of the Lincoln Angling Society, was well with "Come Down and Open the Door"; also Mr. Tyler, of the same club, with "The Lights of London Town"; Mr. Cecil, of the Brompton Angling Society, obliged with two excellent songs, "In the Days Gone By," and "Good Old Days"; Mr. Keen, of the Savoy Brothers, was laughable with the "Suit of Corderoy"; Mr. Chambers, of the City of London, was also amusing with the famous song "Fishing Club"; Mr. Wannell, of the Lincoln, was also good with the "Muleteer"; also Mr. Hewitt with "Swinging on a Five-bar Gate"; Mr. Johnson with "Nobody Knows the Trouble He was In"; Mr. Webber, of the Little Independent Angling Society with "The Village Blacksmith," and Mr. H. Moore was asked to oblige with his usual "Timothy Black," which kept the harmony going to the last moment, when all had to part.—H. MOORE, hon. sec.

### IZAAK WALTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

Mr. W. H. Mecham had 5lb. 12oz. of nice bream on the 24th. Mr. W. Wilshire has had some very handsome roach, two of which weighed 2lb. 12lb. Mr. F. Dennison, sen., will give a prize, value 10s. 6d., for the heaviest fish of any kind taken on the four Wednesdays in September.—H. B.

### LIVERPOOL ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

Lovely weather favoured our visit to Windermere Lake on Monday last, and the outing was thoroughly enjoyed; and, indeed, who would not enjoy a visit to the beauties of the lake district, especially when the sun shines, and all is fair and bright? Our party numbered 25, and 18 competed, perch fishing being the order of the day. A good number were taken, but they were mostly under 3oz., and too light to weigh in. The scales gave the following result:—1st, Mr. Leaman: 2nd, Mr. Sergencoon; 3rd, Mr. W. Jones; 4th, Mr. Gass. An excellent dinner was partaken of at the Stag's Head Hotel, and so the day ended.—R. WOOLFALL, hon. sec.

### LINCOLN ANGLING SOCIETY.

Our members were out on the 24th inst. at West Drayton and fished a pegged-down match for two prizes, neither of which were taken; but a few nice fish were landed. Mr. Waddles took a bream of 1lb. 6oz., and Mr. Bingle had a nice show of perch, roach, and gudgeon from the Thames. Our return visit will take place on September 8th, when we hope that all clubs not on our list will attend.—H. Bingle, sec.

### NORTH-WESTERN ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of this society visit Boxmore on September 1st, when seven prizes are to be fished for. On the evening of the 24th we had another good show of fish in the club room. Mr. Grindley a nice show of bream; Mr. Underwood, bream; Mr. Cross, a nice lot of tench; Mr. Aldis, jack and tench; Mr. Plumpton, jun., a very pretty jack from Rickmondsworth.—W. Hillier, sec.

### NORWICH PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The annual match of this club was held on the 28th inst. at Buckenham Ferry. The journey from Norwich to the Ferry was performed in a drenching rain, but this in no wise damped the ardour or spirits of the forty competitors who had entered their names. Unfortunately sport proved bad. The following are the prize winners:—1st, W. Capon (Hon. Sec.); 2nd, G. Cubitt; 3rd, E. H. Capon; 4th, C. Daniels; 5th, W. Page; 6th, O. B. Wilson; 7th, W. Butler; 8th, Mr. Wayth; 9th, F. Chapman; 10th, W. Mace; 11th, J. Barnes; 12th, E. H. Corbyn; 13th, D. Spelman; 14th, R. Bradley; 15th, A. Sims; 16th, G. Basingthwaite; 17th, R. Smith; 18th, W. Cushion; 19th, C. Page; 20th, G. Mobbs; 21st, J. Weyer; 22nd, H. Lacey. Every credit is due to W. Capon, the highly respected secretary, for first-class arrangements made for the comfort of the members, and also to Host and Hostess Garrett for the excellent attention and catering.—R. Moll.

### ORIGINAL CLERKENWELL PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

A few of our members have been out since my last report, and with fair success. Mr. Roberts, on the 17th inst., dace and bream, 6lb. 15oz. (one fish weighing 2lb. 9oz.), and on the 24th a bream of 2lb. 10¼oz.; Mr. Craffard, bream, 9lb. 15oz.; Mr. Edwards, jack, 2lb. 6oz.; Mr. Laundy, jack, 2lb. 12½oz., and roach 1lb. 4oz. Members are requested to attend on next Monday to decide the date for the complimentary visit.—J. Obbard, sec.

### PECKHAM BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

The match fished on the 24th inst. resulted in the following gentlemen winning in the order named: Messrs. White, Duke, Otjen, Beard, and Gatty. A match for the cup at Amberley, on the 31st inst,; an open match for club prizes, on the 7th September. All members must clear the books to fish in the latter match. A visit was paid to the above society by the following clubs, on Monday last:—The Anglers' Pride, The Bermondsey Brothers, The United Brothers, The 2nd Surrey, "The Wellington," The Kennington, The St. Albans, The South Eastern, Rodney Piscatorials, Walworth Piscatorials, and three others. The chair was occupied by our president, Mr. Brodie, ably assisted by Mr. George Durant, and the vice-chair by Mr. Duke; Mr. Leonard D'Alberte presided at the piano and his playing was very much enjoyed, his selection of Irish airs fairly bringing down the house. The following gentlemen, among others, sang:—Messrs. Durant, Duke, George Tyler, W. Tyler, "The Great Bignall," Stidolph, Aram, Holman, Pitts, Goodall, Reed, and Watts. On behalf of the members of the P. B. A. S., I thank the gentlemen of the various clubs and assure them we shall not forget their kindness.—Gadfly.

### PUTNEY UNITED ANGLERS.

On the 24th and 26th inst. we had our first match this season. In the Thames between Putney and Richmond Bridges for four prizes, which were won in the following order:—1st, J. Connelly; 2nd, J. Small; 3rd, J. Strongtharm; 4, L. Gibson. Several other members had a good show of fish. Total amount of fish, consisting of barbel, roach, and dace taken and weighed in for these prizes, 70lb. 7oz. —J. Connelly, sec.

### THE PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The usual weekly meeting of this society was held last Monday at Ashley's Hotel. There were present Messrs. H. B. Brown, T. Gillatt, C. P. Wheatstone, W. B. Adlington, J. Lander, H. Gray, W. Jesse, F. C. Hatfield, Rev. Sumner, Dr. Coates, &c. Mr. E. Foreman was elected to the chair, and the secretary read the minutes of the previous meeting, which were duly confirmed. He announced that Mr. Foreman was the winner of the first prize of £3 3s. in the bream competition; the full particulars of Mr. Foreman's take were given last week. A letter was read from Mr. Fennings, who is staying at Ringwood, Hants. He did not speak very favourably of the condition of water, but said he would send up his day's catch. Consequently later in the evening Mr. Fennings was credited with 18lb. of roach, consisting of twenty-one fish, one a beautifully-shaped fellow of 1lb. 12½oz., and one dace 7oz. The secretary next read a letter from Mr. Elliott, concerning the fishing in the Ouse at Blunham. A discussion, in which many of the members joined, followed as to the desirability of the society renting a fishery. After the subject had been fully discussed, the chairman said that he thought it unadvisable, as the society was so large, for unless they could obtain a very big stretch of water, there would be very little advantage for a very great outlay. In his opinion he was backed up by several of the elder members. Mr. Thomas Gillatt presented to the society two valuable and ancient prints of Old London. for the album, which now contains a unique collection of pictures and prints of angling and other subjects. Mr. Lemann drew attention to the portrait-album, and said they would be happy to receive the photographs of those members who were not represented in that collection. Mr. C. P. Wheatstone, who was present for the first time since his serious accident, which happened nearly six months ago, was warmly welcomed and responded to his health, which had been proposed by the chairman, thanking all his friends for their sympathy and kindness. He had recommenced angling at Chertsey a few days ago, but river was low and water stale, owing to want of rain, so his bag was not large, but he was very glad to be able to go fishing again. Mr. Harden had been down to the Welland at Deeping, and had taken 10lb. of roach and dace. He started at five in the morning, and returned the same night, and therefore travelled 150 miles for a short day's sport. Mr. H. B. Brown had had two successful days' chub-fishing from the Thames: he had taken 19lb. 7oz. of chub in one day; on the other occasion 19lb 8oz., with the fly, from public waters. Mr. R. E. Booker, fishing with E. Boswell, of Halliford, for two days. Although his object was barbel he was only rewarded with bream, seventeen fish weighing over 30lb. The following day he fished Shepperton Weir, and captured two jack going 7½lb. the brace. After some remarks from Mr. T. Gillatt, concerning the shows of fish at the society's rooms, the chairman proposed the usual toast, "The continued Prosperity of the Piscatorial Society," and the business of the evening was closed by a vote of thanks to the chairman.—Pro. T. H.

### RODNEY PISCATORIALS.

Our worthy host, Mr. T. Hughes, had some splendid sport among the barbel up the Thames during the past week. The gross weight amounted to 151½lb., some of them turning the scale at 10lb. Mr. Grant visited Amberley on the 24th inst., and got a few bream and eels. Mr. R. Smith had a turn at Wraysbury, where he found a few roach. Mr. Arnsby got some nice dace at Ware. Several members and friends had some good sport in the Grand Junction Canal among the roach and gudgeon. Members are informed that Wednesday next will be quarterly night, and their presence is requested to decide the where and how the September competition shall take place. The prizes offered on this occasion are those presented by W. Cotton, Esq., Mr. G. Ball, and Mr. H. W. Flowers.—Pixie.

### ROYAL GEORGE ANGLING SOCIETY.

The majority of the members of the above society went out on the 24th inst., and brought home very fair bags, considering the condition of the river. Messrs. Guynan, Beales, Sinclair, Carter, and Kerby visited the Lower Thames. Their takes varied from 3lb. to 8lb. One of the above-named—viz., Mr. Guynan—had two very nice barbel, and well he deserved them, for a more inveterate angler I have not the pleasure of knowing. Messrs. Wood, Rider, Palmer, Halden, and Churl went further up the river and fared fairly well. We go to Henley on September 1st to fish a match. I hope to see a good muster at Paddington to meet the nine o'clock train. If not, great disappointment will be visible on the countenance of—W. H. Rider.

### STOKE NEWINGTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

On the 24th inst.. Mr. W. Robinson had three bream weighing 5lb. 15¼oz., and 1lb. 2oz. roach; C. Martin, 4lb. 8oz. bream; C. F. Robinson, 4lb. 3¼oz. bream and roach; T. Millington, 3lb. 1oz. bream and perch; W. Webb, 2lb. 8oz. bream; T. Harris, 1lb. 2oz. roach and dace; and T. Gretton, 12½oz. bream. This club is now located at the Royal Standard, Flemming-street, Kingsland-road. Mr. Godfrey, the proprietor, has become a member, and any old or new friends paying us a visit will receive a hearty welcome. The meeting nights are every Tuesday.—T. Gretton, sec.

### UNITED BROTHERS, DEPTFORD.

The following members weighed in on the 25th:—Mr. F. Watts, 5lb. 11¾oz. of bream and roach from the Medway; Messrs. Payne and Currans, some bream from Dagenham.—H. T.

### WAVENEY ANGLING CLUB, BECCLES.

The second prize competition took place on Saturday the 23rd inst., between the bathing-place and Dunburgh-hill. Fishing lasted a little over four hours. In the evening, when the competitors weighed in at the club house the fish made a fine display, and the following were found to have made the principal catches, no fish under 7in. being allowed:—Mr. H. Stimson, 11lb. 4oz.; Mr. J. Rouse, 10lb. 8oz.; Mr. J. Hooker, 8lb.; Mr. T. Rouse, 6lb. 4oz.; Mr. C. Chase, 6lb.; Mr. Knell, 4lb. 12oz. The Mayor's special prize for the six best fish was taken by Mr. J. Rouse, who also had the best fish of the day (a roach 1lb. 1½oz.). and the finest show of fish over 8oz.

### WELLINGTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

On the 24th, Mr. Andrews weighed in one bream 3lb. 7¼lb., roach 1lb. 9¼oz.; total, 5lb. ½oz. Mr. Jenner one bream 4lb. 5¾oz., and Mr. Newbury roach and dace 7lb. 4½lb.; all from the Thames. Members are requested to note that a special meeting for the election of officers will be held on Wednesday next, the 3rd September, when a full attendance is desirable; it also being quarterly night. The peg-down match set down for the 21st Septembor, has been postponed to the 12th October, and will take place at Weybridge. All subscriptions for the excursion and dinner must be paid up by next Wednesday.—W. W. Alexander, sec.

### WESTBOURNE PARK PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The members of the above Society will fish an open match early in September for various prizes, which will be announced later on. The fish recently weighed in have not been either particularly large or numerous. Mr. Lines has weighed in the largest barbel of the season at present, weighing nearly 5lb. Mr. Buttery has also had some very good takes of bream from the Ouse, averaging 4lb. each. Mr. Oatley has been successful with the dace, having weighed one of 14oz. and another 10½oz. Mr. Evans also had one of exactly similar weight to the latter. Mr. Adeane had weighed in barbel and bream from the Thames, one of the latter weighing 5lb., which is the champion at present. It is intended that a smoking concert shall take place on the 9th prox. at this society's club house, The Pelican Hotel, All Saints-road, W., when any angling friends will be welcome. On this occasion the services of the Hon. secretary, Mr. H. Thompson, will be recognised by making him a presentation.

### WEST GREEN ANGLING SOCIETY.

Mr. Coleman's prize will be fished for on the 31st inst., at Broxbourne, all-round fish. Mr. Magne weighed in a nice show of roach, scaling 11¼lb., also one rudd, weighing ¾lb., from the River Ouse, winning the first prize, given by Mr. Guyver. A good number of members tried the Lea at various parts, but all had blanks.—J. Guyver, Sec.

## STATE OF THE RIVER LEA.

An important correspondence has taken place on the subject of the pollution of the River Lea between the Hackney District Board of Works, the Local Government Board, and the Tottenham Local Board of Health. It originated in a memorial from the Hackney Board to the Local Government Board. The memorialists complained that the smell from the river was now intolerable, and resembled that of a cesspool, and that it was dangerous to health. Along the banks of the river there was a heavy deposit of foul matter, which rapidly accumulated and became an offensive and dangerous nuisance. This memorial was sent by Sir Charles Dilke, as President of the Local Government Board, to the Tottenham Board of Health, the clerk of which had replied that the local board were pushing forward the construction of new works at their sewage outfall, which, either alone or with some addition, would certainly when completed remove all reasonable ground of complaint so far as the Tottenham district was concerned. They were using, and would continue to use as long as it might be necessary, means for disinfecting and deodorising the dock and the stream passing through it into the River Lea at their sewage works, and had given instructions for the immediate dredging of the dock. Further, they had directed their engineer to prepare and submit a plan and estimate for the construction of a reservoir of sufficient capacity to hold at least a day's volume of sewage, preliminary to other works in contemplation.

## SCOTCH FISHING NOTES.

Tweed, &c.—For a fortnight past matters piscatorial have been very flat, and the occupation of the trout-angler may now be said to be over for the season. Indeed, "The winter of his discontent" has already set in with a vengeance. The rivers are about as low as they can be, and the beds of the streams are in a most exceedingly dirty state; and as regards trout or salmon-angling, things are at a complete standstill, while the reports from all districts at the present time state that all descriptions of fish are scarce. The following reports from the various districts will show the state of matters as they stand at present.

Tweed, Teviot, Eden, Kale, &c.—These rivers are in an exceedingly low state, and little or no angling has taken place on them for about a fortnight. Occasionally a small basket is got, but they are rare; and the trouting season in these streams may fairly be said to be over for the present year.

The Leader.—The season may now be said to be almost ended. So far as it has gone, the sport has been the best experienced for a number of years, the average size of the trout running about five to the pound. The best basket of the season has been 26lb., and takes of 12lb. and 13lb. up to 16lb. and 18lb. have been very common among the crack hands. Altogether the season has been splendid.

Coldstream District.—From this portion of the river our correspondent reports as follows:—The Tweed still continues small, and until we have a flood very few fish will be got. On Monday, on Lennel Haugh, only one sea trout was got, but yesterday morning four fish were killed. Most of the other netting stations have been drawn blank. The bed of the river is very dirty.

## FISHING TACKLE FOR THE GORDON RELIEF EXPEDITION.

Negotiations which have for some time past been proceeding between Her Majesty's Government and Messrs. G. Little and Co., Haymarket, London, were concluded to-day, resulting in instructions being received by that firm to provide and furnish the flotilla of 450 boats to convey the expedition for the relief of General Gordon, with all the necessary fishing tackle and appliances, details of which have been carefully prepared during the past few days. The order has to be delivered at Woolwich Arsenal by the 3rd prox., so that the actual departure of the expedition may be earlier than the country expects.

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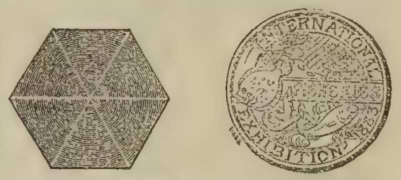

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# The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1884.

## THE LAST DAY OF TROUT.

IN Kent it is an accepted axiom that "when partridges come in trout go out," and so it follows that Saturday, August 30th, was the last day of trout fishing on some parts of the Darenth for this year of grace, 1884. The season thus ended has not been a good one even for those favoured few who have the *entrée* to the best preserved and most exclusive lengths of this prolific river. I admit, Mr. Editor, that the queen of trout rivers is the Dove, and that the earthly paradise of the trout fisher is Dovedale ; but I none the less hold in loving memory the ever-varying beauty of the Darenth valley, and the ever-changing features of the silvery stream as it winds its sinuous course to the sea. I am, moreover, prepared to join issue with any man who dares to say that in point of numbers and in point of weight the Derbyshire trout have the advantage over the Kentish fish. It may be that my experiences in Dovedale were more in harmony with those of "Piscator Minor" than with those of "Piscator Major"; but anyone who has, like myself, devoted himself to patient and persistent trout-fishing in Dovedale will agree with me that the denizens of that historical stream are very highly educated, if not very bulky, specimens of the *Salmo fario* family. This, however, is beside the mark ; my present object being rather to record my last day on the Darenth than to discuss the merits of the river which divides the counties of Staffordshire and Derbyshire. Well, Saturday was the last day for Kent, so I put in an appearance, in spite of threatening clouds, which carried out their threats and emptied their contents at intervals, some of the downpours being equal to the douche of a shower bath. In a moment of indiscretion I weakly yielded to the importunities of a boy who wanted to carry my traps, and that boy proved my evil genius, for his sins were those both of omission and commission. He was never at hand when wanted ; he disappeared with my landing-net and fly-book in the most aggravating way ; and when a terrific downpour of rain occurred, and I sought shelter under an old alder stump, I saw this attendant of mine two fields away, standing under a hedge and comfortably enveloped in my mackintosh ! Then the way in which he occasionally got ahead of me as I waded up stream, and the way he playfully pelted the water-rats at some of the choicest spots on the river, was enough to exasperate even the most gentle and philosophical disciple of old Izaak that ever whipped a trout stream. Nor is this the full measure of the iniquity which I suffered at the hands of this interesting boy ; but let his final offence be told hereafter. Of course, the water was very low, and equally, of course, it was very bright, and the fish very shy. The wind was strong and dead down stream ; everything was, therefore, in favour of the fish and against the fisherman.

I commenced operations about one o'clock with an August sun and black gnat. I made my first cast in a favourite spot which has yielded me many a brace of fine trout in times past ; but they now refused to budge. I tried several changes without beneficial results. In a shallow piece of slack water, on the lee shore of the river, I found a quantity of minute black midges, with rusty bodies, and luckily my book contained a few tolerably fair imitations of these flies. At the second cast I found that I had, to use an Americanism, "struck ile," and the fish refused all other lures, rising well to these minute imitations even when the rain fell in torrents. As the hooks were of the smallest size made, and the river was choked with weeds, necessitating vigorous treatment and scant courtesy when fish were hooked, it may be concluded that I lost a few ; but my losses were aggravated by reason of the hooks being badly tempered, for they opened out straight under pressure. My temper, too, was somewhat affected by this want of temper in the hooks. In spite of the heavy rain which fell at intervals, the water in the river remained unclouded—in fact, no ordinary day's rain will discolour the Darenth ; and at nothing more trustworthy or substantial than these miserable little midges would the trout condescend to look. By dint of much industry I got together five brace, and as the light began to fade I made tracks for a quiet pool wherein I had, earlier in the day, got a slashing rise and missed the fish. Slipping quietly into the water, some 30ft. below the spot which my intended victim occupied, I dropped a couple of tiny midges lightly about a couple of feet ahead of him, and he went at them with a rush like a dog coming out of his kennel. A turn of the wrist made him captive, and he flung himself out of water as if he had received a shock of electricity ; then he made a rush for the friendly shelter of an adjacent weed-bed. The supple 10-foot spliced rod bent double as the butt was applied, and for a moment the chances of a smash appeared to be imminent ; but he presently caved in, and rushed down stream, almost going between my legs, and then, when pulled up steadily, he danced a hornpipe and pumped himself out, eventually turning up his golden belly and showing his purple sides—a brilliantly speckled beauty of fully 2lb. weight. Whilst this performance had been going on that attendant boy of mine had been dancing on the bank as if he was mad, flourishing his landing-net, and behaving himself like a lunatic, and when he begged of me to let him land the fish I foolishly yielded, with the result that the wretched yokel hit the fish on the head and knocked him off the hook ! I saw him slip back into deep water, and, with a groan of despair, I got out of the river, and packed up my rod. Thus ended my last day on the Darenth. C. W. GEDNEY.

Bromley, Kent.

P.S.—If any of your readers who fish the Darenth would like to avail themselves of the valuable services of that boy I shall be very happy to put them in the way of finding him.

## ENGLISH TOURISTS IN IRELAND.

"IT is an ill-wind, &c." is an old and a true saying, and in exemplification of it we may refer to the accession of English tourists who, driven from the beaten tracks of Continental travel by the existence of cholera, come to visit our Irish scenery. For many years the weather has not been so favourable for the tourist as it has this year, but as we are concerned merely with the angling element, the conditions which are so favourable in one case are the very reverse as regards fishing. The weather has been so dry that nearly all the rivers in the country have been literally dried up, and the tourist who comes with the expectation of finding good river fishing will be disappointed. There may be some lake fishing. I have no doubt that the visitors to the South of Ireland will find ample sport on the Inchaleagh lakes, near Macroom, or on the Killarney lakes. There are some stretches of water high up among the rugged mountains. Encircling Glengariffe, and in Bantry bay, deep sea-fishing may be pursued with pleasure, and even with profit. The number of tourists who have gone over the usual routes in the South have been double the number of last year, when the attractions of the Exhibition lured many people across Channel. To the angling community who may desire to try their skill in Irish rivers we would advise them to come direct to Cork. There are two ways by which the centres of attraction are reached ; but the angler would do well to proceed by train to Macroom, and thence by car to Inchaleagh. Hitherto, there has been no regular car service from Macroom to Glengariffe and Killarney ; but cars are always available for a "party." This uncertainty, however, will no longer exist, for the Macroom Railway Company are making arrangements to have a regular conveyance in connection with their trains from Cork to Macroom. The visitor, after spending a day or two on the Inchaleagh lakes, may push on to Glengariffe, the scenery on the way being varied and interesting. About four miles from Glengariffe there is a lake just off the road, which leads to Castletown. This piece of water can be fished from the bank. It is not very large, but if the trout are in "taking" humour, and a nice breeze prevails, some good-sized fish will be taken. There is a second lake some distance further on, but of this I have not had any experience. Mr. Roche, the owner of Roche's Hotel at Glengariffe, is an angler himself, and will direct the stranger to the best fishing ground. A few days spent among the scenic attractions of this locality cannot fail to give pleasure as well as health. A well-appointed coach plies between Glengariffe and Killarney, and a charming ride it is. At every point round Killarney the angler may indulge his favourite sport. I am not acquainted with the conditions of the rivers there at present, but as the climate is more variable than it is here the water may be in order. The autumn fishing is said to be particularly good in the Western rivers, and the white trout will now be found to be in season. The fishing at Rossbeigh, Co. Kerry, is always excellent, and there is a neat little hotel, in connection with which are some capital preserves. Altogether, the tourist angler may do worse than spend a fortnight's ramble through the South of Ireland, especially as the recent rains will improve sport.

Cork. ANGLER.

## FISHING NEAR BOULOGNE.

(FROM MERRIDEW'S "GUIDE TO BOULOGNE," WHICH EVERY VISITOR SHOULD PROCURE.)

THE Wimereux is strictly preserved from Wimille upwards, and interest is required to get a day's fishing. It is therefore unnecessary to dwell upon the merits of this pretty little river, further than to say a stray trout or two may be caught between Wimereux and Wimille, and grey mullet in September and October.

The Liane is considered the only stream in the Arrondissement wherein the sport may be pursued *not* under difficulties, and where trout and other fish may be found. The fishing commences at the village of Pont-de-Briques, where *minnows* and *gentles* are procurable. Bottom-fishing for roach, &c., prevails, and bran balls and potato baits are considered the best means of taking roach.

Within a few minutes' walk of the Lottinghen station on the Boulogne and St. Omer Railway the Liane takes its rise, and is fed by three or four tributaries, in which the minnow will prove a tempting bait. Pursuing the downward course of the stream, the village of Selles is reached, and the river Liane becomes a more important stream, where the fly will probably supersede the minnow. It may be well to observe that the natural fly, *the down-looker*, which may be found on nearly every tree in proximity to the river, may be relied upon as a killing bait. The river runs through or near to Bournonville, Wirwignes, Questrecques, Hesdigneul, and Isque, to Pont-de-Briques, at any of which places a good bed, and some addition to the day's sport, may be had to refresh the fatigued sportsman. What disciple of Izaak Walton seeks for more? The railway is available at Desvres, Samer, Hesdigneul, and Pont-de-Briques, as well as Lottinghen; and Piscator may leave Boulogne early in the morning, and return to Boulogne to dinner or supper.

Licques stands on the Hem, a river well stocked with fine trout. To get there, Piscator must either take a hired conveyance, or go by the Malle Poste from the post-office in Rue des Vieillards early in the morning to Colembert, from whence Licques is distant eight kilometres. From Licques he will fish the stream to Nordausque, passing through Tournehem, a place well suited for headquarters, if the sport be good; this of course depends on the state of the water, weather, and wind.

THE AA.—To fish this excellent stream, Piscator will do well to take the railway between Boulogne and St. Omer, and descend therefrom at Lumbres, which is on the banks of the Aa. From thence he may go up the stream to Fauquemberque and Renty, at either of which places he will find good quarters; or he may pursue the stream to St. Omer. The trout are fine, and of excellent quality. The scenery is magnificent, and a ramble through the country will occupy a day or two, if change of wind or other obstacles arise to sport. The Lys is within reach of Fauquemberque, and is well worth visiting. It may be well to state that the minnow is the best bait from Lumbres to Blandecques, except when the May-fly is abroad, between the 24th May and the end of June.

THE CANCHE AND THE TERNOISE.—There is little doubt that these rivers afford the best sport in the department, and as they are accessible by railway *via* Etaples and Montreuil, they may be considered the most convenient for either long or short excursions. These are now facilitated by the recent opening of the branch line of the railway intended to run as far as Arras through St. Pol, so you may stop at

MONTREUIL, where headquarters may be established to fish the Canche and its tributary streams the Bauge at Attin and Dordogne; afterwards the Canche may be worked from Montreuil to Beaurainville, taking the tributaries at Marles and Loison. A comfortable bed may be got at Beaurainville, and proceeding up the stream, a rivulet at Contes must not be despised, and then returning to the Canche, a mile or two will bring Piscator to Hesdin.

HESDIN stands at the confluence of the Ternoise and Canche, and may be reached from Montreuil by omnibus. Very comfortable quarters may be obtained here. Let us take

THE TERNOISE to St. Pol, and capital sport will repay the stroll, besides rich and magnificent scenery, which will be met with at every point after leaving Montreuil. Afterwards it will be as well to return to Hesdin and take the branch of the Canche to Frévent, from whence, if so inclined, Piscator may proceed by omnibus to Fauquemberque.

THE AUTHIE is a river containing good fish, but not much frequented by reason of the absence of any quarters on its banks, and its distance from any place in the interior. To get to this river, take the railway to Montreuil, and from thence a country vehicle.

## AN AMATEUR ANGLER'S DAYS IN DOVE DALE.—(No. 6.)

THURSDAY, August 7th, was a pleasant day for us; lovely and bright as an August day knows how to be. We, the major and I, drove over from "The Izaak Walton" to "The Charles Cotton," at Hartington, with the intention—which we carried out—of walking and fishing back through The Dales, a good 10 miles or more the way we travelled.

Whilst our chops were being cooked at "The Charles Cotton," in order not to lose time, we started off to Hartington mill to commence operations. Arrived there, we found the road to the mill dam entirely blocked by a row of old railway milk cans filled with "wash," and on getting over the side stile we were landed in a paradise of pigs. On the little triangular island formed by the mill, the mill dam, and the stream I counted forty full-grown, happy hogs, some huddled together in the sun, some lazily sleeping under the broad leaves of the wild rhubarb, others wallowing and rollicking in the stream—it was, indeed, a scene of Arcadian felicity; surely never before had pigs such a jolly time of it; but there was no fishing in this once noted spot. The scent upon the island was not quite like the dew of Hermon; still, it was preferable, infinitely preferable, to the "Wye" below Buxton.

We returned to our chops, and luncheon over, we sallied forth down Beresford Dale, a delightful walk in a very hot sun, but the odour of that piggery haunted us for many a mile. We had only two faults to find with the worthy miller of Hartington, both of them of quite a personal and selfish character—for what right have we to complain if he manufactures beautiful bacon where formerly was a bit of capital fishing ground? And why should we grumble, because just at the time we were sweltering down Beresford Dale he had stopped his mill and turned the already meagre water of the Dove into his exhausted mill pond? The result to us, however, was that we had no water to fish in, and the fish had very little to swim in.

If we got no fish, we did not the less enjoy that charming walk. We rested awhile outside Cotton's fishing cottage. Over the door we noticed the inscription, "Piscatoribus sacrum." Here, many a time, had Cotton and his venerable friend Izaak Walton rested from their labours, smoked their pipes, and fought their piscatorial battles o'er again. And here are we genuine piscators excluded by lock and key from this sacred abode! Surely the executors and administrators of Charles Cotton are not carrying out his wishes in thus excluding true disciples! The entrance to this sacred edifice is guarded by two lofty elms, beneath which are circular seats, and on these we sheltered from the burning sun, and thought how much more we should have respected the blessed memory of Charles Cotton had he left within that pretty asylum a constant stoupe of nut-brown ale, and eke a cup of tea, for weary and thirsty piscators.

Peering through the lattice windows, we could see a round table and six comfortable old arm chairs; surely a cool and pleasant resting-place, and made specially for such as *we*! Why, oh! heartless successors of the genial Cotton, are we so ruthlessly shut out? Why? Because, as a notice-board informs us, stupid and unmannerly tourists will insist upon scratching their names on window panes and carving them upon doors and lintels, besides committing other nuisances.

On leaving the cottage, we suddenly came upon as lovely a bit of the river as is to be found anywhere. Here nature has at some not very recent period been helped by art; here are rustic stiles and seats and bridges, and here and there beds of rhododendrons, lignum vitæ, and other shrubs and plants tastefully arranged, though now neglected. These artificial aids do but little to enhance the enchanting beauty of this little dell. Here one sees standing right in the middle of the water a very curious limestone moss-covered spire,[*] which has given an ugly name to a lovely spot. It is called "Pike Pool," not because the stream contains pike, but from this remarkable column. Here, under overhanging branches, the Dove runs deep and slow from one cascade to another. Here it was that Cotton's "Viator" caught his first grayling. "I have him now," says "Viator," "but he is gone down towards the bottom. I cannot see what he is, yet he should be a good fish by his weight; but he makes no great stir." Piscator: "Why, then, by what you say, I dare venture to assure you 'tis a grayling, who is one of the deadest-hearted fishes in the world, and the bigger he is the more easily taken."[†]

Naturally, the major paid special attention to this classic spot. Near the end of the dell, I suddenly heard a heavy splash, and on nearing him, I found him struggling with a big fish, which he fairly landed; but to my surprise, no sooner had he got his hook out of him, than he threw him back into the water! He was a grayling of over a pound. "What do you mean by such an insane act as that?" I cried. "Foul hooked; I caught him by the back fin," said he. "Well," said I, "what does it matter whether you caught him by that, or the head, or the tail, so long as you had him in your net?" "Unsportsmanlike and illegal," he replied. I said no more. I only wondered if this superfine doctrine prevailed in Izaak Walton's days. I have my suspicion that *that* was the way in which the inexperienced "Viator" hooked his first grayling. I only know that if *I* had caught him—— but I am not going to encourage young anglers to break the law.

This grayling certainly fought splendidly; but, perhaps, one cannot fairly judge from this what he would have done had the hook been in his throat instead of his back fin.

It was here I met again that little white-bibbed sister of mercy, my pretty water ouzel. She came and rested on a point of rock, and made me half a dozen of her prettiest curtsies. "Where are you going to, sir?" she said. "I'm going a-fishing, my pretty maid." "I'll go with you, sir," said she, "and tell you where the fishes be." And so she hopped along from stone to stone to the end of the little dell, and then with a few graceful bends over her white bib and tucker, she bade me good-bye.

Piscator major marched along regardless of these small matters. He was intent on fishing; but I forget to say in the beginning that I was not—I was only accompanied by my walking stick. I wanted to gain experience by watching the major's movements. We plodded on, without fish and almost without water, till we came to "Load Mill."

It was now nearly six o'clock, and we were very thirsty, so instead of pursuing the river down to Mill Dale, we took to the turnpike-road, and climbed a terribly tough hill for a very long mile till we came to The George, at Alstonefield, where we refreshed ourselves with most grateful tea and bread and butter, and then wended our way back to Mill Dale, and pursued the stream, passing the new fish-culture establishment just erected by Sir Henry Allsop, in the Dale. There we saw hundreds of young fry disporting in the well-built tanks; but as the hot sun was streaming down upon these open tanks it seemed rather desirable that the little fishes should have been protected by some covering above, or hollows underneath. Probably at this season the young fry would be grayling—in which case a shading from above would be preferable.

I may here remark that if during my piscatorial holiday I have not caught many fish, I have at least learnt something of their manners and customs in these streams. For example, in walking quietly along the banks of the Dove or the Manifold, I have occasionally seen a solitary trout "on the feed" which would allow me to approach within a yard and shake my stick at him without budging. "Surely," I have thought, "either that fish is paralysed by fear, or else he is one of those rare ones which has never yet tasted the fruit which conceals the villainous hook!" As a rule, you cannot approach within 6 or 8 yards of a feeding trout in these bright waters but he is off like a shot, and conceals himself under bank, or stone, or grass; but this is not so with the grayling. What stupid fish they seem to be; lying on the bottom of the stream, they appear to me to be a homeless race. Never have I seen a grayling rush away and hide himself like a trout under grass or rock; one generally finds them in little flocks, and when disturbed they scuttle about up and down and round and round, but never do they seem to be endowed with sufficient sense to hide themselves, or, metaphorically speaking, "to go in when it rains." That is why I have suggested that the young grayling fry should be protected from the sun by a covering from above rather than by overhanging banks or shady rocks under the water which they have not the sense to avail themselves of.

We approached our own ground, the Dove Holes, and just here we witnessed a curious instance of motherly affection. We saw a rat swimming down the stream with a young one nearly as big as herself in her mouth. I fancy she had been giving her son a lesson in swimming. How lovingly she carried him up the bank into her hole!

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[*] *Pisc.* "Why, sir, from that pike that you see standing up there distant from the rock, this is called 'Pike Pool.' 'Tis a rock in the fashion of a spire-steeple, and almost as big."—*Walton and Cotton's Complete Angler.*

[†] Our *piscator major* does not agree with Cotton's *piscator* as to the want of pluck of the grayling. They differ in this respect, he says, in different streams and at different seasons; but as a rule they fight as well as a trout.

The major now began in earnest. Here he donned his wading boots which had been brought up the Dale to meet us. It was now 7.30, and, with the exception of the castaway grayling, only one fish had been taken. Piscator had long despaired of rivalling his feat of the day before ; but he was not likely to give in. The trout came into the basket slowly, and at long intervals, until we reached the Sharplow Cliff. There the major waded across to the Staffordshire side whilst I was compelled to follow the path and climb over the cliff, and an ugly climb it is in the dark.

It was now quite dark, and we could only guess at each other's whereabouts by cooing and whistling ; and when we emerged on the open green, called Sedgy Pool, we could not distinguish each other across the river ; for although the full, round moon looked down upon us from the V-shaped opening to this pleasant glade (formed by the slanting sides of Thorpe Cloud on one side and The Hazels on the other, the moon occupying the upper centre of the V), there was such a heavy mist surrounding us that our figures cast no shadows. Still the major fished on, and ever and anon I heard a loud flop and splash (for the fish seemed to rise with more noise and dash in the dark), and the words came across to me, "hooked him, "lost him," or "hooked him," "got him," till at last we met at the Stepping Stones.

We reached the pleasant old Izaak Walton by a little after ten, and although the major counted out but three brace of trout—good, heavy ones—still we felt we had not lost a day. Before I close I should like to offer a valuable hint to rod-makers : I noticed alike in the bright sunshine, in the evening twilight, and when all else was dark, that I could distinguish the flashing of Piscator's bright rod at a very considerable distance. Now, if I could see this, I fancy the bright-eyed fishes would frequently be scared by it. Why, ye makers, do you not make plain, unvarnished rods ? There is a fortune in this hint for any rod-maker who will take it and make an "invisible rod." What is wanted in this wideawake little Dove is a visible fly attached to an invisible hook, on an invisible line, thrown with an invisible rod by an invisible piscator, and you will fill your basket.—*Verbum sap.*

August 11.—Since the memorable walk on Thursday I have not much to report. I did not fish on Friday, but the major could not be restrained. He brought home in the evening one brace of grayling, weighing together 2$\frac{1}{4}$lb., and three and a half brace of fine trout, thus upsetting my little theory of fasting fish.

Saturday morning was the most close and sultry time we have yet had. In the afternoon the rumbling of distant thunder was heard, and in a short time the sky was black all round with heavy rain clouds. Presently the surrounding hills resounded with crashing peals ; but the rain only skirted our valley, and we did not get much of it. There is, I believe, a theory abroad that fish won't rise in a thunderstorm. We tested that theory with a very remarkable result. I once more donned my mackintosh and wading boots, and betook me to the Dove. It looked ominous ; not a rise could I see. I fished away for three hours, and I got but one solitary rise. I hooked my fish well, but he twisted himself round a bit of rock, and snapped off my most promising fly—my usual luck. I returned to the hotel fully satisfied that fish do not bite in thunder weather !

Meanwhile, Piscator major went to the Manifold, and returned shortly after me with—ye powers ! more fish than his usual bag would hold ! that was filled, and a bundle tied up in his handkerchief as well ! He counted out *nineteen trout*, some of them more than 1lb., and the whole lot, weighed together, nearly turned the scales at 10lb., or more than an average of $\frac{1}{2}$lb. each ! Now, what am I to think of this ? Do fish bite in a thunderstorm, or do they not ? Here, you see, is my own experience dead against it ; but, then, here is the experience of the major as dead in its favour. The only solution which occurs to me is, that they *don't* bite in the Dove, and they *do* bite in the Manifold. I make no allowance for my want of skill and experience, for I maintain that in that perfectly calm weather I threw my flies very cleverly indeed. If the fish had been on the feed, I certainly must have caught some ; but the fates were against me. Had I accompanied the major, as I at first thought of doing, I am sure I should have done almost as well as he. There are a good many other piscators here whose success about equals mine. What a display was this which our major spread out before them ! How they envied his skill, and venerated his prowess. A. A.

## "CRISP."

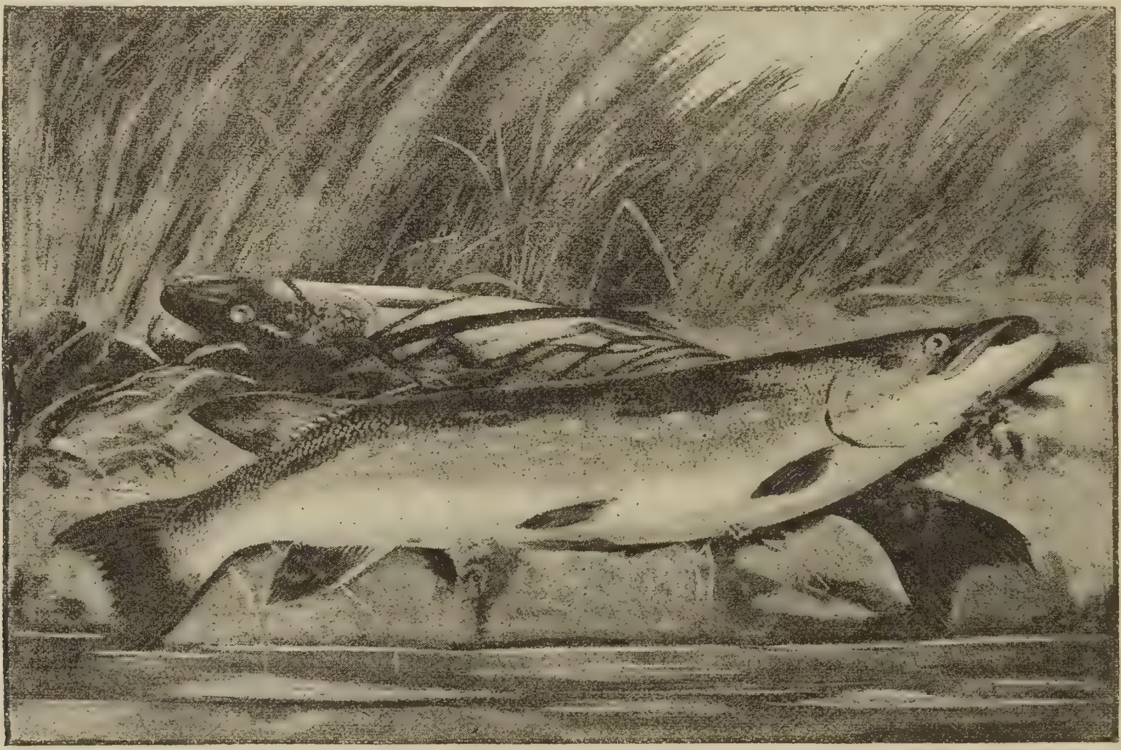
### A Holiday Sketch.

On a memorable day in the month of July, 188—, we—that is, my friend "Goosequill" and myself—started from the sleepy little town of C—— for a ten days' holiday in the Highlands. We had made arrangements to board with an old gentleman whose residence was in the neighbourhood of Killecrankie, as our purses, respectively, were insufficiently furnished to stand the strain either of hotel or hydropathic bills. The journey to Killecrankie was uneventful, and on our arrival at the picturesque station we found our host waiting, who greeted us with an outstretched hand of welcome. That worthy gentleman had been waiting for us an hour and a half, and his comments on the regularity of North Country trains would, I fancy, have convinced any reasonably conscientious railway official of the error of his ways. A pleasant walk of two miles through an avenue of fine trees brought us to our residence, which we were delighted to find a beau-ideal rustic cottage.

Perhaps at this stage of the sketch a description of the *dramatis personæ* with whom the reader is chiefly concerned will not be out of place. To begin with, "Goosequill" is my very particular friend, an ardent lover of nature, and, moreover, writes very clever poetry. To describe him by saying he is the "poet of his town" would be correct, but would not be saying enough, as his poems have had a widespread circulation. "Crisp," an abbreviation of our worthy host's name, was an original. A tenant of the Duke of ———, by all traditions he should have been a moderate Whig ; but, alas ! for the "coercive" power of that mighty chieftain, he was not. A fierce Republican, and admirer of Bradlaugh, he used to have warm work with us, two Tories, when we drifted into political arguments. "Crisp" was a good man of business, and smart to a degree, as was evidenced by a story which he was fond of telling. That was of a transaction with the Duke's wily factor, and from whom, by some species of boycotting, he had got his house at half the previous tenant's rent. His sister, a lady of uncertain years, kept house for him, and had but one characteristic—kindness. I, the reader's most obedient servant, have no special accomplishment that I know of. Doubtless, if I had, someone would have been kind enough to tell me of it. I am the proud possessor of a Roman nose, an ardent lover of all sports, and am especially modest. I had intended to finish *ego* in one sentence, but it cannot be thoroughly done, I find, in that short space, and I trust the presumably fair reader has not been superlatively bored by the recital of my virtues.

The first thing we did after dinner and a pipe was, of course, to unpack. "Crisp's" eyes glistened as I took my two salmon rods out of their cases, and explained to him that I had permission to fish on the Tummel and Garry. "Man, but ye're just cum in the nick o' time, as Monday'll see the watter in grand order," was his cheering comment. "Let's see ye're flees noo," and after a thorough inspection, remarking on their several beauties with a learned air, he summed up with, "They're very guid, but no sae guid as the 'creeper.'" He harped on the "creeper" for some time, but would not explain himself ; and as I believed it to be some famous bait, and did not wish to pay too much for the secret, I abstained from pressing him. The first evening G—— (short for "Goosequill") and I spent in exploring. The next day, Sunday, was a glorious day, and about twelve o'clock we climbed a hill overlooking our house. G—— recited poetry (which he does very well) while I lay on my back and smoked, "at peace with all mankind." Be not shocked, ye rigid moralists ! as there was not a church within four miles, and I am perfectly willing to make an affidavit our doings were innocuous. That evening we strolled through the pass to view my happy hunting grounds. I have very little poetry in me ; but I must confess to emotion when viewing from the railway bridge, across a dark pool, the fearful rush of water through the "Soldier's Leap." On our way back, "in the gloamin'," and attempting a short cut, we got mixed, and discovered ourselves trespassing on the lands of V. R. The rabbits rushed about by the hundreds, and, Sunday and a' thegither, I found myself, and I think I can answer for my friend, longing for a gun. After wandering some time we came across a keeper, who, for a small tip, soon restored us to the high road, and we reached home without further incident. On Monday morning we were astir early, and as the day promised to be bright, we agreed to give the trout our attention. Armed with my trusty "Hogg," a nicely-balanced one-hand rod, I felt confident of success, and managed to imbue G——, who is not an angler, with a portion of my high spirits. When we arrived at the water side, the weather was simply perfection. In ten minutes I killed half a dozen trout, averaging a quarter of a pound, and pricked as many more. In fact, it was a case of rising a fish every throw. This might have continued *ad infinitum*, or rather, until I had emptied the pool, but just at that moment Sol appeared in all his strength, and not a fish would touch the lure they had but a moment before been struggling for. I fished industriously up the river with fair success, and at length reached the limits of my "permit." G——, who was the basket carrier, and had been groaning at intervals at the weight of his load, flatly refused to stir another step until we had lessened its weight by eating our lunch and consuming the bottles of "Bass" which, with my usual foresight in these matters, I had provided. I, nothing loth, agreed ; and after a soothing pipe began lazily to cast my line into a big pool so as to get it into working order for the downward journey. This pool swarmed with little trout, and I had my three flies occupied many times in succession. I got tired of throwing back the troutlets, and moved downwards. At the tale of this pool, in a very difficult place, I saw what I took to be at least a "pounder" rising, and I resolved to hazard the possible loss of tackle upon the bush under which the fish lay. I, with all due caution, got into position, and after a half-dozen or so throws got the correct distance, and on a second attempt put the fly over the unconscious fish, which was feeding in a business-like manner. There was a little ring, and I smartly tightened the line. The fish, to my great joy, rushed straight out, and then up stream. If it had gone down I must have given the "butt" with the chance of losing the fish, or getting hung up in the bush. After a splendid fight the fish came to grass, G——, with a triumphant yell, netting it safely. We weighed the fish at once, and it just turned 2lb. Somehow after that I did not feel so interested in the $\frac{1}{4}$-pounders, which was the run of the fish, and several of that size escaped through gross carelessness on my part. About four o'clock we decided we had done enough destruction, and after trapping up we made tracks for "Crisp's," and just arrived in good time for dinner. The 2-pounder was boiled, and contributed to our enjoyment. On Tuesday, G—— started to climb a neighbouring "Ben," and I, with "Crisp" as my henchmen, started to whale the salmon. "Crisp" was strong on the subject of flies, and I allowed myself to be guided by his opinion. The first pool yielded none, not a fin stirring, and number two was carefully fished with a like result. Number three is a famous pool, and almost a certain kill, and I had at this time begun to think it a last chance. Three salmon rose at intervals, and although I tried them all my virtue was not rewarded. At this stage my doubts of "Crisp's" selection culminated, and I then and there changed the fly. After practising the angler's virtue for a short time I thought I might again venture to approach the lordly fish. I worked away industriously, cheered by the humorous remarks of "Crisp," and was at length rewarded by an offer. I struck smartly, having been taken by surprise ; but there came no answering leap. As I was on the point of taking a seat, in a disgusted state, to wait a little, "Crisp," in great excitement, whispered, "Gie'm anither trial," and following his advice I again cast over the fish. There was a big swirl, and the next moment a beautiful silvery salmon was safely attached, and jumping like mad. My work was cut out for me, as this was only my second salmon fight, and the "chiel," a fresh-run fish, was totally different to the small grilse I had several years before captured. "Crisp" proved very useful at this juncture, giving me skilled advice which I was not above taking. After much palpitation of the heart I managed to get the fish within reasonable distance. This, to me, was the critical moment, as, despite my friend's assurances, I was not convinced of his ability to grass the victim. With a little pressure the fish was induced to come into shallow water, and "Crisp," wading in, made a desperate lunge. I expected nothing less than to see the gut severed a foot above the salmon's mouth, and it frisking about with its tail held to its nose at the other end of the pool ; but "Crisp" was equal to the occasion. That lunge landed the fish handsomely. "Crisp" who, in my estimation a moment before, was much below below par, rose 100 per cent., and I handed him the whiskey flask, immediately after administering the *coup de grace*. I weighed my capture immediately—12$\frac{1}{2}$lb., a bonny fish. After the battle, and when we had done admiring the fish, we had lunch. Over the soothing pipe we fought the fight over again, and "Crisp" was loud in his praises of what he termed my "working-a-fish capabilities." About an hour's rest and then I went to work again, and fished till five o'clock, but with no luck. "Crisp" packed up, and we made tracks. In the home-going that gentleman, who had become pretty voluble through imbibing "the wine of the country," while allowing that I had killed a "vary pritty fush," remarked that that was nothing to what could be done by the "creeper." My curiosity was again aroused, and scenting some famous killer, I, with some importunity, and the aid of a refresher, got the following explanation, which will be interesting to brother anglers :—In "Crisp's" words, but not in the vernacular, which is beyond the reach of my humble orthography, you get a good thick wand (a clothes-prop is a good substitute), fasten to one end of it by way of reel one of those instruments which gardeners use with the line attached. For the hook, tie three big cod hooks, grapnel form, to the end of the line, which latter is to be weighted by a piece of lead attached, half as big as an ordinary fist. The line should be passed through a big loop of wire at the end of the pole. This is a poaching instrument. "Shade of Izaak Walton !" I hear some brother angler ejaculate. "Can this fiendish instrument have existed, save in the mind of some hair-brained angling maniac?" "Yes, my brother!" I answer. "It is too true that such instruments exist, as many a lordly salmon has found to its cost. The *modus operandi*, as described by "Crisp," is: Two go in company, one to work the "creeper," the other to watch. A deep pool with rocky banks is usually selected, and the man who works the "insect," knowing the pool, and where the fish lie, cautiously approaches, and, after adjusting his instrument, lets it into the pool, strikes, and seldom fails to lift out the goodly salmon. I noticed that "Crisp" got very enthusiastic over his description, a fact which appeared to me to be only accountable for by personal experience; so, stopping him, I said, with a stern face, "I hope you never indulge in these little games." His face the next moment was as solemn as that of the proverbial judge, and he replied: "Na! Na! but I ha'e seen my faither doe't."

(*Conclusion next week.*)



HAMPSHIRE PIKE, *from a Painting by* Mr. Targett.

## JOTTINGS—PROSPECTIVE AND RETROSPECTIVE—REGARDING THE DEE, DON, &c.

At the present, when Nimrod is on the ascendant, and Walton on the wane—when sportsmen are leaving the salmon pools and trouting streams, and betaking themselves to the far-stretching moors and heath-clad hills, we adjudge it will not be inopportune to afford them—when indulging in the luxury of the ottoman, after a sore, fagging day, with a little literary relaxation—prospective, we should say—of riverside sport in the coming autumn.

Our remarks in last week's Gazette bore special reference to the Dee and Don, and to these rivers, on the present occasion, we intend chiefly to confine ourselves. It will, doubtless, have been already noticed that Mr. Young, in his remarks, embodied in the report issued by the Scotch Fishery Board in London, the other day, confirms, on authority gathered from a mass of evidence, the statement we have already advanced, not without proof, that contrary to the generally received idea, anglers have captured, close to the sea, and with the sea-lice upon them, many salmon, giving more or less indication of being affected with the fungoid disease. This question you will doubtless be able to solve—to state when and how the disease was contracted, and by suggesting a remedy, earn the gratitude of all anglers.

It will be very gratifying to anglers to know that the fungoid disease, so prevalent in the Dee late in the spring and early in the summer, manifesting itself on the kelts, and spreading among the clean fish, especially in the higher reaches of the river, and doing great destruction, has now entirely disappeared.

The disease, by some, has been attributed to overcrowding, and if this theory holds good, the immense quantity of fish that took the river in spring, in consequence of a fine running water, and settled in the higher pools, gives it a colour of probability, because it was principally in the upland pools that the disease developed most extensively. It was little observed during February, March, and the first part of April; but from then to the end of June, by which time the river had got considerably thinned, its ravages were very noticeable.

In the spring of '83, if we take the whole extent of the Dee and Don into account, very few fish giving evidence of disease were seen in these rivers. In autumn, however, matters were less satisfactory, a considerable number of dead and dying fish having been found by anglers. This year, as we have already noted, has been different, and if, in the autumn, as in the spring of last year, the disease does not prevail, anglers will have cause for congratulation.

Some have attributed the prevalence of the disease during the past spring and early summer, to the low state of the water, and the consequent filthy consistency of the bottom; but we very much doubt whether anything more substantial than the mere statement can be advanced in support of this opinion, though it may doubtless have been, with other causes, not altogether without its influence.

With reference to the remarks in our last regarding alleged illegal netting having been practised in the Dee, the sheriff has now given a written deliverance, assolizing the defenders from the conclusions in the case, in respect that they, as authorised fishermen, and not poachers, were outside the pale of a criminal action, for the manner in which they had been operating with the nets. His lordship, on the motion of the defender's agent, awarded costs to cover witnesses' expenses.

A cry about night poaching arose in the month of March last. For a while, about that time, the Aberdeenshire rivers ran very low; and if these nefarious practices were carried on then, they could have been so effectively.

Anglers complained of the scarcity of salmon in the pools where they were wont to be. Letters on the subject appeared in some of the sporting papers, and a good deal of feeling entered into the matter. It is not for us to say whether illegal netting was carried on or not; but this we say, that sportsmen would not be averse to have the staff of river watchers augmented at the instance of the fishery boards. Adequate provision to cope with attempts at illegal netting on many of our rivers is absolutely required. Poachers, it must be admitted, go in gangs, and, if the staff of bailiffs were sufficient to frustrate their attempts, their occupation, like that of Othello, would be gone, and fewer complaints heard of from anglers.

On the subject of bottom fishing, we repeat the statement, in connection therewith, that we made in our last, viz.—that the extensive use in the Dee last spring of natural minnow, prawn, eel tail, "devils," and suchlike importations (printed imputations) gave rise to a good deal of protestation on the part of the fly fishers. This was not surprising, as experienced anglers, who have in any way studied the matter, bear emphatic testimony, that when fish are bottom fed to any extent, they disincline to rise freely when tempted with fly. Several sections of the Dee, we know for certain, were left in disgust by their fly-fishing tenants immediately operations were commenced on the other side by the minnow fishers; and how was this to be wondered at? For unless fresh-run fish are continually arriving and settling in the pools, the chances of the fly fisher are reduced to a minimum. If bottom fishing were entirely discarded, we feel convinced that the step taken would entirely dispel the woefully apparent, inharmonious state of feeling existing between many anglers. Success too, we have every reason to believe, would be greater; the instance adduced in our last being one of the many that could be given in confirmation of this opinion.

Many of the upper proprietors, interested in improving the Don fishing, are very desirous to see an illustration of the McDonald fish-way, so extensively used in Canada. The question of opening up the Don, long talked about, is yet in embryo; nevertheless, a little stirring in the matter might have some effect in stimulating action. Good waters have been flowing for some time, but few fish are yet ascending. Sea trout and finnock are numerous in the tidal waters.

## SUTTON'S BULB CATALOGUE.

Messrs. Sutton and Sons, the Queen's seedsmen, Reading, send us for notice their new bulb catalogue. We have much pleasure in doing this—first, because it deserves it; and secondly, because the partners take so much interest in the angling club which has been formed among their employés.

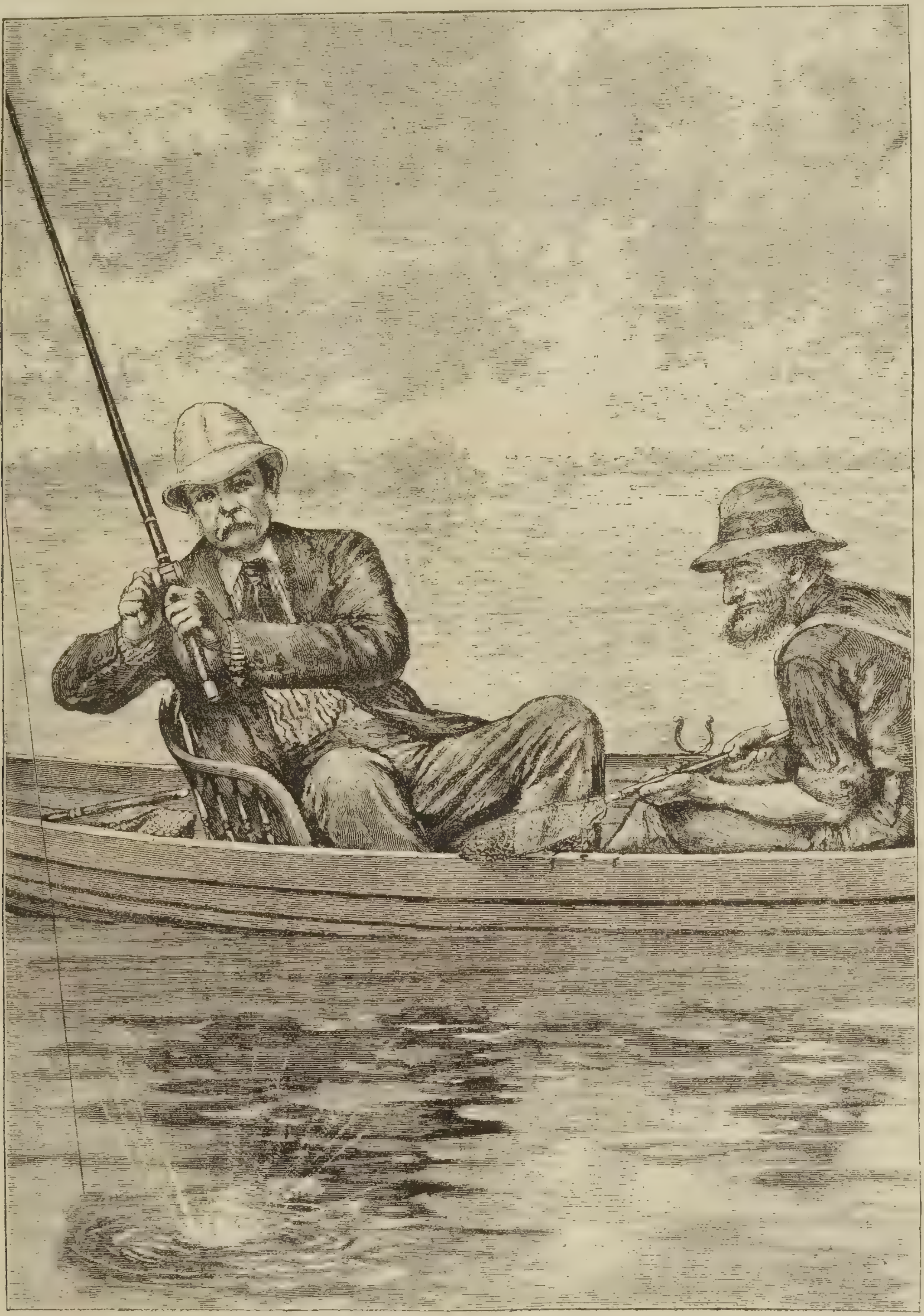
The catalogue consists of 20 quarto pages, with two full-page illustrations of their "Inimitable Hyacinths," and "Reading Beauty Begonias," bound up in one of the neatest and most effective wrappers we have seen. It not only gives a list of bulbs and prices, but also thoroughly practical instructions in their culture, and shows how easily the dark days of November, December, and January can be made cheery by the presence, in full bloom, of hyacinths of all kinds (grown specially for early forcing), tulips, begonias, &c.

Messrs. Sutton will send this beautiful catalogue gratis to any of our readers applying for it, and we can recommend them to get it.

Some Capital Grayling Flies.—Those of our readers who intend to fish for grayling with the fly this autumn ought to provide themselves with a dozen or two of the "Little Marryat," made by Mrs. Brocas, 5, Rochester-row, Victoria-street, London, S.W. It is one of the best dressings of this deadly trout and grayling fly which we have seen. Mrs. B. also sends samples of her red and grey quill gnats, and the "reg tag." They are all extremely well made; the gut is fine, and the hooks are the best shape, and well pointed and barbed. It is simply astonishing how often first-class fly-makers send out flies made on imperfect hooks. By the way, have any of our readers given the expensive detached bodied flies a good trial? We have been greatly disappointed with them, and find the ordinary dressing calls infinitely better for some reason,

## THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

American Anglers are proud of the fact that the man who at present occupies the proud position of their President is a genuine and enthusiastic angler; and certainly it is a compliment to the art, that the chosen chief of fifty millions of people, General Chester A. Arthur, is also an angler. We have much pleasure in giving our readers a sketch of the President in the act of playing a big black bass. He is also an expert salmon angler. We should "guess" the President could tell us some good stories of the doings and sayings of that typical boatman who is holding the landing let.



GENERAL CHESTER A. ARTHUR,

President of the United States, Angling for Black Bass.

## SALMON FISHING IN THICK WATER.

When a river has become flooded and thickened, salmon fishermen are usually content to await with resignation the water being again in fishing order. Such had been my custom until, on a recent expedition, while strolling along the river-side during a "red flood," I came upon two fishermen—the one an amateur, the other a well-known local professional, the crack habitué of the district. As I reached them a fish was being played, and very shortly a fresh 5lb. grilse was on the bank, and added to an already good show for the day's work—a salmon, with several grilse and sewin. They had all been killed on the worm, and it caused me some wonder when the professional, taking up the rod, engaged to hook a salmon or sewin within five minutes.

The process appeared to be as easy as the proverbial falling off a log. He waded in a few yards, cast the worm up stream, and without moving from the spot, in the course of a few swims a smart upward stroke of the rod betokened, surely enough, he was fast in what proved to be a lively three-pound sewin. I reflected that in this thick condition of water it was necessary to bring the bait to the noses of the fish, and that one half of the secret of success must lay in selecting accurately the fishing places, which are different to those tenanted by fish in ordinary states of the river. The result of carefully watching the subsequent proceedings, and of full inquiries into many details, was that the same evening found me at work on a pool near my quarters; and that I returned home, after an hour's fishing, with two clean grilse and the happy conviction that I had acquired a method of obtaining a legitimate, exciting form of sport at times during which I had formerly perforce been idle. This fact in itself was no little enjoyment to one who hungers to go fishing every day (in spite of the elements) during brief visits to a river. I will attempt to describe in detail this style of fishing. For a careful following of, firstly, the general principles, and, secondly, the minuter details, is as necessary to success in this method as in any other acquirement. Under favourable circumstances (to be hereafter described) failure only will result, I can say with confidence, from the laws being in some one or more instances ignored. "When one thing is wrong everything is not right."

All methods of fishing may be classified under the now, the when, and the where. Clear ideas on each of these points are evidently of the first importance; I will therefore, in my description, deal separately, as far as possible, with each of these points. Inverting the order, and commencing with the *where* to fish, it should be remembered that the worm must be caused to travel slowly along the bed of the river in the exact line of the fish; for, if the bait swims a foot or two out of this line, or off the bottom, it will not be seized, for the simple reason that it will not be seen. To suit this requirement, then, it is essential that the river-bed at the selected spot should be of a shingley, level nature, free from boulders or other obstructions to the progress of the bait. Thus the catches, or parts of catches suitable for the purpose, must be examined and noted during a clear state of the river. It will be seen, for the above reason, that suitable places are to be looked for on the shelving, wadeable side of the catch, and the line of the fish will be found "between the waters," or exactly between the shallower water near the bank and the rapid body of the stream.

By noting carefully it will be seen that the main rapid stream is separated from the sluggish, eddying water by a smooth, steady current of about two feet or less in width, and in this current or swim "between the waters" the fish will be found to lie in Indian file, close to the bottom of the river.

In regard to the second bead—the *when* to fish?—the time of a flood that affords the best chance is upon the river first coming down thick and flooded; the fish may then be relied upon to feed keenly. At other periods of the flood the hours of the day at which the fish feed are more or less uncertain. Mornings and evenings are generally good; but the best take may occur (as occur it will) at some other time. To keep "a wet line" is the only safe rule.

The third section—the how to fish?—comprises: the rod, the line, the method of weighting the line, of casting the bait, and of fishing it during the swim.

The rod used may be the ordinary salmon rod of 16ft. to 18ft. in length. If the angler fishes properly, in a suitable spot, he need not be afraid of injuring his fly-rod, or of subjecting it to undue strain. The length of line used should not be more than that of the rod by more than about a yard, hence it will be necessary that the fisherman should stand at a distance of about a rod's length or less from his selected swim. The worm is cast by the overhead throw up stream, into the exact swim, to the full length of rod and line. Then, until the sinkers cause the bait to reach the bottom, the line will be observed to be slack; but, as soon as the leads ground, the line tightens; and not until then does the bait begin to fish.

The force of the current will, if the line be properly leaded, now cause the worm to travel steadily along the bed; and it must be followed down-stream, keeping the rod-tip perfectly steady, and the line *straight* without hindering the progress of the worm. If the fisherman will imagine himself holding a scythe across his body, it will convey an idea of his attitude when the bait is opposite to him—the handle representing the rod, the blade the line: as the bait travels downwards he follows it slowly, with a steady rod and a taut line, until it reaches the end of the swim, which the angler may then extend by moving a step or two down stream, his rod being then held horizontally. The proper weighting of the line is a highly important point, and will be determined by experience and by experiments in each place. It depends, of course, upon the volume and depth of the swim, and will be found to vary between 5 and 12 B B shots; but strips of thin, rolled lead will permit of changes being effected more easily than by the use of split shot. If the leads are too light they will not ground, consequently the line will not tighten; if they be too heavy the worm will not travel freely. The medium between these extremes will be hit upon by observation. A fine line approximating to a trout line is better than a stout salmon line, as presenting less surface to the stream, and thereby avoiding that lowering of the line, which is a great fault, for the line *must* be kept gently tight, and consequently straight, between the rod-tip at one end and the leads at the other. A down-stream wind is therefore very hampering, and up-stream wind less so, and a calm day is best of all.

Many thoroughly good fly-fishermen are unable to cast a leaded line overhand without injuring the bait. For this purpose there are one or two rules which it will be found of value to remember: Firstly, in the recovering of the line it should not be plucked off the water by a smart drag, as in casting the fly. The rod should be lifted until the bait is at the surface. It should then be swung out behind, keeping the line extended, and a gentle forward lowering of the rod should be made at the moment when the worm is near. The angler's shoulder and the point to be reached are in the same straight line. All the movements should be slow and well timed, and there should be an absence of anything approaching to a jerk throughout. The run of a fish will be known by feeling a gentle pluck at the line, on which the rod should be at once lowered and the line thereby slackened. Should the run occur, as very frequently happens, at the end of the swim, when the rod is already in a horizontal position, a yard of line should be paid out, having been held loose behind the uppermost hand in readiness for this emergency; or a step may be taken towards the bait. When the first pluck has been succeeded by two or three slight pulls the strike is effected by a smart upward drag of the rod, carefully avoiding the jerk of a wrist action which will lead inevitably to broken tackle and a lost fish. In early attempts at worm-fishing it is surprisingly easy to miss even a well-intentioned, sharp-set fish. The exercise of perseverance, patience, and nerve will be required. To attain the art of striking at the right moment, whenever this has been required, it will rarely happen that the fish is not hooked.

The worms used will usually be lobworms, one or two: if scoured they stand the casting better, and in that respect only appear to be preferable to newly-dug bait. Failing lobworms, half-a-dozen garden-worms will answer. A large-sized, round-bend worm-hook and two yards of stout salmon-gut complete the tackle.

The same principles may be applied, and successfully, to fishing with worm for salmon in clear water, when they refuse the fly; but the baits should be smaller, and the fishing generally must be finer and further off; in this latter point the chief difficulty exists. The steady current on the far-side of the main stream should then be fished.

I have known of an instance of seventy sea-trout, varying between ½lb. and 3lb. weight, being killed in a day by three rods during a thick heavy flood. This, perhaps, is the best proof I can give of the sport that may be obtained in the manner described. Good sport, too, has fallen to my lot on days that would otherwise have been passed in restless anticipations of fly-fishing being rendered possible by the clearing of the river. Scot.

## THE TROUT STREAMS OF NORTH DEVON.—I.

By Helwr.

Veracity is the glory of the journalist; and while a certain latitude is permitted to the writer on politics to glorify his own party or to malign that of his opponents, the sporting writer, when wishing to convey information to his brethren in sport, cannot be too careful in striving for strict accuracy. I propose to treat of trout fishing in that part of Devonshire with which I am more particularly familiar; with the district, in fact, the streams of which I have fished constantly during one whole season, and parts of many others. The district I shall now write about is the large and wild tract of country called Exmoor, and its immediate vicinity. Its boundaries are roughly, the Bristol Channel on the north, the Devon and Somerset Railway on the south, Dulverton on the east, and South Molton on the west. A portion of the country is thus inclosed of about 15 miles long and 15 miles broad. The streams watering this fine district are the Exe, the Barle, the Bray, the Mole, the Nymph, the Lynn, the Yeo, and many smaller waters, principally their tributaries.

We constantly read and hear it said that there is little good fishing now to be had in England, and that the angler who desires good sport and plenty of it must betake himself to Norway, and even to places much further from old England than that. Most anglers would, doubtless, like a few weeks' fishing in Norway, Canada, or any other place in "foreign parts," where good sport may be obtained; but there are many reasons which forbid such a delightful trip. Such being the case, I think I must be doing good service by giving directions how to find plenty of sport, and scenery worthy of the admiration of the most travelled, even in that country that the English traveller last thinks of exploring. Much good water in this island is not for the general public, as the owners thereof exercise their undoubted right in reserving it strictly for themselves and their friends; other desirable rivers are rapidly becoming spoiled by sewage contamination; and many places where good fishing can be had at a reasonable cost, and fairly accessible, are so well known and well patronised as to be somewhat overdone.

The district of which I now write is a veritable fisherman's paradise in many respects. Here there are innumerable streams, much free fishing, trout abounding, and, above all, anglers comparatively few. The last is, I think, a very important point; for, delightful as is the companionship of a brother angler over a friendly pipe after a fishing dinner, or to while away the tedious hours in a railway carriage with congenial talk on the subject so dear to our hearts, I, for one, like his room better than his company when on the banks of a trout stream, whilst there is nothing more annoying when fishing a good stream containing many good fish, than to meet a man armed with a rod and tackle every few yards, whipping the water until the trout are as wild as hares, and far more wary; so, on the other hand, it is one of the charms of angling to wander in complete solitude, through a deep and frowning valley, where the mountain stream rushes along with cascade and diminutive waterfall; and towering above on either side are the tree-clad slopes, terminated by the swelling, wide-stretching moors. In such a solitude, if any companionship is welcome, it is that of the heron fishing in the pool; the curlew with his lonely wail; the mallard and the flappers; and far away the hawk hovering over the "poults" cowering among the heather.

A man may fish daily for a month within a few miles of where I write and never see anyone similarly employed, provided he confines his attentions to the streams on the moors, in preference to those flowing near the "busy haunts of men."

It is my earnest desire to give all the information I possess, and all the results of my experience, and I think the best way to do so will be for me to divide my discourse into sections (as the gentlemen of the pulpit often do), taking a few towns where one can get good fishing quarters, as the heads of such sections.

And thus we begin at South Molton, a town on the Great Western Railway (the Taunton and Barnstaple branch), about 200 miles from London *via* Bristol. This quiet, neat, pretty, and clean little town is in many respects a very good centre for those operations, which are indicated by the heading of this article. Here are two good hotels, and much good fishing tolerably accessible.

The George Hotel (Mr. Kelland) is most highly recommended, being a large house with good rooms, and the cooking and all arrangements, for ease and comfort most satisfactory. One can board there by tariff, if preferred, and they are thoroughly accustomed to cater for fishermen. Mr. Kelland has plenty of horses and vehicles, and will drive his visitors to any desirable point of operations. The Unicorn Hotel (Mr. Cole) is a good house, and in every way suitable for the most fastidious angler. Mr. Burgess, fishing-tackle dealer, in the square, keeps good flies, &c., and is well qualified to give advice as to flies or anything else that the angling stranger may require to know.

We will now suppose the reader at "The George" for ten days or a fortnight, and that he will want to fish every day; and that, partly from that love of change and variety that characterises men (and women, for all I know to the contrary), and partly from a laudable desire to explore the district and compare the sport-giving qualities of the various streams, he will not care to favour the same water with his presence more than once or twice. First of all he may choose to try the free fishing to the southward, below the town. The water is wide, deep, and rapid in places, with pools alternating, and is composed of the Mole, Yeo, and Nymph in conjunction. The fishing is very good—that is, there are many trout, but the water is whipped a good deal, as free water near a town where all men and boys are anglers is sure to be. In due course we will visit streams where this is far otherwise, and in places there are too many bushes overhanging the banks to be convenient.

Notwithstanding all this, it is well worth a day or two's attention, and with moderately favourable wind, weather, and water, a man ought to kill from two to three dozen trout in a day. As to flies, the "blue upright" is what the natives swear by all the year round, and while I would not advise a slavish adherence to *all* the advice local anglers give one, I must say that this fly, with the "redspinner" and a rusty fly, are as good killers as anything. Small flies are recommended for the large streams, but larger ones for the rapid little streams on the moors. In this neighbourhood so much attention need not be paid to the fly as in some; the rapidity of the water and the general scarcity of food allows us to depend more upon the provocative and inciting bait than upon the deceiving and alluring one. Personally I use a cast with red, blue, and rusty upon it all the season, except during the brief time of the May-fly, when I fish with a grey drake and a green drake. As a rule the stretcher should always be a fly with red hackle and gilt twist. I propose later on to give a few descriptions how to make the kind of fly just referred to.

Harking back to the river below South Molton, I would further say that the fish are game, pretty, and delicate eating; but they are not large. Large is, I admit, a word of comparison, and what is a large trout in Devon, would be returned to the Thames with scorn. The fly-fisher will rarely take a trout over ¼lb. in the waters I am now alluding to, or, in fact, in any other of the streams of North Devon. Please note that I say the *fly*-fisher, for with a worm or minnow, in discoloured water, trout may frequently be taken ½lb. and more. Occasionally fish larger than ¼lb. will be taken with the fly, though the average weight will be found to be under that, probably about 5 or 6 to the pound; and many fish will be killed that will barely weigh 2oz., in the moorland streams. These little troutlings are wondrous pretty eating, and mighty quick and lively in taking (or rejecting) your proffered fly. You must be into them like lightning, their dash is most exhilarating. I have a few times killed trout of ½lb. with a fly, and twice fish of 10oz.; but never one a pound. These fish were taken last season, in June, with the grey-drake. But to return to the "double water," as it is called, though it is composed of three streams. The river is about a mile and a half from the town, and extends about five miles downwards (to the junction with the Bray), and about a mile upwards (to Bisto Mill). There is thus six miles of free fishing, which would alone recommend South Molton; I shall presently show that this is but a small part of the scope for the angler's efforts in the neighbourhood. The side next the town is recommended; but I forbear to give any advice upon the much-voiced question of up-stream or down-stream fishing, as so much depends upon the state of those natural elements over which we have no control; and so much upon a man's taste or style.

I am not aware that either artificial minnow or the worm is forbidden here; but as I never use either, I have not inquired. I have seen other anglers using both, and with much success. If the minnow be used, the "Devon" or "Totnes" is recommended, and it should be small; for clear water it should be painted; but for coloured water it should be scraped quite bright. By painted I mean that the minnow should be used just as it is when it leaves the fishing-tackle-shop. It is usual in this district to carry several minnows of different degrees of brightness. I cannot deny that with the artificial minnow the *largest* fish are caught, though the skilful fly-fisher will kill a greater number than he who uses the minnow only. If wading stockings are used, they will be useful here; but in the majority of the streams I shall refer to, they will not be necessary. They are very nice things as enabling a man to cross the stream at will, to fish places otherwise inaccessible, and to get close to your fish in up-stream fishing; but there are many objections to them. If you have far to go to the water, which is often the case hereabouts, they are a nuisance to transport; you cannot walk home in them when miles have to be negociated—and to take them off at the water side often gives cold; and when wearing them where there are many rocks, much "bush-fighting," heather, brambles, and the like, they are decidedly the right thing in the wrong place. I think, as a rule, perfectly watertight boots as high as the knee will be most useful, such boots as "the Field," the "K," and many others of the sort. Such a boot is very desirable when fishing on the moors, as the sides of the streams are frequently very boggy, deep enough to cover an ordinary ankle boot, but rarely deep enough to let a man in over the knee—provided always he uses ordinary care in picking his way. That it is possible to step into a slough—such innocent-looking green spots they are, too—up to one's thighs, I know only too well.

After the gentleman who is supposed to be staying at "The George," at South Molton, has had his fill (and filled his creel, let us hope) of the "double water," which will be the case in one day, part of a day, or several days according to various circumstances, he will, perhaps, desire to fish the river Bray. Some of the best water of the Bray belongs to Sir Thos. Acland, Bart., M.P., and a day ticket may be obtained *gratis* from Mr. Riccard, solicitor, South Molton. When calling upon the latter courteous and kindly gentleman, it will be well to ask him for a day ticket for that part of the Mole belonging to Lord Poltimore. This part of the Mole extends from North Molton to South Molton, a distance of about four miles, and might be taken up and back again, as a not too great day's work. But more of this anon. The Bray is the river now in question. Having obtained a ticket for the Bray, there are two courses open. The one is to go by train to Castle-hill station (next station to South Molton, towards Barnstaple), and walk to Brayley Bridge, about a mile. The other is is to walk (or drive) to Bray Bridge, which is about two miles above where we struck the river Bray, when we "reeled up" the day we were down the "double water." Bray Bridge is about three miles west of South Molton. A man who is a glutton after fishing would fish right down from Brayley Bridge to Bray Bridge, and then walk home to "The George" in the cool of the evening; unless he had ordered a trap to meet him there. In adopting the latter plan of operations, a slight *détour* must be made. Soon after commencing at Brayley Bridge, Castle-hill Park will be reached (Earl Fortescue's seat), and the angler must skirt the park until the river emerges from the shelter of that retreat. I give Brayley Bridge as the northern point on the river Bray, because it is near a railway station! but one may go much higher up—even up as far as Charles o' High Bray. The higher one goes, the better is the sport, especially in the summer and autumn. Very few fishermen patronise the higher reaches of this river, with the exception of those living in the vicinity. It is currently reported that this is the best stream in North Devon. I do not think so, but shall reserve mention of my pet water for a while. The fish in the Bray are the same size—no larger—than elsewhere; and from thirty to fifty should be taken with a fly in a day. This river will well repay one for a day's visit, and will please the visitor in every way more than the "double water" alluded to previously. Should any of your readers want more detailed information on any point, I shall be glad to give it, and perhaps you will allow letters to be addressed to Helwr to your care?

[We have no objection, provided stamped envelopes are inclosed; but in future we cannot forward letters if we are expected to pay postage.—Ed.]

## SHORE FISHING.

By E. G.

As it is not every one who has used or even seen a sliding float, I quote from the "Anglers' Instructor" the description of it and its use.

"This float is made the same as the cork float for barbel fishing, long and thin. Fix two rings just large enough to allow your line to pass freely through, one almost at the top, and the other at the bottom of the float plug, taking care they are in a direct line with each other. When you intend fishing with this float, pass your line through both rings, then tie your tackle on. Now you will observe the float rests on the knot at the junction of line and tackle. Suppose the water is 20ft. deep, allow the float to remain where it is, and measure 30ft. from the hook up the line, at which distance make a drawing noose in the line, put a bit of indiarubber in the noose and draw it tight. Then wind the line up and throw from the reel; as soon as the float drops give it slack line, so that it will pass freely through the rings on the float till it gets to the knot where the rubber is. When you wind up, the float will go back again to the top of the tackle."

To obtain the rubber, get a piece of the elastic web shoemakers use for elastic sided boots and remove the silk from it, then cut off a piece about ½in. long, double it and noose it in. A bit of a very thin indiarubber band will do, but it is not so effective as the former. It is necessary to have something at the junction of line and tackle large enough to prevent the float from going below it, a bit of the stem or mouthpiece of a wooden pipe about ⅛in. in length, or, which is best, a large perforated shot.

The tackle is made as follows, for use in ordinary waters:—

Take 2ft. of the best gimp, medium thickness; put a brass swivel at one end, taking two turns of the gimp through the eye and whipping close up to it. Then slip on a pipe lead same size as those usually put on pike tackle, and whip down a loop at the other end. If this lead is not heavy enough to cock the float properly, run another one on the line above the tackle.

Then take a yard of salmon gut, and at the bottom have a Limerick hook—made for sea fishing—the river ones are not strong enough in the wire—from No. 30 to two sizes less (this will depend on the size of the bait); then loop on another hook about a foot above it. As hooks, when looped on, are always slipping up and chafing the line, when you tie your gut bottom instead of cutting both ends off short at the knot, leave the upper one and tie it with a double knot round the line about ⅛in. up, then whip between the knots with waxed silk and varnish it; you can then loop your hook on without any fear of its slipping up or chafing the gut line. The same plan applied to paternosters. I have mentioned gimp for the top of the tackle, but in purchasing it see that you get it good; there is a lot of stuff in the market now that is not worth a shilling a mile. I enclose a sample of this rubbish for the Editor's inspection.

Of course, there is nothing better than treble gut, but it is much more expensive.

I forgot to say that you must loop the gut to the swivel on the upper tackle, and that the lead must rest on the swivel. Do not pinch the lead on the gimp, it weakens it; and, besides, the gimp has a better chance to dry when the lead is loose. If you are using this tackle where there is any current—as, for instance, at the mouth of a river—have one of Brooks' baby-spinners on the gut above the bottom hook. Now, supposing the stream has taken your float twenty to forty yards off when you are winding up, the baby is spinning, and it is surprising what a lot of fish will be taken this way. It is hardly necessary to state that you must plumb the water first and let your bottom hook just drag—in fact, fish the same as you would in corking for barbel: that is, if the bottom is level and free from weed. Strike at the least bite. In the stream the most likely fish to be got are bass, pollack, and coal-fish. Of course, if the fish run very large double or treble gut, extra thick gimp and very large hooks will be necessary; for, if a big one takes it into his head to run to seaward, you must have something that will bear a heavy pull. If the water is muddy, the thickness of the gear is of no consequence; but in clear, or even moderately clear water, the single gut will kill five times the number of fish. Besides, the strength of good single gut is very great. I once killed two congers weighing 16 and 17lb. on single gut on a drift line, and a friend took a 25lb. cod in a strong tideway.

If you get a lot of bites, or find your baits taken away without hooking anything, take off your gut and loop on a paternoster, with a very light lead, or you will sink your float; the hooks and baits must be small. You will then most likely get a lot of small pollack or coal fish for a time, but when you find them go off put on your other tackle again, as you may be pretty sure something bigger has come along and frightened them. It is a good plan if you have a bait-can to keep a few of these little fellows, and at the slack of the flood try them as live bait. Bass are uncommonly fond of a small pollack or coaly, and so are their larger relatives. When you get a bite act as in pike or perch-fishing.

Now, I have been going on the assumption that you have been fishing on the ebbing tide, standing on the rocks, shore, or jetty. Now, let us suppose you are at the mouth of a small river at dead low water. Get down as near the sea as you can, as bass and flounders will begin to run up as soon as the first few inches of salt water come in. If it is a sandy or gravel bottom, set your line so that the lead will be just on the bottom. Here you will not want the float to slide, so take two half hitches round the top of it, then throw to seaward as far as you can. If you cannot get it out well, put on more lead, and if you have no reason to believe there are any large fish then take off the larger hook tackle, and loop on the paternoster as before mentioned; this will give a better chance at the flat fish. The float will now lie flat on the water, and, in fact, you are doing something like what the Trent men call "tight corking." Wind in line slowly, and look at the baits every few minutes, as the green crabs are always on the look-out, and will soon clear the hooks. When you get a bite you will see the float cock; give the fish a little time, or if it is a flat fish you will miss him. There is generally a deep pool just inside the mouth of a river, and as soon as the tide flows into it go there and fish as you did at the ebb, being careful to keep altering the depth every few minutes. If there is no pool, and the water runs up a channel with a gravel or sandy bottom, take off your float and substitute two or three hooks, ledger made, in the same way as a river one, but of stronger gut, and a heavy lead either triangular or oval-perforated; bullets are of little use. Here note that if you want to ledger on a rough bottom it is as well to take off the lead and fasten a lump of lead to your ledger line with a piece of fine twine, letting it hang down about 3in. or so; then if it gets foul the string will part with a steady pull, and you lose nothing but the lead. Any rough lead will do for this. If you have not time or do not want the trouble of casting it, beat up a piece of old pipe or sheet lead—which can be got at any plumber's—into three or four ounce lumps. Examine the hooks very often, as the crabs will still be busy, and frequently there will be a great deal of floating weed, which, if you allow to collect round your line, will soon become of such a weight that a smash will be the result. It is well now, and also when the ebb tide is running its strongest, to lay by your rod and take to one or two of the throw-out lines as described by Wilcocks in "The Sea Fisherman." These lines, prepared by his directions, can be got from Brooks', at Stonehouse—price, with reel and everything ready for use, 2s. 6d. Then when the tide begins to ease, and the weed to go off, take to the rod again, and put on the float tackle, not forgetting the baby, and fish out as much of the ebb tide as you can. And now I think it is time I said something about baits, but before commencing that subject I will refer again to the throw-out lines. Your bait for these will be a piece of squid, cuttle-fish, or octopus, which may be got from the trawlers and mackerel seiners. After skinning, gutting, and splitting them, cut off a piece about 5in. by 2in., cutting one end to a point, and splitting it up about 1½in., then pass the hook through twice from the broad end. If you do not like to get your fingers dirty—but I trust you are not so fastidious—get one of the fisher boys to do the skinning for you; a few coppers will go a long way in a job of that sort.

In the absence of the above-named cephalopods, get a mackerel, split, and take the backbone out. You can cut four good baits from an ordinary-sized fish. To throw, take hold of the line about 6in. above the hook, keep the arm well out from the body, and swing the lead round till it gets a good impetus, having first coiled the line down so that it will go out clear. It is surprising what a distance can be thrown in this way with a little practice. But be careful not to throw yourself in as well, or get the hook in your stern frame, both of which are easily done.

## GREAT EASTERN RAILWAY.

Doncaster Races.—We have much pleasure in drawing the attention of those of our readers who contemplate a visit to the coming Yorkshire Carnival to the excellent arrangements made by this company, whose new line to Doncaster, *viâ* Cambridge, Ely, and Lincoln, is rapidly becoming the favourite route. Express trains leave Liverpool-street Station at 8.45 a.m., 11 a.m., and 4.32 p.m. for Doncaster direct, accomplishing the distance in a little over four hours, at ordinary fares. On Wednesday, 10th September, "The St. Leger Day," a special express excursion train will leave Liverpool-street Station at 6.55 a.m. for Doncaster, returning either the same day or on Friday, the 12th inst., at the return fare of 12s. 6d. third class. Excursion trains will also run from numerous of the company's London suburban stations, and from Yarmouth, Lowestoft, Ipswich, Norwich, Lynn, Cambridge, &c., returning the same day.

George James Eaton, of Starkholmes, Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required, from gentlemen who can fish, to prove whether they may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—(Advt.)

## MR. FRANCIS FRANCIS.

We have the pleasure to give our readers in this number of the Gazette a full-length portrait of Mr. Francis Francis, reproduced from a photograph, permission to copy which was given by Messrs. Elliott and Fry, and we must specially thank the President of the Watford Piscators, Mr. Clarence E. Fry, for his kindness in the matter.

It is some years now since we first had the pleasure of becoming personally acquainted with Mr. Francis; it was in 1867, when his work, "A Book on Angling," was published, that we began to look upon him as the leading angling writer of the day, and it is quite certain that no man since Izaak Walton has done so much to make the art of angling popular and respected as Mr. Francis. For over a quarter of a century Fishing Editor of the *Field*, and during that time writing many hundreds of articles, answering thousands of questions on angling and fish culture, and making numberless fishing excursions to all parts of the country, it is not to be wondered at that he is universally looked upon as the authority on the subject.

Doubtless much of his success, both as a writer on angling and as a practical angler, is due to the fact that he is and always has been an all-round angler. He says in one of his delightful papers, "I can enjoy any kind of fishing; from the gudgeon to the salmon, nothing is barren. Indeed, from the minnow to the whale, I might almost say, so that it is fish, I can manage to get along somehow."

Since July last, when a rather severe stroke of paralysis compelled Mr. Francis, to give up work, Mr. Senior ("Redspinner") has been Angling Editor of the *Field*, and by his kind permission we make a few extracts from a notice of Mr. Francis, which Mr. Senior wrote in *Bell's Life*, Feb. 3, 1883, entitled "Angler and Author."

> "Angler and Author, alike masterly in either capacity, Mr. Francis Francis is *par excellence*, the Gamaliel at whose feet the anglers of to-day are proud to sit. What he has done with his rod and line, the true British metal of his character as a sportsman, the straightforward energy of his advocacy of the right, and wholesome denunciation of the wrong in all questions of sport—these are matters with which we are all acquainted. In one of his books Francis Francis, indulging in a winter reverie, gives us a delightful insight into the way in which he became a fisherman. He says he was born one, his juvenile revelling in Moses Browne's edition of Izaak Walton, his first fish in the shape of a noble wrasse, his youthful piscatorial outings in Cornwall, are all narrated with an infectious enthusiasm. He recalls the coaching days, and the time when there was no *Field*, no sporting papers, no nothing but *Bell's Life* and *Boxiana* . . . and a curious thing called *Bell's Gallery of Comicalities*; yet to see him by the river side, or to chat with him as he sits in his easy chair, fronting one of the best private angling libraries in the country, is to feel conscious of being in the presence of a man who never grows old, and who acts like a tonic upon you. 'Thank God,' he writes in one of his essays, 'for making me a fisherman; for in the fast life we young men led in my young days, it was the only thing that tore me from the reck and filth of town, and put new life and vigour into me, and much indeed do I owe to it."

Mr. Senior gives with most interesting notes on each work a list of the writings of Mr. Francis, which we shall take the liberty of copying presently. Little did Mr. Senior imagine, when writing these kind words of Mr. Francis, how soon he would be called upon to take his place on the *Field*, nor does anyone regret more sincerely than he does that illness should for a time, at any rate, have compelled Mr. Francis to give up literary work. Some months after his attack, Mr. Francis asked us to pay him a visit at his residence at Twickenham, and we shall always remember it as one of the pleasantest afternoons we ever spent, for the greater part of it was devoted to looking over his angling library under his own guidance. Mr. F. seemed to know every book by heart, and touched off its merits or demerits in the happiest manner, adding anecdotes of how he had picked this up for a mere song at a second-hand bookstall, how that one had been more difficult to get hold of than a Thames trout, how this pamphlet was only valuable because it was so scarce, &c. There are few things we enjoy more than looking over old angling books, and here were numbers we had often longed to see, and shown us by one who himself had written more than any angling writer. In the hall Mr. Francis told us the history of some fine specimens of fish in glass cases which adorn its walls; and related how the stream at the bottom of his field used to contain great numbers of very fine roach until he unfortunately, when away from home, once gave an angler permission to fish, and this "fish hog," as the Yankees would call him, fished day after day from early morn till dewy eve until he had fairly cleaned the place!

The work Mr. Francis has done is too well known for it to be necessary for us to say much about it—a glance at the list of his published works will speak for itself, and yet it was those articles of his in the *Field* which made his reputation chiefly. Often in out-of-the-way parts of the country have we heard anglers of all classes—clergymen and river-keepers—refer to them in terms of admiration, and certainly there is a breezy freshness and vigour about them, a hit-from-the-shoulder sort of style which is very enjoyable. Mr. Francis, whether in writing or speaking, never stops to consider what manner of man he is addressing—lord or lacquey, it is all the same to him. That this "out-spoken" style should have got him into rows sometimes was only natural, but then he has himself told us that he is never so happy as when in "hot water." But, if at times rather hasty in judgment, he is too magnanimous not to admit a mistake. As regards his character as an angler, we can only endorse what Mr. Senior has so well said, and we may here note that it is a fortunate thing for the *Field* that such a genuine angler and accomplished writer as Mr. Senior was at hand to take Mr. Francis's place. We will only add that whether by the river side, or in the cosy inn after the day's sport, or in the chair at that snug little club "The Knights of the Round Table," or at home among his angling books, we have always found Mr. Francis a true angler and thorough English gentleman.

The following is a list of works by Mr. Francis:—1. *Pickachifax*, a novel in rhyme, 1854. 2. *The Real Salt*, a yachting brochure, 1855. 3. *The Angler's Register*, 1858, 1860, and 1861. This, as Mr. Senior says, was the "father of the present Angler's Diary"—a work to which we owe many a pleasant angling trip. 4. *Newton Dog-vane*, a a sporting novel, 1859. 5. *Fish Culture*, a practical guide to the breeding and rearing of fish, 1863. 6. *A Book on Angling*, 1867. This, as we have often said, is by far the best general work on angling, and if any of our readers have not got it, we can only say they do not know what they lose. It is now in its third or fourth edition, and it really seems to contain the whole art of angling; often and often have we received articles and letters about some "new method" only to find it is fully described by Mr. Francis. 7. *Sidney Bellew*, 1870, a sporting novel. 8. *Reports on Salmon Ladders*, 1870. 9. *By Lake and River*, 1874. This is simply a delightful book for an angler, and has the unusual merit in an angling work of recording blank days quite as faithfully as successful ones. 10. *Angling*, its rudiments, 1877. 11. *Sporting Sketches*, with pen and pencil, illustrated by Mr. A. W. Cooper. This work proves Mr. Francis as much at home with the gun as with the rod, and is delightfully illustrated by that genuine angler, Mr. A. W. Cooper. We had arranged with Mr. Francis to edit, and Mr. Cooper to illustrate, an *edition de luxe* of Walton, when Mr. F.'s illness put a stop to what we think would have been *the* edition of Walton. We are still in hopes that the project will be carried out. 12. *Hotch Potch*, reprints of papers in the *Field*, &c., 1880. In addition to his *Field* work and the above, Mr. Francis has written many articles for magazines, &c. He established the Thames Rights Defence Association. He has been our ablest advocate for fish culture in this country. It is chiefly due to his exertions in collecting the eggs in Hampshire that the New Zealand and Tasmanian streams have been stocked with English trout. He suggested to us the idea of a "National Fish Culture Association for Great Britain and Ireland," to which we replied in the *Field*, saying that we would endeavour to establish such an association if he would undertake to assist. This he did, and in conjunction with Mr. W. Oldham Chambers, we then set the ball rolling which has resulted in the Association, strong in members, patrons, and funds, which has now the care of the Aquarium at the Health Exhibition. Up to the time of his illness, Mr. Francis attended nearly all the Council meetings, and we still hope that a valuable suggestion of his will be carried out—viz., that the Metropolitan Park waters should be stocked with fine fish, and thrown open (under certain restrictions) to London club and other anglers.

In closing this very inadequate notice of Mr. Francis, we are quite sure all our readers will join with us in wishing him a speedy and perfect recovery to health; nothing would please our Hampshire readers more than to find Mr. Francis was again among them, catching or losing those "busters" he used to tell us about so charmingly in the *Field*.

## THAMES ANGLING PRESERVATION SOCIETY.

### Large Takes of Fish during One Week in July, 1884.

A gentleman fishing with C. Brown, at Richmond, in one day caught 88 barbel, from 1½lb. to 4lb. each, the grass weight exceeding 860lb. 38 were returned to the river.

Henry Wheeler, at Richmond, in seven consecutive days made a total of of 140lb. weight of roach and dace, and two barbel.

One of the the takes in a punt at Twickenham attended by Pert Hammerton, was 35lb. weight of roach and dace, and five barbel.

A gentleman fishing with George Rosewell in one day at Halliford, caught 50lb. weight of bream.

A gentleman fishing with James Haslett at Docket Point, took in one day 60lb. weight of bream, and a trout of 3lb.

A gentleman fishing with J. Poulter at Chertsey got in one day 40lb. weight of barbel, the largest 7lb.; four eels and two chub.

The above records were made during a period when the river was suffering from a deficiency of water; and they have been selected out of a very lengthy list of other satisfactory takes.

The Thames is *free* for all classes to fish in it, and anglers are only restricted by illegal methods of angling and a regard to the sizes and seasons of fish.

The Society is entirely dependent upon free contributions for the protection and preservation of the fishery below the "City Stone," at Staines, and for increasing the stock of fish in the river by means of netting the reservoirs, and other waters, and in protecting the spawn of fish during the close season.

It is admitted by anglers and fishermen, the river at the present time was never better supplied with all kinds of fish.

The Committee receive very little support from those who enjoy the benefit of their work, and yet the Society ought to be wholly maintained by anglers.

The subscription for membership is one guinea annually, but subscriptions of half-a-crown and upwards are received, and printed in the "Blue Book."

A copy of the "Blue Book," containing a large amount of useful information to anglers, will be sent on application to the Secretary, and enclosing three stamps.

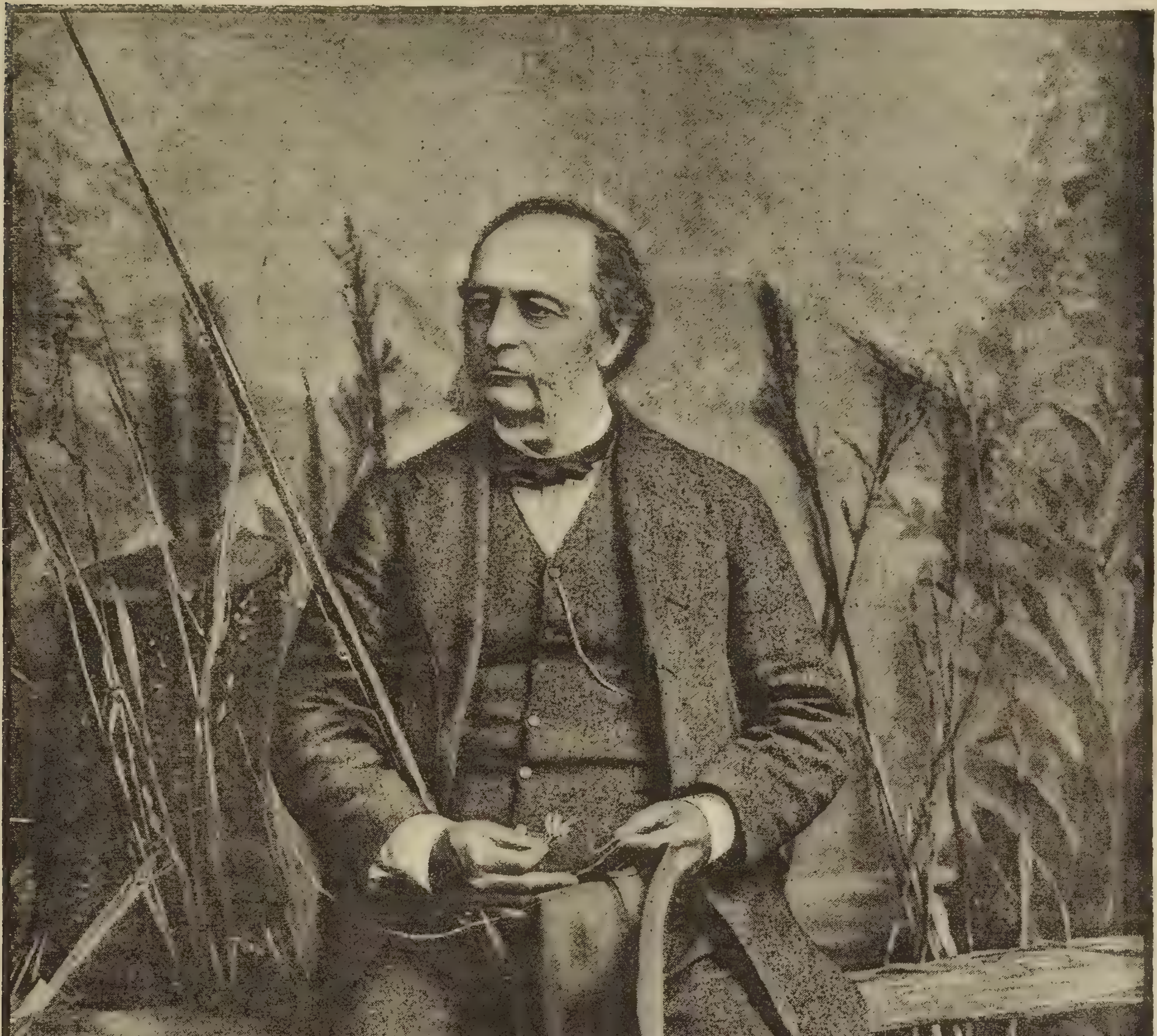
Thomas Spreckley, President.
7, Ironmonger-lane, E.C. W. H. Brougham, Secretary.

## FIXED LINES IN THE THAMES.

### Copy of a T.A.P.S. Notice.

"Numerous convictions have recently been made of anglers using fixed lines in the Thames at Brentford, Richmond, and Kingston. Anglers are hereby cautioned against using fixed lines by night or by day. Offenders after this will be proceeded against, and penalties enforced." Copy of by-law—"No person shall lay night hooks or night lines of any description whatever, or any fixed hooks or lines by night or day above Kew Bridge. Penalties: First conviction, £2; second conviction, £5."

Thomas Spreckley, President.
7, Ironmonger-lane, London. W. H. Brougham, Secretary.



MR. FRANCIS FRANCIS.

*By permission of* Messrs. Elliott and Fry.

## NOTES ON PERCH AND PERCH CAPTURE.

The style of angling for perch has not materially altered since the day of "Father" Walton. The trout, jack, barbel, &c. have each and all required new ideas and tackles for their circumvention, but the perch has in a remarkably conservative fashion retained its ancient nature. The "greedy perch, bold-biting fool," as Drayton terms him, still remains true to his fearless, careless character, whilst other fishes are gradually getting educated. Yet there are some baits other than those which Walton knew of, though it is questionable whether their case in any way gathers a bigger bag than do the primitive minnow or worm.

Walton, it will be remembered, mentions for baits the brandling ("well scoured in moss and fennell," says he), the cowdung bob, the minnow, and little frogs. To this list the learned but somewhat pedantic Professor Reanie, in his notes to the edition of Walton from which I am quoting, adds: "Horse beans boiled, cad bait, oak worms, bobs, and gentles." David Foster, in his capital "Scientific Angler," says the most sport is got whipping with a trio of artificial red palmers. This is a bait which is quite new to me, though I have caught them readily enough with artificial grubs made after Hewett Wheatley's grayling grubs. These latter I have always held to be mistaken by the fish for minnow. In addition to these lures there is one valuable little friend, the fresh-water shrimp, and the various larger nymphæ of water insects with which one may whip in clear water, and derive considerable success when other devices are frequently abortive. Then there is the common leech—the horse-leech I mean, not the medical gentleman—and this is, let me tell you, a capital bait. I fancy that Mr. Greville Fennel was the first to unfold the virtues of this bait in the columns of the *Country* some half dozen years ago, and though I have not tried it more than once, I can testify that chub and perch are very fond of it. In comparatively warm weather the horse-leech can be found in the ditches and drains of nearly all our larger rivers, especially the Thames, and should be kept in moss damped and clean. Fresh meat is also a recommendable lure, especially when very fresh, and a ground bait of raw bones will often call a school of perch together when other means fail. They should be tied to a stout cord at intervals, and sunk in the swim you resolve to try. A glass globe filled with small fish and lowered into the hole is also said to have irresistible attraction. Of course, some trouble is incurred in such manœuvres, but the perch is really so valuable a fish that in my opinion he is quite worth any amount of pains to secure.

It would seem almost superfluous to describe the tackle for perch capture. The reiteration of practical details is, however, as a rule, appreciated by the junior angler at least, and can do no harm in any case. Briefly, then, I prefer a shortish rod, say, of 10 feet, made stiff and solid, with upright rings of solid wire, the top one being large enough to allow a threepenny piece to run through it. The line should be of eight plait silk, or if the tyro really wants the very best line I have seen tried (and I have used hundreds, and tested more) let him get one of Foster's 16 plait 2½ dram lines, and dress it with the paraffin and resin dressing described by Dr. Weeger in the Gazette some time since. I am not saying this to puff Messrs. Foster, but because I have not seen or used a line at once so fine, strong, and durable. The reel or winch may be of the ordinary click pattern; it is not advisable to employ the Nottingham running reel unless the check or click is added.

The paternoster—why paternoster? can anybody really tell me without guessing at the application of the word—consists of a length of gut, at the end of which a cylindrical plummet or even perforated bullet is attached. At intervals of a foot, two or three hooks on stout gut or fine gimp are arranged. Sometimes small treble hooks are used, and I rather favour this plan when one is fishing with the worm. It is also useful with the minnow, for the perch—contrary to what Walton implies—*always* takes the bait head first.

The paternoster is *par excellence* a live bait tackle, and above all live baits I prefer small gudgeon. I have repeatedly tried these fish against others, and found them superior. Stone loach also make capital lures, but they are comparatively difficult to procure, and hence may be put out of court. The method of working the tackle is simplicity itself. Gather sufficient line out with the left hand, and gently urge the weighted and baited paternoster forward into the likely-looking eddy or limpid lagune. After the plummet has reached the bottom, still feeling it, let your baits remain a short time in that spot; if no response is accorded your invitation, draw the baits slightly towards you, and so on till your line is all returned. Repeat the operation, "working" every likely-looking spot.

When you feel the knock of the fish, don't be in a hurry. Count ten to yourself slowly, and then strike, not too sharply, but just sufficiently so to fix the barb. More fish are lost by quick striking than by its opposite. Of course the excitement of that delicious tug, tug is the cause of impatience, and, to a certain extent, of nervousness; but this must be controlled. As I have before indicated, perch are off at once on your losing a fish.

The whipping of either a worm or freshwater shrimp requires a different rod, of course, and though it is sometimes glorious fun, yet I prefer the paternoster, take it all in all. When the thermometer falls to below freezing point, and the rod rings have to be thawed every ten minutes, and the perch are packed as closely as sardines, then is the time for sport amongst the Zebra-sided gentlemen. And wishing many may get such sport, I must now reel in.

Chub Chavender.

## WHERE SHALL WE GO?

Is often the query of the angler when fortunate enough to have a few days "off duty." Finding myself with the prospect of 10 days' leisure at the beginning of this month, I consulted the oracle of this paper, and the answer was, "Write to Hugh McDonald, Swaelend Cottage, New Machar, N.B." So I wrote, and the answer was: "Sport good; come!" I telegraphed for a brother to accompany me, and on Monday evening, May 5th, we were in a coupé by ourselves on the Scotch Express; our rods and gear stowed safely away up in the rack. Happy thought—never trust these things out of sight when off for a trip.

Well, we arrived at Aberdeen next morning, before noon, and, having an hour or two, strolled through the town, called on Mr. Brown—the fishing tackle maker, and handled two or three fine greenheart rods. (After all, there is nothing like greenheart, if you mean real work and want power.) And some of Mr. Brown's flies would have delighted even a Winchester connoisseur.

On to Park Hill Station on the Buchan line, by the three something train, and in about three-quarters of an hour we are at Swaelend Cottage—a nice, cosy stone house, set in a clump of trees, approached by a private road. There is a neat garden and outbuildings. Some genial dogs give us a hearty welcome—pointers and setters. We note all this while waiting for dinner, and decide only to reconnoitre the river that evening.

Well, during our stay, we got two or three dozen trout each day, up to a pound; and we (not I) got four salmon—18½lb., 11lb., 9½lb., and 5lb. I only got fast into one, and, after about five minutes' play, my fly came back to me; but I stuck principally to the trout.

The weather was not settled. One day the wind tearing up stream, and then, the next day, rushing down or across, and the smolts (yearling salmon) were going down to the sea in swarms. All the decent trout were gorged with them, so there was "no rise." We picked up a small eel and dissected him, out of curiosity, and found in him four smolts and a mouse! This set us thinking what a tremendous toll these eels must impose on the young salmon ere they reach the sea.

McDonald has some miles of fishing, and about 2,000 acres of shooting, and anyone wanting a charming place with decent shooting and capital salmon and trout fishing could not do better than go to this place.

Hugh McDonald is one of the best all-round men I have ever met with. I never saw his superior in handling a rod, and making difficult casts. He can tie flies with any one. It's a treat to a used-up Londoner even to see him stride along. Then, his wife is a capital cook, and her soups and entrées are as nice as can be; in fact, all is as comfortable as can be. I envy the lucky family who can take the place for a time or for the season.

My *nom de plume* is the name of one of the best Don flies—

Grey Eagle.

## AMERICANS AND FISH-EATING PLANTS.

"Forest and Stream" says Prof. Baird has just received from Prof. H. N. Moseley, of Oxford University, England, a specimen of an aquatic plant holding in its fond embrace a considerable number of young fish which it has caught and killed.

This plant is the Great Bladderwort, known to botanists as *Utricularia vulgaris*, L. The species is widely distributed over England, and has been introduced into our waters, where it is often found in abundance in fresh-water ponds and ditches, and in the shallow coves along some of our river banks. It is a large plant, with stems often attaining a length of two or three feet. It has no roots, but floats free in the water, its root-like branches being covered with pinnatified capillary leaves, each bearing one or more small transparent hollow bladders, with openings at one end, which serve as traps to catch newly-hatched fishes, minute crustacea, worms, and infusoria. It has no digestive apparatus, but is thought to derive nutriment by absorption, from the decomposing animals.

The bladderwort has long been known to catch the lower forms of animal life, but it was only recently that its fish-catching propensities were discovered. Mr. G. E. Simms, of Oxford, was the first to call public attention to the fact, on finding that a specimen which had been placed in his aquarium for supplying oxygen to the water was actually catching and killing large numbers of newly-hatched perch and roach which had hatched from a mass of eggs lying at the bottom. The little fish were usually caught by the head, but some were caught by the tail, while others were doubly trapped, the head being held fast by one trap and the tail grasped by another, the body of the fish forming a connecting bar between the two.

To learn something of its destructive powers, Mr. Simms placed 150 perch fry in a glass vessel containing specimens of *Utricularia*, and at the end of two days all but one or two had been trapped.

Prof. Baird thinks the discovery has an important bearing on the future abundance of several of our important food-fishes.

Twelve to fifteen species of the genus, some of which have a wide geographical range, are found within the limits of the United States, and millions of fry must be annually caught in the little bladder traps.

The *Utricularia* occurs in abundance in carp ponds throughout the country, including the U. S. Fish Commission ponds in Washington, and in some localities has been introduced at considerable trouble and expense, as it was thought to be excellent food for the carp. Prof. Baird will cause every vestige of it to be immediately removed from the Government ponds, and will warn carp-culturists everywhere to examine their ponds, and destroy any that may be found there.

The specimen received from England has been placed on Exhibition in the Fishery section of the National Museum, where it can be seen by any who are interested in the subject.

R. Edward Earll.

National Museum.

## CLOSE OF THE NET SALMON FISHING ON THE DEE, DON, AND DEVERON.

The net fishings on the Dee and Don closed for the season on 26th August. Owing to the prevalence of drought, the number of fish got was considerably less than that of last year. The salmon, however, have been of excellent quality, and the average weight was 13½lb. The fishings on the coast, north of the Don, have been very successful, greatly owing to the southerly winds which continued for a great part of the season.

The Deveron season finished on the 25th, and has been next to a failure, in comparison with former years. The river has been in a very low state during the latter part of the season, consequent on the want of rain; and the accumulation of shingle at the mouth of the river prevented the tide having its effect, and hindered the fish from ascending. Altogether, the fishing has been considerably under that of an average year.

Before the close of the season, salmon and grilse came on in fair quantity. We append a list of the autumn fishings on the Dee:—

Monaltrie, Frederick Pickop, Esq.; Cambus O'May, H. L. Gaskell, Esq.; Pananach, Allan R. Mackenzie, Esq., of Brachley; Glen Tana, W. Cunliffe Brooks, Esq., of Glentanar, banker, Manchester; Aboyne Hotel, Sir George Campbell, M.P.; Aboyne Castle, the Most Noble the Marquis of Huntly; Desswood, Captain Davidson; Norton House, William Lamont, Esq.; Carlogie, Admiral Farquhar; Borrowstone, Walter Evans, Esq., Derby; Ballogie, W. E. Nicol, Esq.; Commonty, Dr. Farquharson, of Finzean, M.P., and Mr. Nicol; Woodend, R. C. Menzies, Esq.; Blackhall, J. T. Hay, Esq.; Cairnton, T. Turner-Farley, Esq.; Inchmarlo, Duncan Davidson, Esq., and another; Kineskie, J. White, Esq., of Overtoun; Crathes, General the Hon. Fane-Kane; Feugh, R. S. Hills, Esq.; Riverston, Major Milner; Invery, General Oliphant; Knappach, West and Middle Durris, W. Knowles, Esq., banker, London; Park, Potter, Esq.; Durris (lower water), J. Young, Esq.; Altries, A. J. Kinloch, Esq.; Drum, A. Forbes Irvine, Esq., Sheriff of Argyle, and party; Banchory Lodge and Maryculter, J. T. Todd, Esq., Tilbouries, and Sir Maurice Duff Gordon, bart.; Culter, J. Forbes Beattie, Esq., and R. W. Duff, Esq., M.P.; Kincausie, A. Irvine Fortescue, Esq.; Blairs, Colonel Flamstead; Heathcot, Deeside Hydropathic party; Ardo, W. P. Booth, Esq., and Wm. Lunan, Esq.

W. M.

# CLUB REPORTS.

### ACTON PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The members of this society had a fishing competition on Monday last, and although it rained the best part of the day, some of the members had very good takes. The conditions were to fish from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. with one rod only, from the bank or punt, and in any public waters. At about 9 o'clock in the evening of the same day they all met at their club-house, the George and Dragon Hotel, for the purpose of weighing in, with the following result :—1st prize.—F. West, with 130 dace and 30 roach, weighing 22lb. 2oz., caught at Richmond. 2nd prize.—W. Pike, one barbel, roach, and dace, in all 17lb. 6¾oz., caught at Twickenham. 3rd Prize.—W. Howell, roach and dace, 16lb. 9½oz., caught at Twickenham. The following members also weighed in :—Mr. Townsend, roach and dace, 10lb. 8oz., at Twickenham. W. Eydmann, one very handsome trout, 4lb., for which he obtains a prize, being the heaviest fish caught during the day ; he also caught some bream, perch, &c., taken at Halliford. The trout is being set up as a specimen fish, being the first specimen taken by any of the members since the establishment of the society. W. Cook, jack and roach, weighing 3lb. 6¾oz., taken at Harefield. E. Eydmann and Mr. Parker also caught fish. Some six members of this club are going to fish the same number of members of the Hammersmith Club at Richmond, on Thursday, the 11th September, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., from the punt, all fish to weigh, and in the evening they will all dine at the club-house of the Hammersmith Society.—W. E.

### AMICABLE BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

On August 31st, Mr. Harding weighed in dace 21lb. 3½oz., roach 5lb. 14½oz., bleak 2oz., total weight, 27lb. 4oz. ; Mr. Moir, bream 3lb. ½oz., roach 7oz., from Dagenham ; Mr. Squire, roach 1lb. 1oz. ; Mr. Partrick, roach 10lb. 11oz., bream 5oz. A pegged-down match will be held on September 28th, at Pulborough.—J. WORLEDGE, sec.

### ANCHOR AND HOPE ANGLING SOCIETY.

About 25 members of the above society competed for three prizes on the 31st ult. in the Medway (roving), the following being the successful competitors :—Mr. Thomas Bowling, first ; Mr. Somers, jun., and Mr. Clerke, dead-heat for second and third. The following members also had fish :—Messrs. C. Watkins, P. Bowling, A. Hale, F. Hale, W. Dipple, D. Davis, and Somers, sen.—D. DAVIS, sec.

### ANGLERS' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

THE TOURNAMENT PRIZES.—All prizes that have not been applied for may be had on application at the usual fortnightly meeting on Friday, Sept. 12th, at 9 o'clock.—R. GHURNEY.

### BORDESLEY WALTONIAN SOCIETY.

The members of the above club held their second fishing contest of the season at Binton Bridges on Tuesday, Aug. 26th, when a most enjoyable day was spent, the result of the contest being as follows :—1st, Mr. Hill, with a grand catch of roach, weighing 17lb. ; 2nd, Mr. Bagot, with some fine roach ; 3rd, Mr. Pares, with dace and roach ; 4th, Mr. Byfield ; 5th, Mr. Tildesley ; 6th, Mr. Nicholls. The bait most successful was stewed wheat, at which in some parts of the river the fish bit very freely, though a flush is much needed in the river to cleanse it from the green matter floating in it. Thanking you in anticipation for the insertion of this in your valuable paper.—E. TILDESLEY, sec.

[We should be obliged if Mr. Tildesley would send us the recipe for stewing wheat. We know the boiled wheat recipe.—ED.]

### BOSTONIAN ANGLING SOCIETY.

Our trays were well filled on August 31, Mr. Jamieson having a good show of roach from the river Ouse, Messrs. Elton, Goodge, and Brothers roach, and Mr. Jennings 19lb. of roach and dace, and one trout.—J. J.

### CAVENDISH ANGLING SOCIETY.

Our recent takes of fish have been as follows :—Aug. 24th, Mr. Canton, bream 13lb. 12½oz., roach 1lb. ; Mr. Brett, bream 7lb. 1½oz., roach 3lb. 8½oz. ; Mr. Young, roach 4lb. 11½oz., dace 2lb. 1½oz. ; Mr. C. H. Reeves, roach 2lb. 12½oz., dace 7½oz. ; Mr. A. Field, roach 2lb. 12oz. ; Mr. W. Lee, one chub, 2lb. 13¼oz. ; Mr. Clark, roach and gudgeon 2lb. 6½oz. ; Mr. Austin, roach 1½lb. Aug. 28th, Mr. Canton, roach 10lb. 1¼oz. ; Mr. Brett, roach 5lb. 7¼oz. Aug. 31st, Mr. Clark, roach and gudgeon 4lb. 9¾oz. ; and Mr. Austin, dace.—E. C.

### CITY OF LONDON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The following members weighed in on the 24th :—Mr. Chambers, bream and roach from Amberley ; Messrs. Castell and Nitz, bream from the Harp ; and Mr. W. Jones roach from the Lea. On the 31st, from Amberley, Mr. Clarkson roach, dace, and bream ; Mr. Chambers roach, dace, bream, and perch ; Mr. Nitz bream from the Harp ; and Mr. Bowyer perch and gudgeon from St. Margaret's.—CAS.

### CLAPHAM JUNCTION ANGLING SOCIETY.

The competition for three valuable prizes, extending over the week, from the 25th to the 31st ult., came to a conclusion, and the following were the winners :—1st, Mr. E. Wilson, with a splendid take of barbel, roach, and dace from Staines, 26lb. 6oz. ; 2nd, Mr. R. A. Banfield, 16lb. 8oz. dace and roach from Twickenham ; and 3rd, Mr. C. J. Speed, 8lb. 14oz. roach and dace from Staines. The total weighed in for the competition was over 70lb., a proof, taking the state of the rivers into consideration, that the members were well on the job. I wish to call the attention of members at a distance to the date fixed for the presentation of the testimonial to our late secretary and present able chairman, Mr. Wilson, which will take place on Thursday, the 18th inst., when I hope to see every member and as many friends as can make it convenient to attend. Mr. Wilson has worked hard to make the society the success it undoubtedly is ; and as he is well known to most of the Brothers of the Angle, I am sure it only requires to be known that such a presentation is to take place to fill the club-room, Lord Ranelagh, Verona-street, Clapham Junction, to overflowing. It will be recollected by many of the River Wey fishers that on the first Sunday of the present season some vagabond at Weybridge stole the whole of the fishing-tackle of R. Fortescue, of the London and South-Western Anglers, and late a member of the Clapham Junction. I am very pleased to state that one of our members has collected a nice little sum amongst the members of this society, and it is intended to purchase "Dick" a stock of tackle to give him a fresh start, which tackle will be handed over to him on the same evening as Mr. Wilson's testimonial.—W. MASLIN, sec.

### COBDEN ANGLING SOCIETY.

A number of our members were out on the 31st August, but very few of them were able to weigh in fish, although they visited their favourite localities. The only fish that was weighed in worthy of notice was a nice bream of 3lb. 7oz., taken by Mr. Webley at the Welsh Harp. Several members also went to the Welsh Harp on Sept. 2nd, and were successful in capturing some very nice fish. The principal takes were a fine carp of 7lb., and a bream of 3¼lb., taken by Mr. Kirby. Mr. Philpotts also took several large bream, one of them scaling 3lb. 6oz., and a beautiful roach of 1¾lb. Members are informed that the annual concert of the society will take place on the 22nd inst. at the Cobden Club, Kensal-road, when it is hoped that there will be a full attendance of members and friends. Tickets of admission, at 6d. and 1s. each, can be procured from the secretary or at the club.—C. REEVES, sec.

### DERITEND ANGLING SOCIETY.

This society held their annual contest on Aug. 25th, in the Canal, near Burton-on-Trent. The weather being fine, and the contest being timed for mid-day (12.10 to 2.10 p.m.), a large take was extremely improbable. Forty prizes were fished for, the chief among them being a silver watch, presented by Mr. S. Prescott, and a valuable and splendidly-finished rod, given by Mr. J. Keeling ; other prizes being given by members and friends. No less than sixty-eight members turned up for the event, and with a few friends interested in the affair, made a nice little party, about a hundred strong. The winner proved to be Mr. T. Onions, Mr. G. Jukis and E. Rotherham close up in the order named, while several ties taking place for other prizes made the referee's office anything but a sinecure. After the contest a few members fished the Trent, and showed some excellent fish at night. A meeting was held next evening at the club-house (the Spotted Dog), and a hearty vote of thanks was given to the donors of prizes, also to the referee, Mr. S. Prescott, and umpires. The president, Mr. J. Pratt, distributed the prizes. "Success to the Deritend Angling Society" being proposed and duly honoured, a few members contributed some songs and readings in excellent style, thus bringing to a close the most successful contest yet held in connection with this well-known club.—C. HAMES, sec.

### EASTERN COUNTIES ANGLING SOCIETY, GREAT YARMOUTH.

Since my last report was written two meetings of this society have been held in their club-room, at Mr. Seaman's, Duke's Head Hotel, Quay. On each occasion the president, Dr. Mitchell, was in the chair. At the meeting on Tuesday evening the 26th ult., it was decided to call a special meeting for Monday, the 1st of Sept., to which all intending competitors for the next match were invited to attend, in order that time and place might be fixed in a manner satisfactory to all. Through the generosity of several of the members, the officers were enabled to announce that five prizes would be fished for, presented by Messrs. Freeman and Turner, Mr. Brasnett, Mr. Crowther, Mr. John Lee, honorary secretary, and a tackle prize, to be paid for out of the funds of the society. A discussion ensued as to the advisability of having the society registered, and as a result it was decided that this should be done as early as possible. It has been arranged that when the conveniences of the members will not allow of them having their takes of fish conveyed to Yarmouth, to be weighed in by the acting secretary, Mr. Seaman, Duke's Head Hotel, they will be registered by that gentleman as having been weighed in should a society's certificate, signed by the person in charge of the fishing station at which the fish were caught, registering the amount, be shown him, and towards this end Mr. Seaman has been empowered to have a book of certificates printed for distribution amongst the members. A large and influential meeting was held on Monday, the 1st inst., the president having explained to the members present that the meeting had been specially summoned for the purpose of making arrangements for the proposed match, which was fished on Thursday, the 4th inst. A vote of thanks was unanimously accorded Mr. John Lee, the honorary secretary, for the trouble he had taken in writing the gentlemen who had been suggested as honorary members. Amongst others we notice that letters have been sent to Sir Edmund Lacon, Bart., Edward Birkbeck, Esq., M.P., and A. Burdett Coutts, Esq. As a proof that the popularity of this society is growing rapidly, no less than 17 gentlemen were proposed and balloted for at this meeting, all being admitted. Fish are still well on the feed in these waters, and several heavy catches have been weighed in during the week.—A. M.

### GLOBE ANGLING SOCIETY.

The majority of our members were out on the 31st ult., with a determination to make up, if possible, for the shortcomings of the week previous ; but, unfortunately, on their return to club in the evening, they had but very light bags. Among those gentlemen who got anything at all may be mentioned :—Messrs. H. Lake, roach and dace, 3lb. 14oz. ; D. Thomas, bream, 3lb. 7oz. ; J. Harman, roach, 1lb. 13oz.; G. Brown, roach, 1lb. 4oz.; S. Howell, roach and dace, 1lb. 3oz. ; F. Lawrence, H. Jeffries, and J. J. Holmes also had a few roach ; W. Brown, one small jack, 2lb. 7oz.; Mr. Titmus, 8lb. of very nice roach from the Medway. At our ordinary weekly meeting on Monday last, Mr. W. Fitzgerald gave notice to resign the office of chairman on account of ill health. Mr. W. J. Davies volunteered to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the season, which was unanimously accepted. Members will please note that a visit will be paid on Tuesday evening, 9th inst, to the Alexandra Variety Club, Princess Alexandra, Crouch End. The secretary and a number of the members will meet at the club-house at 8 p.m.—J. J. HOLMES, sec.

### GREAT NORTHERN BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

We had a fair show of fish on the 31st ult., the following members weighing in from Amberley :—Mr. F. Watling, 4lb. 2oz. ; S. Baker, 2lb. 3oz. ; G. Watling, 9lb. 14oz. ; W. Theobald, 4lb. 10oz. ; J. A. Fitch, 5lb. 3oz. Messrs. Cooper and Hewitt, roach ; Mr. Watley, 1lb. 14oz. from Welsh Harp ; Mr. J. K. Fitch, a nice tray of roach and dace, 13lb. 3oz., several of the dace over 8oz.—J. A. FITCH, sec.

### GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

The ordinary weekly meeting of the above society was held on Tuesday evening, at the Mason's Hall Tavern, Mason's-avenue, Basinghall-street, Captain Alfred in the chair. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed, and Mr. Lesiter, who had been duly proposed and seconded at a previous meeting, was unanimously elected a member of the society. Mr. Chambers and the chairman reported on behalf of the deputation appointed at the last meeting to view some water which it was thought would be advisable for the society to acquire. They explained at great length the result of their visit, but did not feel justified in recommending the society to make an offer for it. A vote of thanks was unanimously passed to them for the trouble they had taken, and Mr. Chambers, in replying, mentioned another stretch of water which he thought the society would do well to look after, and, at the request of the meeting, very kindly offered to make inquiries respecting it. A vote of thanks to the chairman closed a very pleasant evening.—H.

### LEICESTER JOLLY ANGLERS.

The annual angling competition of members of the Jolly Anglers' Club, whose headquarters is the Earl of Leicester, Infirmary-square, Leicester, took place on Saturday afternoon at Ashfordby, near Leicester. Thirty members occupied swims in the river adjoining the land belonging to Messrs. Groves and Cart, who generously gave permission. The time allowed was two and a half hours, but the catches were only small, as is usually the case in contests of this kind. The successful anglers were—Messrs. Cross, Pawley, Voce, Gimson, Hunt, Hardy, Pool, Marshall, and Savage, who took prizes in the order in which the names are given. The match was carried out satisfactorily under the management of Mr. G. Chamberlain, and a very pleasant outing was spent.

### LIVERPOOL ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

Some of our members have been doing very well in the lake at Ellesmere, for, although the water was "broken," the fish were feeding, and baskets of 10lb. to 20lb. have been taken during the past fortnight. Our annual championship competition is fixed to take place in the Vyrnwy, at Llanymynech, on Wednesday, the 17th September, and to insure a long day's fishing we have arranged to go overnight, and thus enable the members to fix as early an hour as they think fit for commencing. A variety of prizes will be competed for, and trout and grayling will rank for Messrs. Ellinger and Boulding's silver challenge cup, and those taken will most probably determine this year's winner. Given the river in fair condition and 10 or 12 hours' fishing, there should be some heavy creels and tired arms. The train leaves Lime-street on Tuesday night at 6.5 p.m., and arrives at Llanymynech a little before 9 p.m. The return train on the Wednesday evening leaves at 9.17 p.m., and arrives in Liverpool at 12 midnight. The return fare is 5s. 6d. Circulars with full particulars will be sent to members as usual.—R. WOOLFALL, hon. sec.

### ORIGINAL CLERKENWELL PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

We had a good show on the 31st ult. considering only a few weighed in. Mr. Roberts, 3lb. 7oz. of roach and dace; Mr. Crafford, 11lb. 2oz. of dace and roach—one roach weighing 1lb. 2¾oz.; Mr. Obbard, a few nice dace, 1lb. 14oz.; Mr. Longman, 14lb. 10oz. of roach and dace; Mr. Laundy, 10oz. of dace. Result of August competition: Mr. Richardson's prize was won by Mr. Crafford, with 21lb., two outings; Mr. Kent's prize was won by Mr. Laundy; Mr. Marle's prize was won by Mr. Longman. Our first complimentary visit will take place at our new quarters, the Three Kings, Clerkenwell-close, on September 23rd, when we hope to have a good one. —J. Obbard, sec.

### THE PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

Amongst those present at the usual weekly meeting, held at Ashley's, last Monday, were Messrs. T. Gillatt, J. Meyer, H. B. Brown, H. Gray, J. Lander, C. Blundell, C. Banfield, J. G. Batt, G. Russell, E. Walker, Rev. Sumner, &c. Mr. H. B. Brown occupied the chair, and the business of the evening was commenced by the secretary reading the minutes of the previous meeting, which were duly confirmed. Mr. T. R. Sachs, who has recently returned from Deal, had a good "deal" to say concerning the sea-fishing obtainable in the neighbourhood; he met with his usual success, and explained that one of the best baits for pollack was a rough representation of a small fish cut out of parchment, attached to a large hook, and used in the ordinary method of fly fishing. He also handed round for inspection two of the prizes awarded at the recent successful Fishing Gazette Tournament. The Burmese beaker, won by Major Traherne, was justly admired; the delicacy and exquisite finish of the workmanship is a credit to the silversmith's art. The other prize was an elegant silver egg-cup, won by Mr. Malloch. Mr. F. H. Lemann presented to the society a very fine specimen of one of Rowlandson's etchings, which he said he had obtained in one of his recent peregrinations about London in search of the old and curious. The society benefits greatly by these expeditions of Mr. Lemann, and a vote of thanks was duly recorded on the proposition of the chairman. Mr. T. Batt had a few hours' flyfishing on the Thames at Bray, and showed 11lb. 12oz. of chub; the largest weighed 3lb. 13oz. Mr. J. Meyer, who had also been out on the Thames at Shepperton, weighed in two chub, 4lb., and three barbel, 9lb. 10oz. Mr. Fenning, who is still at Ringwood, sends up his fish almost daily, and the following are the weights of roach registered by him:—On 25th Aug., 18lb.; 26th Aug., 30lb.; 27th Aug., 12lb.; 28th Aug., 40lb.; 29th Aug., 24lb.; 1st Sept., 26lb. 2oz.—making the highly creditable total for six days' fishing of 150lb. 2oz. The size of weighable roach at this society is 8oz., which is considerably higher than the Thames standard. Mr. C. Blundell was credited with a salmon 12lb. 14oz. from the Orchy. He was unfortunately not present to give the members an account of his trip to Scotland. Mr. W. Jesse had been trouting in the neighbourhood of St. Albans, but was not rewarded with great success. The toast of "The Continued Prosperity of the Piscatorial Society" was proposed by the chairman. Mr. Goodger then proposed "The Health of the Chairman," who briefly responded, thus bringing the meeting to a close.—Pro. T. H.

### ROYAL GEORGE ANGLING SOCIETY.

The match that I spoke about in my last report took place with the following results:—Mr. Sinclair, 1st; Mr. Wood, 2nd; Mr. Palmer, 3rd; followed by Messrs. Rider, Charl, Holden, Healey, Henderson, Parsons, Guyham, Carter, and others; all had very good takes. Mr. Hewett, fishing with Pride Wheeler, on Tuesday last, brought into the club-room 17lb. of dace and a nice barbel. Mr. Carter, a gentleman recently elected, has presented a very nice prize to be given for the largest take of roach, from the bank, on the 7th, 14th, 21st, and 28th of September only.—W. H. Rider.

### SOUTH LONDON UNITED.

The committee of the above were summoned to attend the Alscot Arms, Alscot-road, Bermondsey, on September 1, in consequence of the numerous inquiries made by the members of this Unity as to when, where, and how the next competition shall take place. Among the committee present were Mr. Field, S.L.; Mr. Hotham, R.P.; Mr. Gafney, P.B.; Mr. Smith, O.A.P.; Mr. Allen, B.B., &c. The minutes of the previous meeting having been confirmed and passed as read, the next business was the proposition that had been made at several return visits, viz., that the next competition take place at Amberley, which was carried. The next question was the time. Several gentlemen who had watched the water at various tides gave their experience, and the opinion was that the next best tide to suit would take place on October 12. It was proposed that the competition take place on that day. All societies enrolled on the South London United Visiting List are desired to request their representatives to attend the Alscot Arms, Alscot-road, Bermondsey, on October 9, in order to receive information as to the place at Amberley where the competition is to take place; also to pay for and return all unsold tickets. Additional prizes will be given according to the number of tickets sold, which will be reported by—Pixie.

### UNITED BROTHERS, DEPTFORD.

Our members were out on the 31st ult., and met with good sport. Mr. W. Tyler, 14lb. 1oz. of roach and bream from the Medway; Mr. H. Tyler, 12lb. of roach and bream from the Medway; Mr. F. Watts, 6lb. 9oz. of roach from the Medway; Mr. F. Beak, 5lb. 3¾oz. of roach from Pulborough; Mr. J. Currans, a fine bream, weighing 4lb., from Pulborough; Mr. Payne, "fairies" from Dagenham. The members of the above club will fish a match on the 7th of September in the Medway. All members are requested to attend on Saturday night next.—H. T.

### UNITED LONDON FISHERIES SOCIETY.

The monthly meeting will take place on Monday evening, Sept. 8th. Chair taken at 9 o'clock.—R. Ghurney, sec.

### WEST GREEN ANGLING SOCIETY.

Mr. Coleman's prize was not taken on the 31st ult.; the only member weighing in fish was Mr. Firkings, having 3lb. 4½oz. of roach from Tottenham. Mr. Coleman's prize is to be fished for the gross weight through September; go where you please, and when you please; all fish to weigh, bar jack.—J. Guyver, sec.

## YE ANCIENT FYSHE.

(A Parody.)

I looked upon that pike of years,
My busy fancy idly dreaming
Of long-caught fish, and bites, and fears,
All ruddy red his gills were streaming.
It told me many a tale of truth—
Of ponds, and streams, and deeps, and dangers,
That had been passed in early youth,
When I and business world were strangers.
It told me, too, a tale of woes—
Of good fish lost, to my full sorrow;
It filled my heart with grief, and rose
To spoil my sport upon the morrow.
That aged fish, infirm and frail,
Was thin and pale (I'm tender-hearted),
I took him by his "mournful tail,"
And threw him in, and thus we parted.

Canonbury. Old Angler.

### ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

G. Hoshea (Upper Clapton).—The seat basket can be had of Mr. Gillett, 40, Fetter-lane. It is made of wicker, on a strong frame. It is a capital affair.

H. Tricker, of Bishop's Stortford, asks if anything can be done to stop poaching in the Stort; and F. A. Butler, of Peckham, asks if anything can be done to stop poaching in the Suffolk Stour. We regret to say that, except during the fence months, the only parties who can take action to prevent netting are the proprietors, through whose land the water flows, and who own the right of fishing. If a fishing club is formed, they can prosecute, provided they are armed with authority from the owners of the rights of fishing.

J. J. G. (Bedford).—We hope to have some articles on the subject in the Gazette soon. You must kindly remember that though we should be delighted to publish nothing but what interests you, we could only do so on your guaranteeing to keep the paper going in its present very satisfactory manner.

"Strike from the Winch."—Mr. Heaton's new winch is kept in stock by Alfred and Son, Moorgate-street; A. Young, Oxford-street; Watson, Holborn; Holroyd, Gracechurch-street; Price, Seymour-street; Ramsbottom, Manchester; Whitby, Liverpool; Haynes, of Cork; Shaw, of Shrewsbury; Pearsall, Birmingham; O'Handlen, Bristol, &c.

# CORRESPONDENCE.

[*We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.*]

### "EYED-HOOKS: THEIR EARLY HISTORY AND SUBSEQUENT DEVELOPMENT."

Sir,—In Mr. Hall's letter of July 26 (upon mine of May 31st), he allows his imagination to put very wrong interpretations on my meaning, and in spite of my earnest and repeated efforts privately to explain to him that no such meaning was intended, he persists in publicly perverting my intention, and has done his best to make me appear in the light of an impostor, and to have mis-stated facts for the purpose of claiming a position which is not my due. I must therefore go to the trouble of defending myself from his attack on my veracity, and to show that what he states to be "inaccuracies" are merely different views of similar circumstances, which he twists about to suit his own fancies. I admit one inaccuracy in my letter (due to a slip of memory), and that I corrected in my letter of June 21st.

I agree with you and Mr. Hall that it is desirable that the early history of this "Eyed-Hook" question should be "scrupulously correct," and in order to insure accuracy I have been at the trouble of wading through (since my return from Scotland, hence the apparent delay in my reply) a mass of three hundred old letters (60 from Mr. Aldam, and 240 from Mr. Hall, many of the latter of four to six *sheets* in length—rather a proof of our "close association"), in order to assist my memory, extract the pith of the history, and fix dates accurately, and I find there a few points which I had quite forgotten, and which may perhaps be new again to Mr. Hall. I have every letter written to me by him and Mr. Aldam, and I am in a position to prove what I am about to state in black and white if need be, but as I consider it unnecessary, and a breach of confidence and politeness between gentlemen to make public the contents of private letters written in friendship, I shall abstain from following his example of making fragmentary extracts from my letters as proofs in support of assertions which are not called in question. If necessary to my case, I may yet be obliged to do so, but in this letter I shall only indulge in one quotation (at the conclusion of my historical statement) which I do because I think it cannot give Mr. Hall the slightest offence, and it is so conclusive an argument that I trust it may not be considered a breach of the principle I have advocated.

First.—As to my motive for slightly mentioning the history of the "eyed hooks" in my letter of May 31st, which you, Sir, designate "an aimless digression." As I was about to give so positive an opinion on the knot question—viz., that the eye of the hook was to a great extent designed to suit the knot we used, and not the knot for the eye, and which opinion Mr. Hall has since expressed his entire approval of, I felt bound to show that I wrote with the information of *one* of the *first promoters of the hooks.*

I have not been a regular reader of the Fishing Gazette until this year, and therefore I have missed nearly all of what Mr. Hall has written on angling subjects therein. I have not seen his articles mentioning my name. He occasionally referred to his articles, and lent me Gazettes, or cuttings therefrom, on various topics, but I was not aware that I had been mentioned in connection with "eyed-hooks" (except as to the matter of the bronze colour), and therefore I entered slightly into their early history solely to give weight to my opinion on the knot—too carelessly as it proves.

Mr. Hall lays great stress on a letter in the *Field* of July 3rd, 1880, in which he meted out the honours (such as they are), to all concerned. I give him credit for perfect impartiality in that letter. I read it at the time, and approved of it (in the words he quotes), and I should probably do so again if I knew what it contained; but I then felt no personal interest in the publicity of the subject, I forgot all about it, and I have not the slightest idea of what the *discrepancy* now is between his then statement in the *Field* and mine in the Gazette, which has given him offence—quite unintentional on my part. If any reader of this letter happens to possess a copy of the *Field* of that date (July 3rd, 1880), I should be greatly obliged by the loan of it to restore the matter to my memory, and will return it. I have felt no interest in the publicity of this matter until I am roused by Mr. Hall's unjust public attack on my veracity; but, whatever that *Field* letter may contain is of little consequence to the question at issue. Now we have to deal with facts and dates which form the history of the "eyed-hooks," which I intend to relate minutely.

The principal assertion I made was that "Mr. Hall and I were closely associated in the first working out of these eyed-hooks," that is all I claimed, or desire to claim; but his remark that after my approval of his *Field* letter of 1880, "anything I may say to the contrary now cannot, at this distance of time, be considered of much weight" is, I think, beside the question. Feeling no personal interest in publicity, I kept silence; but because I have done so, is that any reason why my word and my account of the whole matter is not as reliable as his?

I think I am right in saying that neither Mr. Hall nor I had ever heard of small "eyed" trout hooks when we took up the matter, and that we both believed we were *working out a perfectly new idea*, and it is quite recent news to me that there ever have been any small eyed trout hooks before ours were brought out.

For convenience, I will divide the early history into three short chapters.

Chap. I.—At the beginning of 1877, I heard of Mr. Aldam's unique and beautifully got up book, "The Quaint Treatise." I bought a copy, and I was struck with the eyed-hooks on which his patterns of detached-bodied "drakes," were mounted. I wrote to him in March, 1877, enquiring where I could obtain such hooks or smaller ones, and he informed me that he had never possessed eyed trout hooks before these special ones were made for his book; but suggested that as I knew Messrs. Hutchinson and Son (from having, as I stated, "previously dealt with them in *such* matters," by which I meant ordinary hooks, gut, silks, and bird skins), I should try to get such hooks made by them; but, as he knew a good man to make them, he volunteered to get hooks made for me, and he incurred a very considerable amount of trouble to oblige me, for which I shall always feel grateful. The correspondence between us extended over a year before the first samples came, which were delivered on April 29th, 1878.

Mr. Hall and I met at The Peacock, Rowsley, on April 24th, 1878, to fish together, and there I received from Mr. Adlam, the sample eyed-hooks, he knowing that we were there together, and could consult about them. I have the very sample hooks by me now, japanned Limericks, with eyes straight on the shank. We consulted and decided to order a trial parcel of various sizes from No. 11 to 17 (Redditch scale). They were delivered on May 31st, and proved fairly good hooks.

Now, in reading these old letters, a curious point occurs to me for the first time. Up to the time of our meeting at Rowsley, I had received from Mr. Hall (between March 20th, 1877, and April 20th, 1878) fifty letters on general angling subjects, *but not one of them contains any allusion whatever to eyed-hooks.* He had also been in constant correspondence with Mr. Adlam, and if they had been also consulting about eyed-hooks, he must have heard what I was trying after, and would have mentioned it. Mr. Hall paid me a short visit in January, 1878, and we talked about the prospective hooks; but I feel certain of this, that he had not had samples or seen any eyed-hooks (except the Drake hooks in the book) until my patterns came from Mr. Aldam at Rowsley (April 29th), and I know he received his first patterns like those, from Mr. Aldam direct, on May 14th, after his return home. I therefore believe, and shall continue to do so until he can produce clear evidence to the contrary, that Mr. Aldam and I acted *alone* in the matter *for the first twelve months*, that it was at my suggestion and solicitation, and by his personal efforts *(with a maker unknown to me still)*, which produced the first effective samples of small eyed trout hooks.

During 1878 I had no opportunity of trying the hooks to any extent, but Mr. Hall used them in Hampshire in August of that year, and as he reported that they were rather heavy for chalk stream floating flies, we agreed to order a further quantity from Mr. Aldam *on finer wires.* They were delivered (to me Nov. 6th), but they were very badly tempered, and proved soft and worthless. They were returned to be retempered, and came back about Feb. 7th, 1879, still too soft and untrustworthy for fish over half a pound weight. This was no fault of Mr. Aldam's, but only of the makers; but it caused the abandonment of these hooks—and closes the first chapter of their history.

Chap. II.—Between the time the (second) hooks were sent back (Nov. 1878) and returned re-tempered (Feb. 1879) we were undecided what to do—to try Aldam's man again, or to try elsewhere. We consulted *for four months* about applying to H. and Sons, and what hooks to ask for first. It was at this juncture that what has been termed "The Kelly incident" occurred, which Mr. Hall affects to "Pooh! pooh!" I had before bought excellent small Limerick hooks from Messrs. Kelly and Son, of Dublin, and I thought if such hooks could be got "eyed" they would be what we wanted. I did not tell Mr. Hall beforehand, *but I wrote* to inquire for them *in our joint interest* (and in a letter dated as late as June 21st this year Mr. Hall admits this to be the case). If small eyed hooks had been procurable he would have welcomed them as gladly as myself; but as only samples of large ones came (sea trout and grilse), and were of no use to us, now he calls my effort "a mere accident and a private concern of my own." I say "No." The effort, though abortive, was made as much for him as for myself. Our interest was identical. He admits this in a letter dated June 21st, and denies it in the Gazette, July 26th. He says also (see italics), "It is a significant fact that we were not induced to alter the position of the eyes in consequence of Kelly's patterns." Exactly so; because Kelly's patterns contained samples of *both* kinds of eye, horizontal and upright, and it was only a question which was the best of the two; and though I once rather favoured the upright eye as being less visible to the fish from below, we settled not to alter from the old position of horizontal. This "Kelly incident" was an interlude partly filling up the space of uncertainty, and in my letter of May 31st, alluding to it I ought to have left out the words "first of all," because, chronologically, *it comes after the failure of Aldam's hooks*, and *before we applied to H. and Sons*, and therefore I am correct in saying, "While we were looking round."

Again, he says that "our choice of a maker was settled in (my) mind" before my application to Kelly and Son. Again I say "No." We had made suggestions mutually, we had settled *preliminarily* what hooks we would like to order, and were preparing to try H. and Sons, but we *were waiting for the return of the Aldam hooks from re-tempering*, and did not *decide* till *after they came back* on February 7, 1879; and on the conclusion of that failure, Mr. Hall wrote to me and said he voted to go in for some of the Kendal hooks. After the disappointment about the (2nd) soft hooks on November 6, 1878, Mr. Hall (probably and rightly expecting that I should take action in the matter) wrote to me in the words he has *partially* quoted, but which I will complete—"Do not write to Hutchinson's just yet, as I have long been thinking of doing so, *and when we hear from Aldam it will be time enough for us to confer before writing and making any definite proposal.*" I think this puts a different aspect on his assertion that "our choice of a maker was settled in (my) mind" when I wrote to Kelly and Son.

I gave way to his wish, and let him take the matter in hand; but this had slipped my memory, when I wrote hastily on May 31st.

About February 8th, 1879 (a day or two after the return of the re-tempered hooks), he placed our first joint order with H. and Sons, as agreed upon, for six gross of eyed sneck-bends, Nos. 1 and 2; they were delivered about March 10, and proved very good hooks.

We met to fish together at Abergavenny, at Easter, 1879, and we used them there for the first time, and Mr. Hall writes, "While there we agreed to have the eyes turned up in future," I beg to add a little to that statement. Up to this time the hooks had all been made with eyes straight on the line of the shank—Mr. Aldam's hooks had finely-tapered shanks with small eyes (too small, unfortunately) turned in a pear-shaped form. On May 20th, 1878, Mr. Aldam sent me a preliminary pattern hook with turned-up eye; this was submitted to Mr. Hall. I think I favoured it, but I cannot quite remember, and I also advocated a rounded eye; but on May 22nd, Mr. Hall wrote to me strongly objecting to the turned-up eye (twice over in the same letter), and in consequence the hooks were made with straight eyes, so were the second lot, and so were the first lot of sneckbends from H. and Sons.

At Abergavenny, I for the first time had a fair chance of trying the eye-hooks practically. I had tied flies on but had scarcely fished with any of the Aldam hooks. but my first experience with the eyed-snecks showed me the inconvenience of knotting the gut, and of obtaining a proper pull on the point, and before going out one morning, in Mr. Hall's presence, I got a pair of pliers and a candle, softened (only just) the eyes, turned up as many as were wanted for immediate use, and dressed flies on them, "blue duns," and "march browns." They were perfectly successful, and I maintain that *that experiment settled the question of the turned up eye for our future hooks.* It was Mr. Aldam's idea simply carried out by my own fingers. Mr. Hall informed me that he experimented with turning up the eyes of Aldam's hooks at Winchester in August, 1878, but he softened the whole hook too much and failed; and supposing he did not fail—if it had been a success he would most certainly have suggested the alteration in the first lot of sneckbends in 1879, but he never mentioned to me any successful experiments in that way till this dispute arose.

Chap. III.—Our consultations at Abergavenny resulted in the opinion that an improved eyed hook might be adopted of "Limerick" shape, with or without sneck twist. He obtained samples in the soft state whilst there, and snecked them to his own taste, and on May 15th, 1879, ordered the first lot of small eyed Limericks, Nos. 00 to 2, dark blue colour, very sharply snecked, one gross of each size, and on July 26 he sent me two dozen of each size to assort up my stock.

From this date our *active partnership in obtaining hooks together* was practically ended, the hooks were settled as practicable eyed hooks, either in "sneck bends" or "Limericks," and from that time we each followed our own inclinations and requirements in ordering for ourselves, he (absorbed in his pet chalk stream flies) ordered chiefly the smaller sizes, from 00 up to 2. I, for my northern fishing, chiefly No. 1 up to "Drake" hooks (No. 3 and 4 long), and "sea trout" sizes, but we each laid ourselves out to give the other a share of every kind obtained, and continued our exchanges up to Midsummer, 1880, when, in consequence of the increased demand, it became advisable to establish with the makers a set of standard sizes for public use; and after some discussion, and an alteration of bend by Mr. Hall, though slight variations have occurred at times, these were virtually settled as they are sold now.

The first lot I ordered for myself after our trial on the "Usk," were "Limericks," nearly flat, very slightly snecked, *not enough so*, Mr. Hall said, on receipt of several dozens of them, and I then (July, 1879) first adopted the olive-brown shade of steel in which most of the hooks are now made. I had *two good reasons for it*—First, that a "yellow olive," or "olive brown," shade of hook is less distinctly visible and *harmonises better* with almost every fly than dark blue or black (with the exception of blue and iron-blue duns and black gnat); Second, that as it is the early stage of colour which the white steel hook assumes *in tempering*, it is more likely that hooks of that shade shall prove good "springy tempered" ones than if allowed to pass on to the deep blue tint before "quenching," as they may become, and occasionally do so, too soft. Therefore, I say if you want hooks reliably tempered, the chances are greatly in favour of "olive brown," or even of "straw-coloured" hooks, which latter would be admirably suited for "green drake" hooks. The colour is an essential part of the tempering process. It is not a mere fancy of the eye as regards colour. It has distinct and practical advantages. Mr. Hall has already credited me with this slight improvement.

This closes the early history of the eyed hooks, and I finish the chapter with the one quotation I mentioned. Early in 1880 we had jointly prepared samples of the hooks, and flies drsssed on them, for exhibition at the *Field* office, and Mr. Hall had written a popular description for the general information of anglers to be inserted in that paper, and in allusion to the completion of the matter in settling the eyed-hook patterns he wrote to me on July 8, 1880, as follows:—"I feel that owing to the course matters have taken, the public are coupling 'the Hook of the Future' (this was the title given to them by no less an authority than Mr. F. Francis in an article on them), with my name more than I have any *sole* right to. I feel that a very great deal of the originality of the whole thing is due to you, especially the new colour (bronze); in fact, to put the thing fairly, I have had the greater part of the correspondence and bother (please remember that he took it out of my hands); but I should never have got such an all-round good thing without your practical hints and advice."

I think that statement ought to be sufficient. I don't want to claim more than an equal share with him in the production of the eyed-hooks, but coupling his freely expressed opinion with the *facts* of the early history I have related, and which I challenge Mr. Hall to refute, I leave the merit of the question with those of your readers who care to entertain the subject, and are qualified to judge for themselves, unbiassed by friendly acquaintance with Mr. Hall.

The real difference in our positions is simply this: He looks at the whole eyed-hook question from the point of his pet chalk-stream dry-fly fishing, and that only. I take a broad application of it to *all fly-fishing*, and I say that if the northern anglers knew the value of the eyed hooks as well as the southern ones do, the hooks would be sold by millions instead of by thousands. Pray, what are the numbers of chalk stream fishers and their wants as compared with the mass of fly-fishers north of the "home counties"? The hooks are quite as valuable to the users of large flies as to those of the smallest: more so, in my opinion.

The highest praise is due to Mr. Hall for his efforts and perseverance in spreading the knowledge of the eyed-hooks amongst the Chalk-stream angling community. He saw at first glance that the eyed-hook was the right thing if it could be got small enough, and he set to work to get the smaller sizes made, about which there was no difficulty to overcome, except, perhaps, the smallest 0 0 0. He had a select circle of acquaintances amongst the best Hampshire anglers; he called their attention to the hooks, they were not slow to appreciate them (and that reminds me that one of the best fishers amongst them proposed that H. and Sons *should patent the turned-up eye*); the circle of users soon widened, the hooks became popular, and Mr. Hall found himself (as I had predicted to him) well taxed in time and correspondence to keep his friends supplied, as, for some reason best known to himself, he made himself voluntarily the general provider; but he has his reward in his increased acquaintance with good fly-fishers, and, no doubt, increased opportunities of obtaining good trout fishing, all which he fairly deserves and fully enjoys; but he has no right to take up the position that because the *tiny*-eyed hooks have been a *success* in *Chalkstream fishing*, the other sizes are nothing to anglers in general, and that because through him Southern anglers first got and used them, therefore the chief credit of the whole affair is due to him. I assert that if it had not been for our *joint work* and application to the matter extending over a period of more than two years, no eyed hooks would have been in existence at the present time.

Mr. Hall says: "We have not only had to refine and elaborate the hooks, but we have had to educate the fly-dressers to the proper and neat use of them." I *could* say a *good deal* about the "Elaboration and Refinement" of the hooks, but I refrain. I have trespassed too much on your space already, but I could not compress my remarks without only half dealing with the subject; and now I have left points unanswered which call for reply, and I request your indulgence in granting me space. I will, however, at another time give you my candid opinion on that point if you permit me to do so.

Finally, I consider I have established the following chief points:—

A. The *first idea* was taken from *Mr. Aldam's* drake-hooks.

B. At my suggestion and solicitation *he* undertook to get made, and succeeded in obtaining the *first practicable samples of small "eyed" trout-hooks* (except such previous abortive attempts as we were totally ignorant of).

C. Mr. Hall and I made practical use of these hooks.

D. Accidental faults in tempering having made these useless, we (at Mr. Aldam's own suggestion) struck out a line for ourselves, and obtained the eyed-hooks (snecks) from H. and Son.

E. The turned up eye—Mr. Aldam's idea—was practically settled at Abergavenny.

F. Desiring a change in shape, they were shortly altered to "Limerick" bend with sneck twist (more or less), Mr. Hall's being *more*, and mine *less*.

G. The improvement in colour was adopted by me and endorsed by some of the best Hampshire anglers.

H. After a period of desultory orders on both sides (his large for the supply of his friends, not his own exclusive use, mine small for my own use, and small contributions to assort his stock), final patterns were settled in 1880, and so they remain; but I am prepared to prove by samples and by argument, that the pattern approved by Mr. Hall at this time is not so good a shaped hook as I have by me, made shortly after the first lot of Limericks were made in 1879, *and could be vastly improved.*

I repudiate Mr. Hall's allusion to "sleeping partnership." There was no partnership after the hooks were fairly established in 1879, and up to that time it was as equally active as two individuals could make it.

There I leave it. I don't care a button what anybody thinks about it, but I am not to be shown up as an impostor in claiming to have taken an equal share in the early history and actual production of "Mr. Hall's Eyed Trout Hooks."—I am, &c.,

George Bankart.

Leicester, August 26.

[We regret extremely that the eyed-hook, which is esteemed so highly by many (perhaps the majority) of the best fly-fishers of the day, should have this dual history —first by Mr. Hall, and then by Mr. Bankart, two genuine anglers and gentlemen, and that their pleasant acquaintanceship as anglers has been—we trust only temporarily—severed by this very "eyed-hook" with which they have both had so much to do. We do not pretend to judge between them; their statements are now before our readers, and they can judge for themselves. It seems to us, after carefully comparing these letters, that neither contradicts the other on any material point. Mr. Bankart accords Mr. Hall the lion's share in the production and exploitation of the new hook, and Mr. Hall acknowledges his indebtedness to Mr. B. for much advice, &c. We must say that but for Mr. Hall's most able and persistent advocacy of the value of the eyed fly-hook both in the press and in private, it would have proved a dead letter as far as the angling public generally is concerned. We agree with Mr. Bankart that the shape, especially in the smaller sizes, is open to slight improvement still. In using a fly with much hackle, like a small sedge or "wickham," we find the hook does not take hold when the strike is made, and for our part, we should much prefer the ordinary sneck, which gives a larger angle, and consequently more "hold" than the improved sneck, which is more of an acute angle, the old sneck being nearly an exact right angle. The old-fashioned "sneck," with the point turned the least bit in towards the shank, and the least bit sideways, is, we think, one of the best practical (not theoretical) hooks for small trout flies.—ED.]

## TROUTING ON THE BLYTHE.

SIR,—In this selfish world, in which we live and move and have our fishing, there is nothing more pleasing to recount than our own successes; but as some of your *unselfish* readers would perhaps care to hear of a real good day, I shall be happy to give a little account of my exploits on the 6th inst.

It may not be uninteresting also, to give some little account of the locality where the objects of our "art" are to be found, by any "hearty" brother, if only he is privileged to seek for them. We have no fishing club nearer than the Dove, but the fact that from our starting point (i.e. from home) we have in view the domains of four noble Earls and a Marquis, tell plainly that the angling is preserved. My friend S— is true to time, 8.30, but on his advent I smiled (perhaps imperceptibly), the heavy thunder rain of yesterday, and the fine morning had induced him to leave his macintosh behind him. Selfish man! I said nothing. Perhaps, Sir, you may doubt my habits of temperance, but I never leave home to go fishing without my flask being well replenished with a drop of the real "cratur," notwithstanding we were going into a land of milk and honey, and where the good old example of English hospitality is yet to be found. This, and all other the paraphernalia of a fisherman being ready, my pony was duly hitched to the vehicle, and a start was made. My friend is a teetotaller, and guess my surprise when he ordered me to drive some little distance from my house to the Cock Inn. I looked at the church clock as we passed that ancient pile of historical associations, and wondered what would happen. A basket was ordered and filled with lemonades, cool and refreshing, ginger ales, and the rest of it. Of course my friend politely dwelt upon the fact of my enjoying these delightful beverages with him at the water side; but I looked at the large basket, wondered who would have to carry it, and as politely declined.

We had no attendant, and often did I smile during the day to see him lugging his basket to some convenient shelter. The morning was bright and beautiful, and both being tenants, we were privileged by a four miles drive through the noble Earl of Chartley's ancient domain. The first object conspicuous was the old castle, with its glimmering sunlight playing through its battered turrets, giving, as yet, a frontage bold enough to receive battle from the opposite old encampment (Cags-hill) as of Yore. Leaving this, and gaining an elevation, the surroundings of the Earls of Harrowby and Shrewsbury's mansions are conspicuous by their beauty, whilst further in the background, but clearly in view, we see Cannock Chase, and the borderings of Beaudesert, the seat of the Marquis of Anglesea, with a glimmer of that of the Earl of Lichfield, at Shugborough, less conspicuous, and at a lower elevation. On we press, through the pheasant coverts of the noble Earl Ferrers, until we attain the elevation of the famous Chartley Park in all its wild and rugged beauty, but quickly descend into the valley of the much-loved river Blythe. It is not long ere we rig up our fancy at the hospitable house of my old friend Brown, one of the farmers of the old school of longhorns. Here a superfluity of his substantial strong ale and fare awaits us; but other attractions predominate. A word of doubt that yesterday's rain in the Staffordshire Potteries had not made its way here arose sadly in our minds, but a glimmer underneath the thundercloud at the bottom of the moor relieved us. The water was all that could be desired, not high, but slightly discoloured. Our fishing-ground is owned by another noble lord (Bagot), and from a reverend and worthy scion of his family we hold our card, and he, an angler too, keen as the hawk, that marks his quarry to the very spot. Several miles of admirable water teeming with fish is open to us; but a short four fields' length is more than ample from the side of the old mill upwards. The May-fly was not abundant upon the water, but just enough to tempt the appetite. So with that, an admirable example of Foster, of Ashbourne, and the alder fly, we opened, and the thunderclouds opened too.

To recount the misses were no use; or the rushes neath the bushes; 'twould be tedious, as my other eulogies may be; but in honest truth, when we pulled ourselves together for refreshments, the usual "What luck?" from my friend was the word. "A few," I answered, and not knowing, commenced to count up twelve brace, with a few undersized, and a brace of grayling, returned to the water. On resuming, an episode occurred, I turned round to see my friend S. had bagged up and looked disconsolate. Of course, I did not laugh, even to myself, but sympathetically asked him for a statement of his woes. His rod, usually in three, was now in five parts. "I'm done! It's all over!" He spoke with emphasis. I was equal to the moment, and fearing that he might wish to drag me away with him (for, in shame be it said, I've taught him until he is almost my master), I warmly invited him to take a draught from the large basket, and in less than five minutes splices were made, and firmly too, and we fished on. Ere long, drenched and draggled, but not tired, we yielded to the forces of the elements, and for many a long year I have fished the same water (and hope to do yet again). I never landed in a shorter time seventeen brace of more beautiful trout. I did not carry Reuben Heaton's "Little Gem," therefore I did not weigh. Indeed, I do not think I ever did weigh a basket of fish; but suffice it to say, Sir, that I did not take a fish that would go less than three to the pound, none quite a pound, but many three-quarters and upwards. My friend, who is a tyro at the art, came under a fourth of my take, but he was perfectly satisfied. Foster's May-fly (green drake) will please anybody; it is not a large pattern, but with a well-covered body, and for an hour at least, when my friend could not stir a fish with a finer-bodied fly, I took them out all round him.

Not one of the least pleasures of the day to us was a chat with my old friend Brown and his generous wife over a cup of strong Congou, and an eight miles' drive home brings to a close a day of pleasure that will ever dwell in our happiest recollections. If you think my remarks will be tedious, please curtail, or ignore them. If not, my grateful recognitions for your valuable space.—I am, &c.,

Stowe Cottage, Stafford. F. S. PERKIN.

## THE LIVERPOOL ASSOCIATIONS.

SIR,—As the correspondence respecting the close season shows signs of degenerating into a mud-throwing contest, I beg to make a few remarks on Mr. Woolfall's letter and then withdraw. The Liverpool Central Angling Association does *not* rent any ponds, but a number of the members hold tickets for the fishing over an estate in Cheshire, on which there are some forty or fifty ponds, containing certainly not trout like the Liverpool Angling Association's fancy, and inaccessible water, but of their kind as good fish as can be obtained in the neighbourhood, roach, perch, and tench being of good size and numerous, decent baskets of weighable fish being frequently brought into the club-room, and not fish, as Mr. Woolfall observes, of forty to the pound. Our books will show as good fish weighed in from ponds as ever came from Combermere or the Verniew. Nobody asked you, indeed! Associations do not send official invitations to anglers to join, but individual members have frequently entreated "Quill Float" to join the "Strawberry" (as Mr. Woolfall's association is known as here), and have always met with his refusal. I do not think Mr. Woolfall can produce a copy of the letter in which we were asked for our assistance in the matter of regaining the lost privileges, as we keep a copy of our correspondence, but fail to find a record of anything of the kind from the Liverpool Angling Association. With regard to members seceding from his association and joining ours, the less he says the better, for there are at present in the Liverpool Angling Association individuals who left the Central under not very creditable circumstances. However, I rest contented with the thought that nothing alleged by "Quill Float" and "Piscator" has been denied, and that the Liverpool Angling Association have sought shelter under a shower of mud thrown at the Central. Apologising for trespassing so much on your valuable space, Mr. Editor, and expressing regret that the truth told about his association should have "riled" Mr. Woolfall so much, I take my leave of this discussion.—I am, &c.,

Liverpool. BABY ROACH.

## THE STOKE NEWINGTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

SIR,—On the 31st ult. Mr. C. F. Robinson weighed in 5lb. 7$\frac{3}{4}$oz. of bream and perch, Mr. C. Martin 4lb. 12$\frac{1}{4}$oz. of roach and bream, Mr. W. Robinson 2lb. 2$\frac{1}{4}$oz. of bream and roach, and Messrs. Harris, Millington, and Gretton had roach, bream, and perch. Mr. C. F. Robinson won Mr. Millington's prize for the heaviest bream with a fish weighing 3lb. $\frac{1}{2}$oz. Mr. W. Robinson took the sweepstakes for the gross weight competition with 12lb. 10$\frac{1}{2}$oz., Mr. C. Martin being second with exactly 10lb. A pegged-down match at Pulborough for three prizes on the 7th inst., and members are to assemble outside the station upon the arrival of the first train.—I am, &c.,

T. GRETTON.

## GOOD PERCH.

SIR,—On Thursday last Mr. G. D. Woolgar, of this place, and myself were fishing with the live minnow for trout at West Hoathly in private waters, when he caught two perch in splendid condition, one weighing 2lb. 12oz., and the other 3lb. 4oz.—I am, &c., JAS. HOPKINSON.

East Grinstead.

## GOOD GRAYLING FISHING WANTED.

SIR,—Can any of your readers inform me where I can get good grayling fishing in the middle or South of England? Is there any to be found in the Test or about Salisbury?

I have tried Bakewell, but heavy rains in the autumn quite put a stop to the fishing in the Wye. FLUVIUS.

Gerrards Cross.

## COLOURED HOOKS.

SIR,—Under this heading in last week's GAZETTE, Mr. W. Guise (to save an advertisement, I should think) again refers to coloured hooks, and would make your readers believe that he was the sole maker, I should like to see something new and original from this gentleman.

It is a well-known fact that red, green, blue, and yellow coloured hooks were first introduced by Mr. Charles Court eight years ago, and more recently Mr. Court introduced the brown enamelled hook, which I remember you spoke so highly about in your valuable paper.—I am, &c., JOHN E. WILKES,

Secretary for Piscatorial Society.

Redditch, Sept. 2.

## FISHING NEAR WEYMOUTH.

SIR,—In reply to inquirer, "H. T. M.," I beg to state there are two private streams near Weymouth, also the Association water at Dorchester, by ticket, which closes Aug. 31.—I am, &c., H. R. HAYMAN.

Weymouth.

## LIVE BREAM AND RUDD WANTED.

SIR,—Can any brother of the angle tell me, in your columns, where I can purchase live bream and rudd for stock purposes, and the price per 100? Our infant association is fairly started, and promises well if the present support is continued. —I am, &c., YEOVIL.

## STRIKING FROM THE WINCH.

SIR,—My remarks on "striking from the reel," at a recent meeting of the Piscatorial Society, were to the effect that no good fly-fisher would dream of doing anything else; but that the expression itself was not happily chosen, since the real point at issue is that the hand should always be under the line, and not on it. This is, of course, an elementary principle; but the danger of disregarding it would not arise until *after* hooking a fish. There would not be an atom of advantage in "striking from the reel" if, immediately after doing so, the fisherman grasped his line between the rod and his hand. If you had had a complete report of what I said before you it would have been evident that I used the word "myth" in the sense of "a very old story that may be a misleading one."

I am sorry to see that you have been unlucky lately in getting hung np on trees behind you. They are a great help in one respect—fish don't seem to take so much notice of a man with a good background of something solid, say a stone wall or a rising bank, or even a plantation of Scotch firs. The knack of casting under such circumstances is easily picked up. Talk to Mr. Kelson about it; or if he doesn't happen to be handy, a chat with you on the subject at any of the piscatorial meetings would give great pleasure to—Yours, &c., GEO. SUMNER.

[We are much obliged to Mr. Sumner, and always ready to learn; at the same time, we never expect to master any "knack" of casting which will entirely do away with the nuisance of getting caught now and then in a tree or the fringe of grass on a high bank behind. By careful and constant attention in fishing even a very wooded river, you can avoid catching, especially by using the switch and the under-hand cast; but when you have to return your flies every time between two boughs, perhaps only two feet apart, you don't always manage it—at least, we confess we don't.

"Striking from the winch" may not be a happily chosen expression, but it exactly describes the action, and Mr. Sumner does not suggest a better; and as far as we are concerned, it *is* the whole point at issue. We maintain the line should not be held in the hand at all until after the fish is struck; then, of course, the line is controlled by the angler winding in or letting go as the play of the fish requires, and you are a hundred times more likely to lose a fish if you don't keep a tight line on him after he is hooked than if you do and play him with your rod, only giving way by removing your pressure on the line for a second or two when necessary. In direct opposition to Mr. Sumner, we say, do not hold your line between rod and hand while casting or striking, but hold it when you have struck your fish, so that you can give him the butt instantly if you see he is making for dangerous cover.—ED.]

## VARIOUS ITEMS.

SIR,—Will you please to send me the July 5th No. of the FISHING GAZETTE if you have one to spare. I like your paper very much. I should not have known where to get gossamer silk of Le Page's liquid glue if I had not taken the FISHING GAZETTE. Pearsall's gossamer silk is the best I ever had for small flies, and Le Page's glue saves a wonderful lot of time and trouble, as it is always ready instead of having to warm a glue-pot to splice a top rod.

A gentleman asks how to preserve wasp grubs. I believe if it was boiled and soldered up in a tin can in the same way as the cooked meat that comes from America, it would keep. I have not tried it, but a friend of mine is going to.

I saw another letter about a material for making the wings of flies; the idea struck me that if it was possible to manufacture silkworm gut flat, thin, and say, three-sixteenths of an inch wide, it would be the best thing, as it would stand the water well, could be scraped thin at the top of the wings, and could be dyed any colour; the wings could be cut out with a punch made proper size and shape.

Will some gut manufacturer kindly tell us if practicable?—I am, &c.,

Ludlow. T. B. HODGES.

## A CORRECTION.

SIR,—Will you kindly correct a slight error in last week's FISHING GAZETTE in the description of a lost fly-book? It is put Mrs. Ogden Smith, of Cheltenham; it should have been Clapham Junction, not Cheltenham. There is no fly-dresser of that name there. With many thanks for all past favours.—I am, &c.,

London, S.W., Sept. 1. MARY OGDEN SMITH.

## WHAT IS A "GENTLEMAN ANGLER"?

SIR,—If the Messrs. Satchell had commissioned Mr. Westwood to go on a Paul Pry expedition into every pretty village in England through or close by which a trout stream meanders through the meadows, and where the genial lords or squires and the more or less "scholarly" vicars and rectors are nearly all fly-fishers "to the manner born," and the scribe in question had then written and published his denunciatory libel because perhaps the said "gentlemen anglers" gave him the cold shoulder, or the keeper kicked him out of a parish or two, some excuse might be found for his distorted notions. Again, if Mr. Westwood had gone into many a small or large country town through or close by which a river flows, he might then have found plenty of "gentlemen anglers"—men who had combined and preserved the water for the common good, with restrictions as to the size of fish to be retained, "close" months, &c. David said in his wrath, that all men are liars; but this self-constituted critic deliberately writes and prints a libel on all anglers.

What, however, are the qualifications of a "gentleman angler"? Not necessarily he who rushes into print, or turns his money for luck on seeing the pale young crescent moon; or one who goes picking the pink-tinted hedge-rose, and the red poppies, or the bluebells and cowslips, or apostrophises the lark as he rises out of some daisy-dotted sod for a carol in the sky, or listens to the nightingale, or the cushat, or the songthrush, or the blackbird, or the little whitethroat serenading in suspension his little patient wife "sitting" on her eggs in the hedge below, and the angler is all the while neglecting his sport. There is a time for all things; the deepest, holiest feelings of the human breast often find no expression in words. And Izaak Walton learned to love the flowers and the rest—not all at once, but, as many thousands had since done, and as doubtless many among the thousands of anglers are still learning, and will in future learn to love God's wonderful works in our river valleys, and in the fields and byeways.

A "gentleman angler" is he who, be he a peer or be he a peasant, possesses the same abhorrence of all meannesses while angling as in his conduct towards his fellow men—one who scorns to take his fish other than by fair play, fairly fished for, fairly played, and fairly bagged. Such is the good old estimate of a "gentleman angler" and a gentleman. Besides, among English anglers and sportsmen generally there are many "gentlemen" in heart, action, and feeling who would resent any third party who attempted to poke his nose in, or going about pumping for information. How else could this modern Diogenes distinguish a "gentleman" from a "gent." (perhaps he had got no *light* in his lantern) on the Upper Thames, or the Test, the Kennet, or the Lea, in Scotland or Ireland?

Special excellence in sculpture and in painting, and even in fly-fishing, can be only acquired by continuous effort combined with genius in the former, and diligence in the latter. A "thing of beauty" destined to *live* is rarely the result of desultory effort.

Upon what grounds or proof, then, has this audacious critic bade the Francis Francises, the Seniors and the Kelsons, the Jardines and the Marstons, the Wheeldons and the venerable John Bright, and the thousands of other anglers in every station in life take a back seat and be told that they are all for "fish, fish, fishing"? that if their hook got hitched in a hedge-rose, wilfully shut their eyes to the beauty of the flower, simply because they do not rave about these things in print?—I am, &c.,

108, Bridge-road, Battersea. W. FRY.

## STATE OF THE DERBYSHIRE WYE AT BUXTON.

SIR,—I inclose you two copies of a report on the very point complained of at Buxton, as regards the pollution of the Wye. The works to remove the sewage are very nearly completed. I am not aware that gas water enters the river. Indeed, it distinctly does not do so. Perhaps you will kindly give the copy of the report to your correspondent.—I am, &c.,

ALAN BAGOT, for the Trent Conservancy.

[On reading "An Amateur Angler's" remarks about the Wye in the GAZETTE, Mr. Alan Bagot, consulting engineer of the Trent Conservancy, sent us the above note and his official report on "The Pollution Inquiry" at Buxton, as regards the river Wye. That report is dated Sept. 27, 1882, two years ago, and it offers several very valuable suggestions to remedy the evil. We have shown one to our correspondent, who says:—"My own impression, derived from one half-hour's walk, is amply confirmed by this report. From it I learn that one death from typhoid is directly traced to the river, that fish have been killed by the sewage, and are getting scarcer every day, and that the bed of the river is spoilt for spawning purposes. One witness 'does not think the *smell* of the river so bad as its *state*.' Good Heavens! then what must its state be? It is very satisfactory to learn from a private note from Mr. Bagot that 'his suggestions are now being carried out, and that the works to remove the sewage are very nearly completed.' He also informs me that 'gas-water does *not* enter the river.' Well, I had only my nose to guide me, and with that organ I did not attempt to analyse the smells. I only supposed there must be gas emanations flowing, finding their way to the river, as I saw gas works so near the water." Two years seems to be a long time to take to get ready to stop the nuisance, and we hope the Buxton local authorities will see how much it is to the interest of their town that the river should be cleansed. We hope it will be kept in view that no poisonous matter must get into the river. We believe the grayling disease in the Wye is entirely traceable to sewage.—ED.]

## FISHING IN THE TEES.

SIR,—Will you kindly inform me what part of the river Tees, between Darlington and Barnard Castle, is free to anglers? Is there any association connected with that part of the Tees, and, if so, what is the name and address of the Secretary? If you have not this information at hand, will you kindly insert the question in your next week's GAZETTE? Thanking you in anticipation, I am, &c.,

West Dulwich. H. W. SPENCE.

[We sent Mr. Spence's letter on to Mr. Sang, of Barnard Castle, author of "Trout Fly Synopsis," and he kindly replies as follows:—

Barnard Castle.

DEAR SIR,—In answer to your favour, with the exception of an occasional fieldswidth or so, there is no *free* angling between Darlington and Barnard Castle, the major portion of the river passing through the grounds of large land owners, who restrict their leave to their personal friends. Taking the Durham side of the river first, leave may be obtained from the Duke of Cleveland, upon application to his steward, W. T. Scarth, Esq., Raby Castle, Staindrop, Darlington; to *non*-residents of Barnard Castle *after* the 1st of May. This leave is available for a small slice of the Tees, above the village of Gainford, for some miles above and a quarter of a mile below Barnard Castle. Mr. Pearson, farmer, Osmondcroft, Winston, Darlington, has over a mile of excellent fishing, which he lets by the season, or he may, perhaps, give a day or two leave. Mr. Bowes' steward, R. J. Dent, Esq., Streatham House, Darlington, may give a day or two on his portion of the Tees. Now for the Yorkshire side. By *naming* a *special day*, one or two day's leave may be obtained from F. Raine, Esq., Wycliffe Hall, Greta-bridge, Yorkshire. Leave may also be obtained for a day or two from R. A. Morritt, Esq., Rokeby Hall, Greta-bridge, Yorkshire. The very Rev. Monsignor Witham, Lartington Hall, Barnard Castle, gives leave for some miles of the river above this town. I trust your correspondent has other business that brings him into our neighbourhood, otherwise our small fish are not worth coming so far north for. I might also state that on the greater portion of the river between the villages of Coniscliffe and Wycliffe, *no* leave *whatever* is granted. There is an angling Association at Darlington, Mr. Barron, solicitor, secretary. It is mainly to restrict the pumping powers of the Water Boards, and to look after the pollution of the river.

Angling here is at the lowest ebb. The recent floods have done very little to improve it. Taking it all through, it has been a very poor season, only some half dozen anglers having done at all well. Through failing health, I have not done any angling myself this year, but purpose trying when the salmon get up. It will always be a pleasure to answer any question respecting the fishing here when it is in my power to do so.—Yours faithfully, WM. SANG.

P.S.—Very glad to see of your doings in the "F. G." new series.

P.P.S.—All the above mentioned leave is *free* upon application, and in *all* cases a *stamped* addressed envelope must be enclosed.—W. S.

## A TREMENDOUS HAUL.

SIR,—I have just been told that Lady Ossington, of Ossington Hall, near Carlton, Notts, has had one of her ponds cleared out, and the result was five tons of pike, tench, and eels. My informant assures me "some of the pike were as long as a man's leg," this from an eye-witness.

"The Trent Otter" was commissioned to manufacture two tremendous landing nets for the occasion," (so he says), so you may depend upon it there is some truth in it.

What I want to know is, Mr. Editor, what did those pike live on?

Presuming there were a few roach and bream in the pond it is quite evident they would not last long; at least, I should think not, for you must not forget the eels, and I fancy it would take rather a large jack to swallow a bream 2½lb. What do you think? Say, all over 3lb. were secure.

Can you inform me how long have jack been known to go without food?

By answering the above you will greatly oblige.—I am, &c.,

MARK ANTONY.

P.S.—Have you ever known a solitary pike in a country pond live there for months and months without a particle of food in the shape of flesh of any kind? If so, how did it exist?

[There are cases on record of solitary pike having been found dead in ponds after they had eaten all the other fish, including their smaller brethren. Fish will certainly live for months without food, but for how many we cannot say. When the fish are gone a pike often gets a good meal in the shape of a young moorhen, coote, or duckling, or a frog or water-rat. Pike will eat tench, and eels they prefer to anything. A heavy pike, say, over 15lb., would think nothing of a 3lb. or 4lb. jack or bream. We have seen a big pike kill and eat jack two feet in length.—ED.]

## DEE-CEITS AND DEE-LUSIONS.

By COTSWOLD ISYS, Author of "An Angler's Strange Experiences."

I.

We came to Dee one hot July,
And hoped for splendid angling;
But with us disappointment came
To give our hopes a mangling;
For, soon as we arrived, we heard,
"The time for Dee is over—
You'd now catch trout almost as soon
From off the pier at Dover."

II.

We find the river all extremes,
'Tis or too dull or bright thing;
'Tis now too high; 'tis now too low;—
It never is the right thing!
And every stream around's the same,
Success we never shall win;
For, sure as fate, there's something wrong
Whene'er we fish the Alwen.

III.

We try for grayling, then we hear,
To-day those fish were ailing!
We try for trout, and then are told
We should have fished for grayling!
We try the lake, and then they say,
"They'd on the river take well."
Next day the river, then we hear,
"They rose upon the lake well."

IV.

Whene'er we spinning-minnows take,
There is a splendid rise, sir;
When we take flies, the fish take worms,
When worms, they fancy flies, sir.
Thus, all we do for right is wrong,
Dame Fortune won't befriend us;
Wind, weather, water, fish, and flies,
Conspire bad luck to send us.

V.

And when at eve we notes compare
With some successful brother,
We find the flies we used were wrong,
We should have tried—some other.
"And how long did you fish?" "Till three,
Then home till eve we wended."
"The very hour the rise began,
And just at five it ended."

VI.

We thought the fishing free, but found
Subscription tickets needed;
Tho' many fish who do not pay.
Perhaps we're fools that we did!
We brought no stockings waterproof,
Nor thought that Dee invaders
Demanded for success; but find
No chance except for waders!

VII.

Our patience needs for worthy praise
The pen that writes evangels;
And could you see our merriment
You'd say we're more than angels.
For jovial are we under all
That turns out thus mishaply;
And quite as jolly under woe
As ever was Mark Tapley!

**LAMPLOUGH'S PYRETIC SALINE.**—Mr. Lamplough has sent us a bottle of his world-famed "Pyretic Saline" for notice, and as hundreds of our readers are just off for their holidays, we can strongly advise them to include a bottle of this delicious and refreshing saline in their outfit. A sudden change of air often has an unpleasant effect for a day or two, but a teaspoonful of this effervescing salt will soon put that straight, and also prevent any ill-effects from over exertion or exposure in the sun. We have used it for many years, and can with every confidence recommend it as a perfectly safe, simple, delicious medicine for old and young. It is the best "pick-me-up" anyone can use who has to attend many dinners and drink all kinds of doubtful drinks.

SALMON & TROUT-FISHING.

CHAS. FARLOW & Co.,
191, STRAND, London, W.C.,
MANUFACTURERS OF FIRST-CLASS RODS AND TACKLE, SALMON AND TROUT FLIES, SUITABLE FOR ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD.
Mahseer Tackle in Great Variety.
Makers of Split Cane Rods.
Improved Folding Trout Landing Nets
(Very Light).
New Patent Lever Salmon Winch
(Can be regulated to any stiffness at will).
PENNELL'S TACKLE KEPT IN STOCK.
CATALOGUES GRATIS. PRIZE MEDALS. IMPORTERS OF SILKWORM GUT.

JAMES OGDEN,
28, WINCHCOMB STREET, CHELTENHAM,
PRACTICAL ANGLER, FLY DRESSER, AND MANUFACTURER OF EVERY DESCRIPTION OF FISHING TACKLE,
JAMES OGDEN'S NEWLY-INVENTED PREMIER SPINNER,
Regd. Nov. 13th, 1883. This Bait is constructed upon an entirely new and improved principle. Salmon or Pike, 6s. 6d. ; Trout, 5s. ; smaller do., 3s. 6d.
SILVER OR GILT.
Also coloured, similar to the Devon Baits, &c.
The Editor of the FISHING GAZETTE says :—" It is a splendid bait for pike. It spins so easily, and holds so well when the fish strikes."

A NEW PERFECT FLY AND SPINNING LINE.

" IT'S SIMPLY PERFECTION." Such is the unanimous report of all who have used the new line for both fly and mid-water fishing.

All the advantages of the original Acme are present in the improved and perfected make, together with well-nigh everlasting durability.

INCREASED CASTING FACILITIES ; FREEDOM FROM IRRITATING ENTANGLEMENTS ; and GENERAL ENHANCED COMFORT OF FISHING.

Are these things to be lightly passed by ? Every follower of the art deemed GENTLE will admit the value of such attainments.

" As a Casting Medium the Acme Lines are unsurpassed."—Vide the entire British Sporting Press.

Emil Weeger, in a leader on the Acme Line, appearing in the Austrian SPORTING TIMES, says :—" I find the Acme more valuable than all others."

Samples of the Improved Metal Centred Line may be tested prior to purchasing.

Lengths returned within twelve months from date of purchase, as not meriting entire satisfaction, will be exchanged for cash originally paid for them.

This unprecedented condition of purchase is proof of the confidence of the proprietors, whose habitual patrons have largely used the new improved Line this and last season.

See the Line and test it. SAMPLES, POST FREE, TO ALL APPLICANTS.

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SOLE MANUFACTURERS AND INVENTORS,
ASHBOURNE.
None are genuine without the word PATENT affixed to label.

SPIERS AND POND'S
GAIETY RESTAURANT,
STRAND.

THE HOME DINNER DAILY at 5.30 till 8 p.m.
Consisting of Soup, Fish, Joint, Vegetables, Bread and Cheese, *ad lib.*
2s. 6d.
GRILL ROOM for Suppers open till Midnight.
SPIERS and POND, Limited.

" Art, empire, earth itself, *to change* are doomed."—THE HERMIT.

## EXCHANGE.

### Things Wanted—to BUY, to SELL, or to EXCHANGE.

N.B.—We take no responsibility whatever in connection with advertisements inserted in this or other parts of this paper ; but beg our readers to expose any case of imposition. The prices for inserting advertisements in this " EXCHANGE " Column are 6d. per line for one, or 4d. per line for more than one insertion.—Address, Manager, FISHING GAZETTE, 12 and 13, Fetter Lane, London, and send stamps with the order, or the advertisement cannot be inserted.

WANTED.—Particulars and Prices of Second-hand Books on Angling and Fish Culture. Must be in good condition.—Address Editor, FISHING GAZETTE, 12 and 13, Fetter-lane, London, E.C.

44 HANDBOOKS, issued by Authority in connection with the International Fisheries Exhibition of 1883 ; unsoiled, cost £1 8s. ; price 10s.—Letters only to Fisherman, 22, Little Windmill-street, W.

FISHING GAZETTE, well bound, cloth boards, gilt lettered, 1879, 1880, 1881, 1882, cost 12s. 6d. each. Offers wanted.—Apply, Adam Smith, Chemist, Wednesbury.

EGGS OF SALMONIDÆ (TROUT, LAKE TROUT, AND CHAR).

Splendid eggs of the above fish can be had at the lowest prices.
Also
FINE FRY of LEATHER and TABLE CARP, TENCH, GOLD or FEN, &c., &c.
For particulars of prices write to F. ZENK, Proprietor of the SEEWIESE FISHERY, near GEMUNDEN, O.M, GERMANY.
REFERENCES KINDLY PERMITTED TO
Mr. R. B. MARSTON, Editor of the "FISHING GAZETTE."

Dr. ZENK would be glad to hear from anyone who has an English BITCH OTTER HOUND for Sale.

ESTABLISHED 1853.
MRS. LETITIA J. BROCAS,
Artificial Fly Dresser, and Manufacturer of every description of Fishing Tackle
*(Many years of 4, Mill-street, Hanover-square, W.),*
HAS REMOVED TO
5, ROCHESTER ROW, VICTORIA STREET, S.W.,
Near the Army and Navy Stores.
⁂ *TROUT AND SALMON FLIES DRESSED TO ANY PATTERN.*

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## RIVER REPORTS.

### TIME OF HIGH WATER IN THE THAMES.

To find the time of high water in the Thames at any of the following places, to the time of high water at London Bridge (given below).

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Add | 30 minutes for | Chelsea. |
| | 40 „ | Putney. |
| | 45 „ | Hammersmith. |
| | 50 „ | Barnes. |
| | 55 „ | Kew. |
| | 75 „ | Richmond. |
| | 80 „ | Twickenham. |
| | 85 „ | Teddington. |

Example :—If it is high water at 2 o'clock at London Bridge, it will be high water at Teddington about 3.25, or eighty-five minutes later ; but it must be remembered that a strong wind accelerates or retards the tide very much.

FOR TIMES OF HIGH WATER AT LONDON BRIDGE.

| | Morning. | Afternoon. |
|---|---|---|
| Saturday, September 6 | 2.17 | 2.34 |
| Sunday, „ 7 | 2.52 | 3.11 |
| Monday, „ 8 | 3.30 | 3.49 |
| Tuesday, „ 9 | 4.7 | 4.28 |
| Wednesday, „ 10 | 4.49 | 5.9 |
| Thursday, „ 11 | 5.31 | 5.54 |
| Friday, „ 12 | 6.20 | 6.47 |

### THE LOWER THAMES.

GENERAL REMARKS.

It is remarkable, the amount of angling that is done in this portion of the Metropolitan river. There is no diminution in the attendance of anglers, and there is no decrease in character of sport. On the contrary, the returns evidence this week there are any quantity of fish in the Thames. In the tidal waters the reports are thus prefaced :—" The water is not quite so thick here, but plenty of mud is left behind. The fish they are catching are so numerous that the fishermen do not take the trouble of counting them ; they send their customers away with a good bag-full, and under-estimate their takes rather than overdo it." The rain is certainly improving the upper waters above the locks, but it will take a great deal more to bring it to its normal height. Mr. Spreckley appears most anxious to increase the sport of catching chub with the fly, and his opinion is if the chub-fishers will be careful to return all fish under ten inches in the extreme length, the chub in time will give the same pleasure and amusement to fly-fishers as the dace now do in the Tideway. It is reported that the flounder-catching season is so far one of the best on record. The netsmen say they are not only getting the fish in better quantities, but much larger in size ; and this improvement is entirely due to the visits and work of Mr. Spreckley during the last two or three years.

most promisingly for the fishermen, but unfortunately, through the lack of rain there has been an absence of "freshes," the consequence being that the river has been in such a state as to render it almost impossible for the fish to make headway up the river. The small amount of fish that has been taken has been caught by top-fishing with the bow-net, and the regular fishermen have met with much opposition from persons who only in such seasons as the present trouble to take out a license. Many of the poor fellows are considerably worse off now than they were at the opening of the season; indeed, it has been stated by one of the older men that many of them are penniless and in debt. There can be little doubt that the fishermen have many grievances, and with a view to obtaining a remedy they intend to memorialise the Board of Conservators at their meeting on Saturday, asking them to petition the Home Secretary for an extension of the fishing season. Mr. Phillips, the secretary to the Board, is favourable to an extension, but suggests that the fishermen should go direct to the Home Secretary themselves; but they feel that if the Board of Conservators would assist them in obtaining the necessary powers, the deputation would have much greater weight. The fishermen of the Trent, the Esk, and the Tees are combining in this action, and are memorialising their respective Boards, having a similar object in view. There are other grievances of which the men complain, the principal of which is that owing to the river being a tidal one, and that the weekly closing time extends from twelve o'clock at noon on Saturday to six o'clock on Monday morning, they lose an ebb every fortnight. This would be avoided if the time was altered to close at 6 p.m. on Saturday to 3 a.m. on Monday. The men are sanguine that the movement will be successful, and before another season the fishing will be extended for an additional fourteen days.—H. T. Gardiner.

### Ouse (Huntingdon).

Very little has been done this last week with the exception of the 2nd, when one gentleman took one hundred and forty roach, bream, and perch. The water has been, and is now, in splendid condition, and the weather very favourable.—H. Rout.

### Severn and Teme (Worcester).

Since I last wrote, there have been many anglers upon the streams, and on the whole, sport has been good; fly-fishing for grayling is now one of the leading methods of angling, and a few fine fish have been landed. Mr. A. V. Holland, 2½ brace; Mr. Gwillham, ½ brace; Mr. Meredith, 1 brace; myself, 4½ brace. Some excellent roach, perch, dace, and chub have been weighed in; best basket 7lb. Mr. Davis and Mr. Bird caught two good dishes of trout, each had fish over 1lb. each, one dish of fish, 7lb., the other 6½lb. The members of St. John's Amateur Angling Club held their third contest on their club waters, the Lower Teme; there were about a dozen met; the result was thus:—Mr. Barter, prize 1; Mr. Porter, 2; Mr. Cole, 3; Mr. Burgess, 4. At six o'clock Mr. Bennett put in his appearance with everything ready to take our photographs; that done, the party returned to the club-house, the Cock Inn, St. John's, and there after doing justice to a good repast, the evening was spent in song and sentiments.—J. A. Griffin.

### Severn (Shrewsbury).

The rain which fell in the early part of the week caused the Severn to rise about two feet. Several good minnow-spinners were out, but not a fish could be moved. Prior to the flush Mr. Beddle hooked a good trout, but the fly used being very small, unfortunately came away. I have seen some very nice lots of roach taken by bottom-fishing with gentles. Water is now getting into nice order for the fly, but the wind is rather strong from the N.N.W., and unless there is a change for the better little or nothing will be done.—Sandfly.

### South Level Cut (Littleport).

The weeds are still dead against anything, though I think not so thick. The following are a few of the best takes:—August 29, Mr. W. L. Agger, Cambridge, 14lb. of good roach; August 30, Dr. Cooper, president of the Cambridge and Ely Angling Society, 10lb. of nice roach; Sergt. B. Brashier, Littleport, among 6lb. of good roach, a nice specimen roach going 1lb. 2oz.; and Mrs. W. Clarke, Merton, Surrey, 6lb. of good roach during morning; September 2, Mr. W. L. Agger, Cambridge, 14lb., and Mr. H. Lee, Cambridge, 8lb. of very nice roach; Mr. J. P. Gray, Cambridge, 4lb., and Mr. S. Ratliffe, London, 8½lb. of good roach; September 3, Mr. H. Mills, Cambridge, 6½lb. of good roach, Mr. D. Flack, 12lb., Dr. Cooper, Cambridge, 5½lb. (largest 1lb.), Mr. W. Dewberry, Cambridge, 5½lb., Mr. H. F. Cross, Cambridge, 8lb. of fine roach; Messrs. A. J. and B. S. Knowles, Cambridge, 9½lb. of roach; Mr. S. Ratliffe, London, 14lb. of roach, the best sample of the season. Keeper Benton gives me the following:—September 2, Mr. J. Turner, lay clerk, Ely, a nice catch of roach; Mr. J. Bickley, Ely, a nice catch of roach; September 1, Mr. Piggott, Ely, forty nice roach and perch.—Chalie South.

### Teme (Ludlow).

Since last report some welcome showers have fallen, and on Sunday a gentle rain descended during the whole of the morning, though very refreshing, that did not raise the Teme to anything worth mentioning, but the tributaries benefited to a slight extent. Since the showers the fish have risen to the fly very nicely; the bottom-fishing is also much better. On the 31st, or last day of the month, the thermometer showed a great change from the 24th (that day week); instead of registering 100 deg., in the sun, it only registered 65 deg,—a deal more pleasant for anglers. A gentleman named Machell was fishing on Friday below the Ashford Weir on the Teme, when he managed to land fifteen fine grayling and several trout. I saw a gentleman below the Moss House, on Monday night, who caught, with the wasp grub, four trout, twelve grayling, and five "rough" fish, also two small eels. A gentleman last night went up Lord Windsor's waters and tried the coachman and the white-winged coachman. He fished down as far as the Burway Meadows, and then the fish failed to take the bait. He landed, however, up the park waters thirteen grayling, six trout, and four roach; the grayling and trout turned the scale easily at 15lb. Grayling are very plentiful all up the Teme. I am informed that up the Knighton waters the Teme is so low that the fish are to be caught by hundreds in the deep holes, where they become an easy prey to the river poacher. A few fish have been caught up above Clun, in the deep portions of the river. Seven grayling and five trout were landed with the red ant on Monday in this river by a riparian owner from Ludlow. The Ony is low, but the deep waters have afforded some good fishing. In the Corve, from the railway bridge to Felton, good fish have been caught. Very little doing in the Letwyche. A case of fishing without license in these waters has been partially heard at the sessions here, and adjourned for the attendance of the Clerk to the Severn Fishery Board, the question arising whether "A tributary of a tributary" comes under the act or by-laws of the board.—S. Ludlow.

### Teme (Tenbury).

There is quite an alteration in the state of the water in this district. Rain having fallen in heavy showers the last few days has made the water in capital fishing order, and is now gradually, but slowly, rising. The fish have been sporting well, since the rain, at the fly, and some very good baskets have been taken. The best killing on the water are the green insect, whirling blue, and silver-twisted blue. Some capital sport has been had with the wasp grub. Some capital sport has been had with the wasp grub. Some very good trout and grayling were shown to us by a gentleman who had been fishing, near Corn Brook, with the whirling blue, on Friday, averaging 10oz. each. The wasp grub was tried in the water near Burford the same day, and some very good grayling were landed. In the water near the town some nice fish were caught with the green insect. On Saturday, the fish were sporting well at the fly. A gentleman fishing the water below Easton Court, with the whirling blue and twisted blue, landed a good basket of 7lb. of fine trout and grayling. Below the bridge, a gentleman took six very nice trout with the wasp grub. At Rochford, some very good trout and grayling have been taken by a

MUTUAL ASSURANCE WITH MODERATE PREMIUMS.

SCOTTISH PROVIDENT INSTITUTION,
No. 6, ST. ANDREW SQUARE, EDINBURGH.
*LONDON—No. 17, KING WILLIAM STREET, E.C.*

SHORT STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES.

This Society differs in its principles from any other Office. Instead of charging rates higher than are necessary, and afterwards returning the excess in the shape of periodical Bonuses, it gives from the first as large an assurance as the Premiums will with safety bear—reserving the whole Surplus for those Members who have lived long enough to secure the Common Fund from loss.

A Policy for £1,200 to £1,250 may thus, at most ages, be had for the Premium usually charged for £1,000 only; while by *reserving* the surplus, large additions have been given—and may be expected in the future—on the Policies of those who live to participate.

Its terms are thus well calculated to meet the requirements of intending Assurers. They are specially adapted to the case of Provisions under Family Settlements, or otherwise, where it is frequently of importance to secure, for the smallest present outlay, a competent provision, of definite amount, in the case of early death.

EXAMPLES OF PREMIUM FOR ASSURANCE OF £100 AT DEATH, WITH PROFITS.

| Age. | Payable during life. | Limited to 21 Payments. | Age. | Payable during life. | Limited to 21 Payments. | Age. | Payable during life. | Limited to 21 Payments. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 25 | £1 18 0 | £2 12 6 | 35 | £2 6 10 | £3 0 2 | 45 | £3 5 9 | £3 17 6 |
| 30 | 2 1 6* | 2 15 4 | 40 | 2 14 9 | 3 7 5† | 50 | 4 1 7 | 4 12 1 |

* Thus a person of 30 may secure £1,000 at death by a yearly payment, *during life*, of £20 15s. This Premium would generally elsewhere secure £800 only, instead of £1,000. Or he may secure the same sum of £1,000 by *twenty-one* yearly payments of £27 13s. 4d., *being thus free of payment after age 50.*

† At age 40 the Premium, *ceasing at age 60*, is, for £1,000, £33 14s. 2d., being about the same as most Offices require to be paid during the whole term of life. Before that period, the Policy will have shared in at least one division of profits.

THE ACCUMULATED FUNDS EXCEED £4,850,000,

Only two Offices (both older) have as large a Fund.
CLAIMS ARE NOW PAYABLE ONE MONTH AFTER PROOF.

Copies of the Report, with Statement of Principles, may be had on application.
Edinburgh, September, 1884.
JAMES WATSON, Manager.

Secretary in London: J. MUIR LEITCH.

gentleman who was visiting there, with the fly and wasp grub this week. The water below Little Hereford was tried on Monday, and a very good lot of fish were taken with the whirling blue. In the water near Eastham some very good fish have been taken by a gentleman who was fishing with the twisted blue and green insect. On Tuesday, the water near Berrington Court was tried with the fly, and some very good grayling were taken averaging ½lb. each. Some very good grayling were landed near the bridge with the wasp grub. The Kyre and Rea are both in good fishing order and are slightly risen, the fish are sporting well, and some very nice samples of fish have been taken from them. A gentleman fishing in the Kyre, near Burntlands, landed a very nice dish of fine trout; a good dish was taken in the water near the Parks with the wasp grub. Near Cleobury North, some very good fish have been landad from the Rea. A very good dish was taken near to Neen Sollars with the wasp grub. A few very good fish have been taken in the Ledwyche this week with the wasp grub.—Worcester.

### Torridge (Torrington).

River now in good order for fishing after the big flood on Monday, when lots of eels and other fish were taken; since many peal have been hooked, mostly with the Devon bait. During the last three days a quantity of large dace have been caught float fishing.—Practical Angler.

### Trent (Alrewas).

The late rains have coloured the water, and it is now in capital condition for all kinds of fishing. Some very fine baskets of roach have been secured, one fish scaling 1lb. 10oz. Perch still continue to feed freely, a member of the Association taking fifteen one day this week, some of them 1lb. each. Grayling are rising well at the fly. Trout in the tributaries full of spawn, and should not now be taken.

### Trent (Newark).

After sending off my last week's report the weather improved, and, consequently, angling was followed with some little degree of success. A friend of mine out for two or three days succeeded in getting a nice lot of roach and bream, seven or eight good chub, and a nice jack of seven or eight pounds, captured with a spoon-bait. Bream and roach were taken with tail-end of lob-worms, and the chub took a fancy to a few wasp-grubs. We have had some heavy rains, which brought the water on a bit. but it soon went down again, and I fancy we had a little extra again yesterday. I hope we shall get a good water down the Trent before long to sweep away all the flannel-weed. I might add the flannel-weed begins to show signs of decay; but still, a good flood would do a lot of good. I heard of one or two of our local anglers operating on a barbel swim the other day, with the result of getting seven or eight good fish, but I did not hear particulars; but I understood the swim was in the Holme fishery two or three miles below here. To-day we have had a nasty cold north wind, and nothing much has been done. Water not in very bad form, and tail-end of lobs seeming the best bait.—The Trent Otter.

### The Trent (Nottingham).

There has been a flush of water on the river this week, and the vast quantities of "flannel" weed, of which I had mentioned in previous reports, have for the most part been swept away. In the early part of the week anglers were unusually numerous, but owing to the weeds sweeping down, only moderate sport was met with. In the upper reaches roach and dace were found to accept the maggot somewhat freely, and takes of fish from 7lb. to 12lb. were made. On Wednesday the river had nearly reached its normal summer height, and should fine weather continue there is still a chance of the barbel-anglers killing some of these most-desired fish.—The Man at the Clubs.

### Usk.

Up to this week the river has been so low that very little sport was obtained by the rod and line; but the river during the past three or four weeks has been frequently netted and several hundred fish taken. On Monday last, however, the steady rain during a day or two previous, rose the water between three and four feet, and the river is now in good order for angling. On Wednesday Col. Rocke landed four nice fish. Mr. Berrington's keeper, four; Mr. Humphreys, two; and Mr. Waring, one. On Thursday the report of the day's sport had not reached us.—Argus.

### Waveney (Beccles).

Nothing extraordinary has come to my knowledge this week from angling quarters, as weather has been rather unsettled. Nearly all last night and to-day (Thursday) it has been raining cats and dogs, and unless it ceases shortly I fear the results will be very disastrous to fishing. Mr. G. Algar, on Tuesday, angling near Six Mile Corner, grassed 130 roach, all over 7in., and many ½lb. fish amongst them, and one monster, 16½in. long; also three pike, averaging 3lb. I also hear that a lad, by name Francis, captured a fine roach weighing 1½lb. Several members of the Waveney Angling Club were out fishing on Tuesday, but owing to unfavourable state of the weather the catches were very small. Present prospects *nil*.—A Waveney Angler.

### Witham.

The water in the Witham has been much improved by the rain of the past few days. Fish are being very freely caught at most stations, and some excellent bags are made. The number of visitors was not quite so large as usual, probably owing to the proximity of Doncaster racing holiday, a holiday which anglers, as well as others of the general public, so well patronised. Details of the captures have not come to hand as yet, but excepting that they are large, there is nothing special about them.—Yellow Belly.

### Wye and Derwent.

There was a very great deal of heavy thunder and rain fell in Derbyshire both on Sunday and Monday, which was the cause of discolouring both rivers a little. In fact, the Derwent has had a beautiful nut-brown coloured water on it the whole of the week. The bottom fishers on various parts of the Derwent have done fairly well with both maggots and wasp grubs for baits, killing trout, grayling, chub, roach, dace, and several eels. One eel of 4lb. was killed last night (Wednesday) with wasp grub while fishing for trout. The fly fishers have done much better since the rain, and baskets from 4 to 8 brace per angler have been daily made, chiefly by the aid of honey dun bumble, red, and ash dun flies. A hear great complaints from the anglers who have fished the Darley Dale club waters, as to the smallness of the fish in their water. I am afraid the fish have been taken out while the Derwent has been so very low.—Geo. Jas Eaton.

### The Yare (Norwich).

The weather has been unsettled since Sunday, and sport, both with the roach and the bream, has been indifferent, though host Garrett told me last night that one or two parties had caught 3st. of roach. One boat, at Cantley, on Tuesday, caught about 60lb. of bream, but several others there did nothing. From Brundall, Flowers tells me they have had better sport than at any time during the season; several gentlemen there have been successful nearly every day. Prospects not over bright; been raining all day.—R. Moll.

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NOTICE.

Several River and Club Reports have come to hand too late this week; and Mr. Kelson's article on "Fly Dressing—Major Traherne's Flies" has to be omitted in consequence of the engraving not being ready.

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September, 1884.

Aw. H. TURNBULL, Manager.
J. J. P. ANDERSON, Secretary.

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# The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1884.

## ON THE DESCRIPTION OF SALMON FLIES.

By Mr. Geo. M. Kelson.

### Major Traherne's Patterns *(Continued)*.

### No. 13.—"Rouge-et-Noir."

**Frosted** thread, manufactured and sold by Mr. George Kenning, Little Britain, E.C., has won considerable favour, and is one of the most acceptable of our modern novelties. I was pleased to see it had found its way to the Standard Works, Redditch, where I noticed a goodly share of flies in readiness, nicely dressed with a few of the varieties. Messrs. Allcock and Co. are well-known wholesale manufacturers, and have a first-class superintendent at the head of this department, one whose name has been familiar for many years ; his work is always good and true—not to be wondered at, perhaps, as he hails from the right school at Sprouston.

All Major Traherne's patterns may be obtained here now at short notice ; but application must be made for them through the fishing-tackle shops. I may add that under this supervision, this special care, of Mr. Robert Wright, even the "Chatterer," the most delicate fly in creation to make properly, can be satisfactorily dressed and supplied in all sizes.

Referring to these threads, the first that I introduced for this work some six or seven years since was that more intimately known by the name of copper-coloured tinselled chenille. Endurance, perhaps, is not one of their special qualities ; but, at any rate, they provide us with a thorough change ; and, perhaps, for grubs, there are few, if any, that are preferable to this one.

We are all aware that salmon soon become accustomed to anything fresh, and that which they may favour most one year is often treated by them with utter contempt the next ; like ourselves, they want change sometimes—why not ?—that confounded test, "Toujours," is as galling to them presumably as it is to us. However, fishermen generally look to the present, and leave the future to take care of itself. Still, some "thorough change" does work wonders at times in every salmon river in Europe. I believe the tricoloured is best for bright low water during the day time, and the steel assortment in the evening. The former, gold, silver, and copper, on three threads, makes rather a robust body ; but in low water time, there is very little hackle used, and in some rivers, then, no wings at all—a fashion well worth a trial everywhere.

A body, say half of silver tinsel, with King Paradise above and below, completed with any of these chenilles, having the throat of scarlet Tanager and Jay, and Peacock's herl wings, would be something sombre, and fresh and pretty sure to kill in bright or in coloured water.

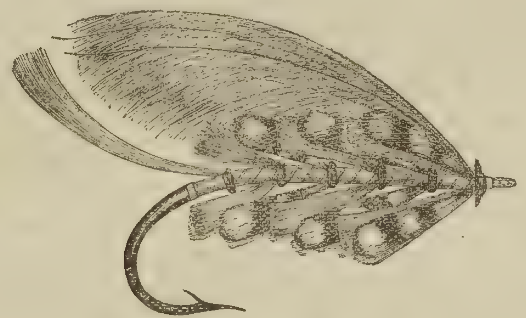
The network of tinsel on these threads being concrescible, is naturally easier to manage on those that are single ; but it can be massed to suit one's fancy on any of them with care by cutting off a little extra in length, and leading it along the thread as you progress in making up the body, taking the supply from the opposite end. While, on the other hand, a little divesting process is sometimes advantageous ; for instance, the "Glowworm" is entirely of copper, but when this sort is used for very small flies, unravelling is necessary, instead of coalescing the tinsel into a closer mass.

The hackle should be wound along the body before you press and shape the chenille, and when this is done, pay attention not to hem in and thus imprison the fibres, which are always to be allowed their freedom.

The only secret in managing the oval tinsel for bodies is simply to wind each lap very tightly. But the embossed kind will not bear this hauling, neither can it be bevelled. Still, it makes a useful fly. "Dunkeld" was, and is, a great favourite here and there ; but this dented tinsel is not one to dote on—it is dreadfully brittle, and cannot be touched with the silicon tablet. Some of the coloured samples of the plain make splendid bodies. "Birdyboy" and "Canadian Wonder," the former of ruby, the other of aqua marine, are old and valued specimens, and kill anywhere ; the brilliancy, though, does not survive long, and the dye disappears altogether after a certain amount of work. There was a "sovereign remedy" not long ago—some sort of white-hard varnish ; but I am sorry I have lost sight of the directions for making it. I hear of a waterproof glue which would probably serve pretty well, but have not tried it. And here again the silicon tablet is not only useless, but injurious. The Japanese tinsel we should never use at all ; it is a mistake altogether.

In alluding now to this week's illustration, I need not quote old, hackneyed, and threadbare dictums, which derived their origin from some similar combination to this used in tailing worn-out old Scotch patterns. Perhaps the mixture of these two Indian birds was not seen to quite so much advantage in those days ; neither were novel attractions so keenly sought after.

But, just now, anything and everything is useless. Having no water and no fish, anglers are weary of waiting for work, and many of them are flown to forests of heath and heather, or to the eternal calm of mountains for other exercise, and for other enjoyment. After the great heat of an unparalleled summer, a short spell among the grouse in wild, romantic scenery, which ever lends a delightful charm to this health-giving pursuit, will brace them up for the "Blackberry fish," which, now that the barometer is falling, and depressions foretold, there is still a hope of seeing.



Anticipation is robed in infidelity in such dry angling seasons ; and when the turnips are thin and patchy, and when even that famous low water catch on the Tweed, the Sycamore Pool, with its trees "spreading in gentle pomp their honeyed shade," holds no rod ; we may, indeed, pack up—we may well seek other amusements to exhilarate the spirits, as all anglers ever can.

Now, if we could dip into the future, "far as human eye can see," we might tell that sooner or later we shall be provided with other and still more suitable materials for our fly cabinets. If this vision ever be realised—and I earnestly hope, in the interest of fishermen, it may—I, for one, should give my whole vote for some serviceable provision for low water. We have, in all conscience, all we require if we make the most of it for favourable times ; but though there is much skill required in "travelling" with a worm or a prawn, and even some fun, still the enchantment is gone, and one cannot enter into such kind of sport with so much spirit. "The most" certainly appears to have been made in all of these patterns, and it seems to me there has not been one single iota overlooked. Some people with the same materials we know build palaces—others, only hovels ; but who knows—I do not—how we could billet these feathers to greater advantage, for every point seems to have been mastered—every problem probed ?

It has been suggested that inventors must be born, like the poets, the painters, or the sculptors ; well, even so, like them, study alone makes them perfect. Inspiration may lead us in a moment to the truth in any art ; but effect is the mechanical part which only long application will acquire, even as the very best actors may take a lifetime before they can command that wonderful instrument—the human heart—and strike its chords into merriment and laughter, or into sorrow and sympathy. Nevertheless, do not let any such passing remark dishearten us.

"Rouge-et-noir" takes my fancy very much—we should always have one with us ; but size is everything. It is described :—

Tag : Silver twist and topping coloured silk.
Tail : Topping.
Butt : Black herl.
Body : In five sections, butted ; the first and third, four red crows as illustrated over and under the same coloured floss silk ; the second and fourth jungle cock, as shown over blue rock coloured silk (the blue rock is the medium coloured chatterer), and the fifth division of red claret silk.
Ribbed : Fine oval tinsel.
Throat : Two jungle top and bottom as before, but placed over two red crow, the points of the latter in advance.
Wings : Toppings.
Horns : Blue macaw.
Head : Black herl.

## AN AMATEUR ANGLER'S DAYS IN DOVE DALE.—(No. 7.)

> "All pleasures but the angler's bring
> I' the tail repentence, like a sting.
> Then on the banks let me sit down,
> Free from the toilsome sword and gown;
> And pity those that do affect
> To conquer nations and protect.
> My rod affords such true content,
> Delights so sweet and innocent,
> As seldom fall unto the lot
> Of sceptres, though they're justly got."
> —THOS. WEAVER, Master of Arts.

MONDAY, Aug. 11th, was not an uninteresting day for us. In the morning I walked down to the water with the major; he piscatorially equipped, I with my walking stick.

The sun was scorching, and the water bright, and low, and glistening, and yet, with these things against him, the major captured three brace of fine trout before luncheon; whilst the success of other piscators at "The Izaak" may be summed up in these lines:

> "The sun was burning in the skies,
> And de'il a bit would the fishes rise;
> We fished from half-past ten till four,
> And de'il a bit would we fish any more."

The afternoon we devoted to a small picnic in the woods on the Staffordshire side of the river, returning home to dinner—that is, all of our party except the major; he, with a packet of sandwiches, pursued his calling up the Dove.

Let me mention here that as I was strolling through the wood I saw a poor little field-mouse right in the middle of the grassy road, making the most curious contortions: first it would stand up on its hind legs with the two fore-paws resting on its breast, and its tiny nose peering upwards and around—one could almost fancy it was saying its prayers; then suddenly it would twirl round like a whirligig, then fall down and roll over and over as if in agony; it would then hide under the grass, perfectly quiet, as if dead. It did not seem to mind my presence at all.

I fancied it must have been stung or injured in some way, so I took it up in my hand, where it seemed to be contented and easy for a time; then it would resume those curious contortions, then rush up my sleeve, then lie perfectly still with its little cheek huddled against the palm of my hand.

I examined it as carefully and tenderly as I could; but I could discover no injury. I carried it in this way on the palm of my hand for a considerable distance, till I met the old donkey-woman, who told me it was called a *shrew* in those parts, that it gives out a musk-like smell, and that cats would not touch it; but I still maintain that it was a field-mouse. I have since learnt that a *shrew* has very small eyes and a much longer snout; in other respects the resemblance is almost exact.

On stroking its fur once or twice the wrong way, with my best spectacles on, I think I discovered the cause of its misery; the little wretch was swarming with an active little insect, the scientific name of which, I believe, is *pulex irritans;* but it is more commonly known as the bed flea!

It is, perhaps, needless to say that my tender sympathy for my little mouse received a severe shock, and without more ado I hastily deposited it in the hedge-row out of harm's way from wheel or hoof.

I have heard of swallows being thus inhabited; but until now I was quite unaware that this interesting insect is common alike to "mice and men." Doubtless this is another example of my crass ignorance; a well-educated countryman would have passed him by on the other side for fear of the fleas! A clodhopper, perhaps, would have put his hobnailed boot on him without compunction.

After dinner I once again sallied forth with my rod, more, however, with a view of following up the major than with any expectation of success on my own account.

I fished till it was too dark for me to fish any longer, but nothing happened; and then I waited under the grey rocks the return of the major.

About half-past eight I dimly discerned across the water, and descending the the Sharplow Bank, a fisherman, with rod, net, and basket. "Here at last is the major," said I. and I shouted, "Is that you, *piscator?*"

"No, sir," came the reply. "My name is Taylor." "All right," said I.

It grew darker and darker, and walking very slowly under the grey cliffs, my grey suit must have rendered me quite invisible across the water, when I could just distinguish two dark moving figures.

"Probably night poachers," I said, and when I shouted, "Cooey! cooey!" with a hoarse and rather cracked tone of voice, my two friends took to their heels like madmen, and I could soon distinguish their dark figures 'twixt sky and hill as they disappeared over the top. I guess them to have been a couple of cockney tourists scared by the unearthly sounds which reached them from across the water.

It had now become quite dark, and I began to feel anxious for the return of the adventurous major, who would have to walk two or three miles after leaving off fishing at dusk.

I sat upon a gate for half an hour or more, constantly whistling and cooeying, but no response came out of those weird and ghostly valleys.

I had waited and whistled so long that at last I had worked myself into a state of morbid terror lest some untoward accident should have befallen him in those slippery, dark, and most dangerous places.

At last, to my great relief, a responsive whistle came up out of the dark, and we soon reached home, when the major turned eleven fine trout out of his bag, making, with the three brace caught in the morning, 8½ brace as the result of his day's work.

By the way, I wonder if there is a nunnery hereabout. The river was invaded yesterday by a small army of nuns, or Sisters of Mercy, old and young, many of them very pretty, and it was really quite amusing to see them paddling about with their naked feet in the water, not in the least abashed by the knowledge that they were "cynosures of neighb'ring eyes."

Farther down the Dale, I saw a troop of donkeys, all with side-saddles. Were they waiting the return of the nuns? If so, I should have liked to see them mounted. What a grotesque cavalcade it must have been! We might have fancied ourselves in Spain, to see these stately dames in their closely-fitting hoods, white kerchiefs round their blooming cheeks and flowing snowy lappets, ambling down the Dale or scrambling in double file over the rocky banks.

Aug. 13.—Now our pleasant holiday is drawing to a close; this is our last day. Alas! to-morrow must we quit these pleasant hills and lovely dales, and return to the land of Egypt and the house of bondage.

I came here three weeks ago a dyspeptic old man; I return considerably improved in health. But it just occurs to me that to complete the cure I require another month at least!

What if I call on the doctor in Ashbourne, and get his certificate to that effect? No, it cannot be; men must work and women must weep, for there's work to do and babies to keep!

Before I go let me sit under this wide-spreading beech, on the banks of the Manifold, and tell my friendly readers, if I can, what "The Izaak Walton" is like.

As the Dove is not like other rivers, so is the Izaak unlike all other hostelries. It does not stand by the roadside inviting every passer-by to step in and refresh.

If you wish to visit this hotel you must leave the turnpike road, pass through a handsome, park-like gate with stone pillars, surmounted by an escutcheon bearing the Walton and Cotton monogram, and the date 1660, and follow an open coach drive for an eighth of a mile or so, which winds upwards through a pleasant green and banky meadow; and when you reach the Izaak Walton you will find little or nothing to indicate that it is an hotel; it has more the look of a substantial rose and clematis-clad farm-house.

There is no outward signboard to invite your entrance; it is too well known to need such commonplace insignia.

It stands on a gentle eminence, backed up by the handsome hill called Bunster, and flanked on the left by green meadows leading down to the Dove and the entrance to the Dale, and beyond that, by the most conspicuous of all the hills, the well-known Thorpe Cloud, and on the right by more meadows and a spur or angle of the Bunster.

Looking southward from the front is the green meadow already mentioned, at foot of which runs the road leading to the pretty village of Ilam, and beyond this road at a meadow's breadth and parallel with it runs the river Manifold, which curious river oozes from its many miles of subterranean travelling, a short distance higher up in the grounds of beautiful Ilam Hall.[*]

Part of "The Izaak Walton" is as old, or older, than its name, for there is a tradition that in this old farmhouse the great piscator himself used to take up his abode when he had fished down the dales from Beresford Hall with his friend Charles Cotton. My chief authority for this tradition is the chatty old woman, whom I have already mentioned, who used to keep the donkeys for tourists up the Dale, but who now politely opens the gate for all comers.

The tradition is so probable that it may be taken for absolute truth, for where else could dear old Izaak Walton have more comfortably taken his ease and smoked his evening pipe than in that cosy old parlour, which still affords a welcome resting-place to weary piscators?

When the old farmhouse was converted into an hotel, now many years ago, a new wing was added to it facing Thorpe Cloud, so that now the house forms a right angle, with stables and farm buildings at the back.

I will only add that the inside of "The Izaak Walton" is as pleasant as its outside is unpretentious and picturesque.

Here, on such a spot as this, one of those brand new palatial hotels which seem always to spring up with railways would be entirely out of character with the surrounding scenery; here, if you have not the showy appearance of modern days, you have the comfortable realities.

The house is presided over by a pleasant hostess, who, although now in her 80th year, rises early, and late takes rest, and looks well after the affairs of her household.

She is an active, energetic, bright, and very genial old lady, and I hear that at the annual ball at the Hall she still dances with the best of them.

Then there are her good son and daughter-in-law, as popular as she, for they spare no pains to please their numerous guests.

The old inn at Henley, where Shenstone wrote the following well-known lines, must have been such another inn as this:

> "Whoe'er has travell'd life's dull round,
> Where'er his stages may have been,
> May sigh to think he still has found
> The warmest welcome at an inn."

If "The Izaak Walton" were twice its present size, it would still be filled with guests, for it is unique in its management, its position, and its surroundings.

You may suppose from its name that this hotel is chiefly the resort of anglers; but this is not so. Here come all sorts of people—young men and maidens, old men and children, artists, and lovers of the picturesque, clergy and laity, field naturalists and butterfly-catchers, tutors and students.

This is the very place for honeymoonists; four sets of them have been here during our short stay, and how they did moon about and enjoy themselves! How they would pretend to fish, and catch nothing but sly kisses behind the bushes! Happy young people! It does one good to see you so bright, and so unconscious of the troubles to come.

> "In the blythe days of honeymoon,
> With Kate's allurements smitten,
> I loved her late, I loved her soon,
> And called her dearest kitten.[†]

Whilst I am thus engaged in trying to bring "The Izaak Walton" home to you, my brother angler, *piscator major* is bidding a last and lingering farewell to the trout and grayling of the Dove.

I must now add, as my final record, that yesterday he brought home nine brace of splendid fish.

During our holiday we, the major and I, caught one hundred and ten well-fed trout and four grayling; or, if I must needs be more explicit, the major caught one hundred and twelve fish in ten days, and I caught *two* in three weeks. But I no longer envy him. I am humbly content to be regarded as "an amateur angler,"—as *piscator minor;* or, if you please, no piscator at all.

"I have now discovered that angling is an art," as, says Cotton's *Piscator*, "Is it not an art to deceive a trout with an artificial fly? A trout! that is more sharp-sighted than any hawk you have named, and more watchful and timorous than your high-mettled merlin is bold? And yet I doubt not to catch a brace or two to-morrow for a friend's breakfast; doubt not, therefore, sir, but that angling is an art, and an art worth your learning. The question is rather whether you be capable of learning it, for angling is somewhat like poetry, men are to be born so."

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[*] The seat of R. Hanbury, Esq., to whose great kindness we are indebted for the unusual privilege of fishing in the Manifold.

"We viewed a remarkable natural curiosity at Islam, two rivers bursting near each other from the rock, not from immediate springs, but after having been for many miles underground. Plott, in his 'History of Staffordshire,' gives an account of this curiosity; but Johnson would not believe it, though we had the attestation of the gardener, who said he had put in corks where the river Manifold sinks into the ground, and had catched them in a net, placed before one of the openings where the water bursts out."—(Boswell's "Life of Johnson.") This incident of the corks seems to have been quite forgotten in the neighbourhood. I was told, as though it was a new discovery, that the underground course of the Manifold had been proved —only a few years ago—by some one throwing *chaff* into its upper waters which came out at Ilam.

[†] I give the second verse as a footnote; its sudden sequence to the first would be too cruel.

> "But now my kitten's grown a cat,
> And cross like other wives,
> Alas! alas! my honest Mat,
> I fear she has nine lives."

I have had a pleasant time, and it has given me pleasure to record it. If I have wearied thee, gentle reader, I regret it, and now I bid thee a hearty farewell. If thou be an "honest angler," I will end as I began, by wishing, in the words of thy master, that "the east wind may never blow when thou goest a-fishing." A. A.

[Conclusion.]

## TROUT FISHING IN NORTH DEVON.—II.

We will suppose that the next day's sport will be sought in the Mole. The point of commencement is near the railway station, about half a mile to the north of the town, and the angler will probably go right up to North Molton and back again. The Mole passes under the railway a few hundred yards from the station, to the eastward—that is, to the right, as one approaches from the town—and we must get on to the left bank of the river, by means of the railway, because that side should be adhered to both on the outward and homeward journey, being more convenient to fish, and better travelling as regards fences and other impediments that have to be surmounted. Some splendid pits will be met with, and the fish run large. During the first half of the journey outwards much of the stream will be found to be so bushed that one cannot throw a fly upon it, but the farther we go upwards the better things will be in many respects. When the last three or four fields approaching the bridge at North Molton are reached, every inch of the water must be fished carefully, and the angler must not be satisfied with his care and skill if he does not, at least, *move* several trout, and they will prove to be ¼lb. and upwards, unless, by some want of diplomacy, the older and warier inhabitants of the deep pits have graciously allowed their younger and simpler brethren to accept the fly.

A few yards below the bridge is a large bend, and a deep, still pool next the bank on which the angler stands—still that is, in comparison with the rushing main current, but not actually still; there is a "swirl" or gentle back current. Here I have always moved a good fish, and have caught one, except on those rare occasions when worn or defective tackle, or undue excitement and haste, has caused a rupture that has given the trout his freedom and life for a little longer.

Above this bridge we may not go, although the fishing above is better than it is below, for that portion of the water is strictly reserved. If it is a fine hot day a valuable thirst will by this time be attained, and a walk to the Poltimore Arms will amply repay that man who likes a little good "bitter." And here I feel constrained to remark that, in the smallest and poorest-looking country inns throughout the district I am writing of, one is nearly sure of getting a good glass of real Burton ale. The vaunted home-brewed that country "publics" used to keep for thirsty travellers is well-nigh a thing of the past, and I am truly thankful that such is the case. Home-brewed was very proper for those fine and noble men—our ancestors; but "Bass" is good enough for me.

To reach the Poltimore Arms we must take a walk of half-a-mile up hill, through a long, straggling, dirty street, which will materially intensify the thirst; but the quaintness of the village and the inhabitants thereof will condone its dirtyness. The stranger must not omit to salute everyone he meets, and he will, in return, be treated with much respect, courtesy, and kindness.

After the business is despatched at the "hotel," a few minutes might be devoted to a walk round the church, which is just opposite; and, should the doors be open, a walk inside would disclose some particularly fine oak carving in the chancel, and one or two good windows.

Two or three anglers would find comfortable but plain quarters at the Poltimore Arms for a few days, and the landlord would send a trap to the station to meet visitors upon receiving due notice. This trap would be at the service of gentlemen staying in the house, to enable them to reach some of the more distant streams in the neighbourhood. The commissariat here will be found very homely, but this would be atoned by the moderateness of the charges. Streams to be reached from N. Molton are: The Bray, the Mole, and their tributaries (already mentioned), and the Barle, Dunn's Brook, Sherdon Brook (to be mentioned hereafter).

The return journey should be so timed that South Molton would be reached about dusk, and, as that period approaches, many places that failed to yield a fish in the morning will be the scene of a splash and a brief struggle as the captured one is gently lifted from his native element, having been seduced by the "white moth" or "coachman." The latter is a fly I have been peculiarly successful with, not only in the evening, but all day long when the streams are high from recent rains, and just a trifle high-coloured (not muddy).

The stream I shall next write about is the Yeo; it joins the "double water" at Bith Mill, about a mile and a half south-east of South Molton. This will be a good point to begin at. Both sides of the stream are equally good, and the angler will be decided in his choice of sides by the position of the sun and wind. We have about five miles of nominally free fishing until Molland Station is reached. I say *nominally* free, but I should have said *practically* free, as the water belongs to various owners who never forbid anyone fishing.

The Yeo is by no means free from bushes; but it is a very nice river indeed, and, when the water is tolerably high, I have had better sport here than in any of the rivers previously mentioned. The trout here, moreover, are more delicate in flavour than those from any other stream in the neighbourhood. With very low and bright water I have sometimes had very poor sport indeed. Catches with a fly in the Yeo vary from half-a-dozen to fifty *per diem*.

Molland is the next station above South Molton (the village of Molland is two good miles to the northward), and there is a good inn close at hand. Here one can satisfy the inner man, but they do not let beds. At this inn—the Black Cock—one must get a ticket to fish the river for some miles above the station, and, as the last half-mile we have fished in coming from South Molton belongs to the same owner—Sir W. Throckmorton, Bart.—it will be necessary, in any case, to call and do so. The cost is not excessive, being 1s. for the whole season.

When there is plenty of water, the stream above this point is most highly recommended. One may use any description of bait.

The angler will probably go a little way above Molland Station, and return to South Molton by train; or he might make a special journey here, and devote a day to these upper waters, for which the charge is so *high!*

The village of Molland would be a most desirable centre, as there are some capital moorland streams at the back of it; but, though it contains two respectable inns, the accommodation is not suitable. I shall, however, proceed to show how the streams in question can be got at; and, to do so, I must take the next place that may be made a centre.

Hawkridge is a small but exceedingly pretty village, about ten miles north-east of South Molton, from which place it can be reached by trap. The best way to get to it is to alight at East Anstey Station (next above Molland on Devon and Somerset Railway), where a trap can be obtained at the inn kept by Mr. Smith, who should be written to previously. Mr. Locke, carpenter, Hawkridge, lets very nice apartments, which can be highly recommended. Wine, spirits, &c., might be taken, otherwise they could be obtained from the inn at the station.

Arrived at Hawkridge, we have two streams—the Barle river, and Dunn's Brook—both quite close, and both practically free.

The Barle is a very fine river, with romantic and beautiful scenery, and large baskets of fish are sometimes taken, but sport in it is precarious. In the summer if there is much dry weather, the Barle gets very low, and the water is transparently clear, owing to the stony bottom. When this is the case, none but a very skilful angler would do much good. The skilful angler, even under these adverse circumstances, fishing "fine and far off," would probably kill a dozen trout in a day, but they would be small, and would be caught early in the morning and late at night.

Should the visitor be on the Barle when it is just going down and clearing after a "spate," he would have grand sport.

Dunn's Brook is the best trout stream I know, either here or elsewhere, for giving sport at all times and under all states of weather and water. Whilst here one will, of course, catch twice as many fish under favourable circumstances as under unfavourable ones; yet sport is always to be had. The trout are always inclined to sport at the fly, and all day long, even in hot, bright weather. The portion of the stream that would be fished from Hawkridge would be that between Castle-bridge and Upper Willingford-bridge—a distance of about six miles. Castle-bridge is about two miles below the village of Hawkridge; but, if it is desired to strike the water at a nearer point, the stream will be found at a bridge a few minutes to the south of the village, facing Anstey Moor. The last mile or two of Dunn's Brook, before reaching Castle-bridge, is worthy of being called a river; but, before Willingford is reached, it is decidedly a brook.

This is a typical moorland stream—wild, lonely, rapid, rocky, and edged with boggy ground. Frequently the angler will not meet man, woman, or child from one end of the stream to the other. It flows between wild moors, where the scream of the curlew and plover are the only sounds of life, and very melancholy sounds they are. The greater part of Dean's Brook (locally called Willingford Water) is quite bare of bushes, but the banks are here and there studded with rushes, behind which the angler, kneeling, is capitally screened from the watchful eyes of his prey. There are two bridges at Willingford (the name of a *spot*, nothing else), and, when the lower one is reached, the angler must not turn back, as the few hundred yards to be traversed before the upper bridge is reached is very good water. The lower bridge is the road from Molland to Hawkridge. The road over the higher bridge leads to Withypool—a place which I shall have something to say about hereafter. In this little stream the trout will be found to vary from the size of a small minnow to a quarter of a pound; but three ounces must be considered a very nice fish. The minnow-sized troutlets will, of course, be returned, so that the writer (or other angler) may have them when they are more worthy of death.

Up-stream fishing, a short line, complete concealment of body, rod, and shadow, and great quickness in hooking and striking, will lead to fine sport. The angler will be surprised and charmed to find how freely the fish will rise. Every yard, and all parts of the stream, whether in the centre or the sides, in the current or the eddies, will yield a fish. The grand spots for them are the stills, often only a few inches square, behind a stone that breaks the current. The moment the fly is pitched into these places it attracts the attention of the resident, who, in the twinkling of an eye, is either on the bank gasping, or has been "missed," and is consequently *missing*. In such streams as this I use only two flies on a short collar, for it is easier to watch two flies than more, and, as I have attempted to show, much watching is necessary, or these veritable gymnasts gambol over the fly and reject it.

Gaudy flies are the thing here—a red hackle and gilt twist for the stretcher, and a small "blue upright," with a little silver on it. Should the water be at all sherry-coloured from recent rains, the "coachman" will be found most deadly, and two should be used. In Dunn's Brook, one should *never* kill less than a score, and a hundred would not be deemed a remarkable catch for a "good man."

There is one spot on this stream to which I desire to call special attention, both on account of its beautiful natural surroundings, and because many large fish lurk there. If a half-pounder is to be captured in Dunn's Brook, this is the place.

A very short distance above a farm-house called Zeal, where is a crossing, and about a mile above the bridge that connects Anstey Moor with Hawkridge, we find a weir over which the stream falls tumultuously—the drop being probably five feet. Where the stream falls is a deep pool with a whirling eddy at each side. This pool is about fifteen feet wide, and of great depth. The angler is supposed to be on the side next the moor, and, on the opposite side a thorn-bush overhangs the pool. If the fly be dexterously flung, with an underhand cast, beneath this bush a "plop" will instantly ensue, and (let us hope) a good fish will be fast hooked. This operation may be repeated twice, or even thrice, if due care be used. The side next the angler will be found to contain nice fish, and, perhaps, it would be advisable to attend to the residents therein first.

In front, for miles, can be seen the sweet little stream rushing and rolling along, occasionally broken into miniature cascades, where it foams and roars as if emulous of Niagara; and, anon, presents only a gentle, undulating surface, with here and there a bend and still, deep pool—sure "hover" of the larger fish. It is a deep valley, and high on each side rise splendid hills, glowing with bracken and heather and many kinds of mosses. In the distant background lie the Tors, whose bold, craggy heights resemble somewhat the famed Snowdon range (though on a lesser scale), or the beautiful valley of the Conway. I assert, without fear of contradiction, that it is well to be in such a place.

Helwr.

[Having often fished Dunn's Brook both up from the Barle (the best way) and down, we can heartily endorse our correspondent's remark that it *is* "well to be in such a place." We are sorry to say it has been fearfully poached during the drought, and so have most of the Moor streams.—Ed.]

On Tuesday night last the Lea Conservancy keeper, T. Verdun, at Spring-hill, Clapton, came upon a noted poacher named "Fred" or "Brandy Herne," and after a severe struggle with the keeper he managed to get away, leaving behind him a net measuring 42ft. long, 6ft. deep, with a bag pocket of 8ft. The capture was made at Copper Mill Point, a place containing plenty of fine jack, roach, chub, perch, &c. The police are on the track of Herne, and when caught, which he certainly will be, he will get his well-deserved punishment. Mr. Verdun showed the net at the Swan, and its deadly proportions were commented on. This is the same keeper who a short time since caught five poachers. He is most earnest in the discharge of his duties, and were other keepers to be as watchful as he, the poachers would soon have to find another occupation.

## SALMON AND GRILSE DEE FLIES FOR SUMMER USE.

### Final Notice.

On the subject of casting, we venture to remark that any experienced angler for grilse knows well the advantage at times of a long precise cast, and equally well that that alone is not all that is required. Not to make a random guess, but to possess an accurate knowledge (learned by observation) of the proper fly to use, and how to work it with a medium rod—say, sixteen feet long—requires attentive study, and careful practice. To fish well the line thrown, and not to pay out and whip away the fly, is what every thorough angler seeks to accomplish. Nothing is more ludicrous than the sorry figures some beginners cut in endeavouring to make long casts. In the extent of our knowledge of rods, we may say that we never had in our hands a sweeter medium make than one of Messrs. Blacklaws and Sons (Kincardine O'Neil) best greenheart rods, tried by us on the Dee, at Banchory, some short time ago. With the rod in question we could send out thirty to thirty-five yards quite easily, and play the fly entirely to satisfaction. In fishing on the Dee for grilse, unless the water is muddy, very fine tackle must be used, and the fly dropped on the water as if for trout. Just now we have before our mind's eye three noted Dee anglers, and each has a different method of allurement when fish are disinclined to rise freely. One throws straight across stream, and holds the point of the rod well up, inclining it higher as the fly works nearer in order to prevent the line "bellying." Another casts in the ordinary way, and works the rod with a tremulous motion called "jiggling"; while the third pays out line sufficient to cross the fish, rests it a while, and then reels in rapidly. The first method cannot be practised in perfection unless pretty fine tackle is used; the other two systems, though quite simple, are decidedly worthy of attention.

Our description of flies takes end with this article. Even to our own favourites we have endeavoured to show no bias, no desire to prop them up above their own merit. Stimulated all along by an earnest wish to contribute to the angler's success, we have sought to describe each pattern with as much fidelity and as minutely as possible. To those who have assisted us in any way we accord our sincerest thanks. From the fact that we have taken into our counsels a wide range of amateur and professional angling and fly-dressing skill, we venture to think that most Dee anglers will find in our collection a few at least of their highest-prized patterns.

### The Devan.

This fly is a great favourite with many excellent Dee fishermen. It first came under our notice some years ago, when angling on the Dee in the neighbourhood of Ballater. If it stood in need of improvement, a little, we venture to think, has been made on it since then. The Devan, it is generally thought, can be used with greatest advantage when the day is bright and the water clear. It is, however, a fairly good lure for grilse and sea trout, even when the water is somewhat discoloured. The inventor we have failed to trace. Description :—

Tag : Gold thread and magenta floss.
Tail : A small topping.
Butt : Bronze herl.
Body : Yellow and bright green silk floss ; one third (that nearest the tag) yellow, the rest green.
Ribbed : Gold twist, five turns.
Wings : Double strips of teal, topping over.
Hackle : Cock, black, half-way down the body.
Head : Green herl.
Double Limericks, 7, 8, and 9 are the best sizes.

### The Vero.

The parentage of this fly is claimed by one of our most experienced and skilled Dee anglers. Used for grilse the Vero gives good account of itself. We describe it as follows :—

Tag : Silver thread and yellow floss.
Tail : A small topping.
Butt : Black herl.
Body : Blue (peacock) silk floss.
Ribbed : Silver twist—five turns.
Wings : Double strips of mallard ; topping over.
Hackle : Magenta ; well-down body.
Shoulder : A small quantity of teal.
Head : Black.
Double Limericks, 5, 6, and 7 in size.

### The Badger.

Cannot be excelled as a sea trout pattern for the Dee or the Feugh. Speaking from experience, we can recommend the use of this fly, for killing purposes, in either a brown or a peat-coloured water. It has little resemblance to any other Dee pattern, and, though used principally for sea trout, it kills grilse as well.

Seen first in the collection of a gentleman at Banchory, we, after the lapse of a year or two, describe it as under :—

Tag : Silver thread.
Tail : A small topping and fibres of tippet.
Body : Turkey red mohair.
Ribbed : Silver tinsel ; four turns.
Wings : Light, mottled turkey strips—the lighter the better.
Hackle : White, with black roots.
Head : Red.
Limericks, 7, 8, and 9, double irons.

Other flies, bearing more or less a resemblance to various standard patterns, are highly in favour with several anglers on certain sections of the Dee.

W. M.

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**Death of an Old Leek Angler.**—Mr. Henry Waterloo Ind, an old and much respected inhabitant of this town, went fishing in the Churnet, near Wall Grange, on Tuesday afternoon. He was alone, and quite well when he started. He was subsequently discovered in an insensible condition by a man employed on the railway, who, seeing the case was a serious one, placed the unfortunate old gentleman on a trolly and brought him to Leek Station. He was taken thence to his home in Osborne-street without delay, and Dr. John Gailey was in immediate attendance, but consciousness never returned, and he expired about six o'clock. Mr. Ind was an enthusiastic fisherman, and though 71 years of age, looked stout and hearty. The cause of death was apoplexy."—*Leek Times.*

## "CRISP."

### A Holiday Sketch.

*(Continued from page* 112.)

We found G——, on our arrival, looking rother fagged; but, when he saw my brave capture his face assumed a cheerful business-like expression, and he immediately began to talk like a cookery book. At dinner that evening I regaled him with the "creeper" episode, and a startling explosion took place. He asked all sorts of questions about the capture of the salmon, and I had to fight the battle over again for his benefit. He declared his faith in my angling prowess firmly established, and nothing would please him but that *we* should start the next morning at 4 o'clock *and kill a fish*—that was his way of expressing it. However, I promised, and, at 3.30 punctually, Crisp aroused us. I felt much inclined to have another snooze, but, for my friend's sake, I subdued the "drowsy god." After a cup of hot coffee, with a suspicion of whiskey in it, we sallied forth. The morning was lovely—passing description by any words of mine. (I made several abortive attempts to write a sonnet to come in here, but somehow the inspiration was awanting.) I, indeed, thought it too lovely for fishing. We went to the big pool first, and there our astonished eyes beheld a striking spectacle. The salmon were jumping by the score, like—well—like mad (for want of a better word), and there were some beauties. I put on a fly in double quick time, and soon had tried every fish within reach. I changed my fly twice, but no luck, and, finally put on minnow tackle. The minnow looked irresistible, and had been warranted a sure killer. I spun away a long time without getting so much as a touch. Suddenly a big fellow jumped out of the water close to my feet, with the effect of nearly making me tumble in. Cautiously retreating, I spun the minnow about where I thought his lair to be, and, after six or eight spins, I felt a tremendous tug. Through my mind flashed the vision of a minnow lost on a rock; but, in an instant, my line was rushing out at express speed. G—— gave a cheery shout, and I braced my wits to circumvent the enemy. The fish instantly ran down stream, and, as the river at that point divides, I had to rush through 10 or 15 yards of water up to the waist to reach a small island, and, from its banks, follow the course of the fish. The perverse beauty shortly thereafter rushed up stream, and I had to repeat the wading process, or have a good deal more line out than in the circumstances was advisable. I did wade, and, just as I again reached terra-firma, I had the second and last sight of the fish—for, leaping out of the water, it came down with a smash, and was gone. The gut had cracked at one of the knots—clearly a defect in the tying. G——, who had been in a frantic state during the short engagement, and I looked at each other with blank despair depicted in our countenances. Thereafter we, in a quaint Turkish oath, "cussed" the defaulting tacklemaker and all his belongings to the nethermost depths of Hades. This seemed to have a beneficial effect, as, after a short delay, I started and rigged up another minnow tackle, the trace of which was treble-twisted gut of great strength. This, I knew, would hold a small whale, and I began, or, rather, recommenced, operations with no apprehensions on account of the tackle. But, alas! I seemed to have had my share of luck for that day; and though, to make a long story short, I fished till eleven o'clock, not a run did I have. I was determined to kill something, however, so, fastening on a cast of trout flies, I wended my way up to the pool which had proved so fruitful on Monday. In a short space of time four quarter-pounders had fallen victims to the seductions of a "woodcock." Just then, however, I got fastened in a tree, and, both of us being too lazy to climb, I pulled, and left the major part of my tackle up aloft. Wielding a heavy double-handed salmon rod had told on me, so we agreed to retrace our steps. After a breakfast-lunch, we related the morning's adventures to Crisp, and were duly sympathised with. G—— proposed we should retire and have a snooze, a proposition which was carried *nem. con.* My efforts to woo balmy sleep were rendered abortive by the terrific snoring my companion indulged in. At last I could stand it no longer, so I sprang on to the floor, and cheerfully proceeded to stuff with cotton wool the tuneful organ of my friend. He did not quite seem to realise the position for a few seconds, but finally awoke, and sat bolt upright in bed, and I had just time to dodge a choice volume of Wordsworth, the nearest missile to the poet's hand, which rushed by my head with a suggestive whirr. Hereafter I slept the sleep of the just. In the evening we arose considerably refreshed, and after dinner strolled down to the village of A——. We made friends with a good many of the villagers, and finally ended with an amateur concert, which was much applauded. N.B.—G——, in the stillness of the night, tells me he knows a lady of *great beauty*, and means to win her. He met her to-day, and says she was very much impressed. I asked him for an introduction, but only got reviled for my pains. We retire to bed in a bloodthirsty state. The next morning (Thursday), after breakfast, we had a consultation, and ultimately agreed to go mountaineering. I agreed to this (my friend's proposition) the more readily as the sky was cloudless, and the day promised, for fishers, *nil.* The mountain we agreed to tackle was Ben-y-Gloe, and although I suggested one on a smaller scale, G——, fresh from his conquest of Ben Vrachy, scoffed at the idea. Crisp gave us all the necessary directions as to the quickest road, the side to climb, and from where best to see Glenshee. The day was blazing hot, and with a sigh of relief we stopped at the foot of the mountain and had some lunch. After a quarter of an hour's rest we began the climb. That mountain is a "tartar," especially on a hot day. Its sides are very steep and rocky, and the heat was reflected off the rocks so that one had the feeling of being baked in an oven. After five hundred feet or so, we mutually agreed to rest. The sensation was singular. On one cheek the air was icy cold, while the other, which was exposed to the sun, was being slowly roasted. After repeating the above experiment half a dozen times or so, we reached the top. The air at the summit was cold enough in all conscience. There was a party up before us, and one of their number, a veteran tourist, kindly gave us the benefit of his experience. The view was magnificent. I am afraid to say how many counties we saw. We went down the opposite side, and, *en route* for home, saw Glenshee. Well does it merit the pathetic line :

> "I'll ne'er gang back to *bonny* Glenshee."

The italics are mine. We thought the Mc——'s loch would furnish the crowning effect to our day's enjoyment, so, without more ado, we stripped. My friend is rather more agile in his actions than I am, and accordingly he was disporting himself before I had half undressed. Shortly after, and as I was assuming a nude aspect, I heard a cry for help, and, on looking round, I saw G——, puffing and struggling like mad, a good way out in the loch. I thought it a very well-assumed sham; but there was no mistake in the next yell. Bolting in, I made my way over, and found him stuck in the weeds—a very uncomfortable position. At that particular part of the loch it was full of weeds, so we decided to look out for a safe place. This we found, and had a very enjoyable bath. After dressing we shook the dust from off our feet and retired, mutually execrating all artificial lochs. On our way back over the moor we made a bet as to which of our guesses would be nearest the number of grouse that would arise at our approach. I had said ten, and G—— twenty-five, and, as we flushed nineteen, I had to pay." We, on our arrival, gave Crisp a history of the day's adventures, not forgetting to colour the bathing experience. He remarked something about "venturesome de'ils," and, further, that, "had the Mc—— coch us in his private loch, we'd ha'e hae'n sair banes." In the evening G—— went to visit his lady-love, and declining the pleasure of my company, I strolled down to interview our friends the villagers. The "boss" of the village was an old pensioner named McIntyre, who had been through the Indian Mutiny and any amount of other "scrummages." He was in a loquacious mood, and told some good stiff tales. He at last came to the subject of fishing. I guardedly led him up to the "creeper," and asked him for his experiences with the instrument. He looked rather surprised, and asked in a scared sort of tone how I knew anything about that "insect." I replied that Crisp had told me all I knew. At this he regained his composure, and, smiling in a quiet way, he asked if Crisp had told me any of his own experiences. I said, no; and he denied ever having worked one. "Ah! the old d——l, he used to kill mair salmon than ony fisher in the twa rivers," said McIntyre. "Man, he micht ha'e been takin' his three and fower sa'mon a nicht, if he hadna' had the plisky wi' the keeper," added the old chap. I smelt a good story here, and finally persuaded the old warrior to "trot him out." The bare remembrance of the fun made him laugh immoderately, but at last he started:—"About four years ago Crisp was a grand killer, and he and a companion used to supply the whole village with cheap salmon. One lovely night they started intent on doing a big job. The scene of operations was a pool immediately opposite to where we are now sitting. Crisp, being the more expert, cautiously approached the pool, 'creeper' in hand, while his companion watched. He, with the greatest care, adjusted his line, and cautiously dropped it into a favourite spot, where he was morally certain at least one salmon had its abode. After settling all the preliminaries he gave the customary mighty strike. No salmon was attached, however, and the line, with the impetus of the stroke, swung back over his head, and seemed to lodge in a bush behind. Crisp gave a slight tug without troubling to look round, but bush never gave utterance to such a yell as was then heard. Crisp dropped the clothes pole in terror, and, looking round before he fled, was horrified to find he had hooked a full fledged gamekeeper. He knew he was done for, and that it was useless to fly, so he stopped and assisted to extract the hook from the gamey's neck, which was considerably lacerated. Crisp hardly knew whether to be more afraid at being caught or angry at his companion's treachery—in fact, both feelings struggled for the mastery in his ingenuous countenance. He calmed down considerably when his captor explained that he had been watching the pair all the time, and had threatened the watcher if he gave a note of warning to lay him in 'quod' instantly. He had cautiously approached the *angler*, who, being so intent on his sport and without guile, was completely taken unawares." The old soldier paused to take breath and have a good laugh, in which I joined heartily. "And what was the upshot?" I asked, through my tears. "Oh! the gamey and Crisp were old friends, who had often before divided the spoils; but this time he threatened to 'lag' the poacher, as he indignantly called him, and was only pacified by a present of 7s. 6d., and the custody of the 'creeper.'" "'Crisp," he added, "has never tried the old game since." After thanking the old chap for his story, and promising to look him up before we left, I walked home "in the starry light of a summer's night," and G—— arrived shortly afterwards. He was in great spirits, and I suspected had been testing what some of my lady friends term "Kissingen." He declined, however, to vouchsafe any answer to my pertinent questions. I related my evening's experience—the story completely fetching him. We mutually agreed to bait "Crisp" with it on the morrow. Friday was a pattern day for fishing, and we resolved at once to go salmon fishing, "Crisp" to accompany us as ghillie. On the way we plied him with all sorts of knowing queries about his experiences with the "creeper." He did not at all like it, and "d——d the folks who couldn't mind their own business"; and he looked considerably relieved when we arrived at the waterside. I was soon at work. Within ten minutes from the first cast I was into a fish, and the cheery ring of my reel was responded to by equally cheery shouts from the other two, who had just been getting into position for a comfortable smoke. The salmon hooked moved pretty bobbish and gave me some fun, but I had always a good pull on him, and in a comparatively short time "Crisp's" services brought his short life to a close. I demurred to the "dew" being begun on at so early an hour, but "Crisp" prophesied all sorts of bad luck unless the old custom was adhered to, so I yielded and we all had a "tot." In the next pool two fish broke the water, but seemed to have charmed lives, as, although I struck promptly, there was no attachment. The next pool was also drawn blank. Number four, however, yielded the fish of the season. I had stuck to the one fly the whole time, and when this finny monster took it I was a little anxious as to its holding abilities. The pool was difficult, and several times I had to give the fish the butt strongly. After an exciting twenty minutes the fish turned sulky and would not move. I put all the strain on I dared, but it had no effect, so keeping a watchful eye and tight line I calmly waited for developments. In five minutes or so the fish came to the scratch and entered upon the death struggle. An anxious two or three minutes—longer it seemed—and the fish, dying gamely, was safely banked. A second "tot" of whiskey, and then lunch followed. Though I fished till five o'clock, and pricked several fish, one a "whopper," I could not come to terms with any, and so at that hour we retraced our steps. The two salmon weighed together 24lb.—the largest 15lb. After dinner, G—— asked me to accompany him on a visit to his fair friend, but feeling a little knocked up I declined, in the words of the song, "Two are company, three are none!" Left in solitude, I tried to compose a melody for one of my friend's songs, but too many cigars, I fancy, had robbed me of my musical knowledge, as the melody, tried afterwards, was not a success. On Saturday we expected a boon companion, to stay over Monday, so in the morning we started and walked into P—— to purchase some delicacies for his special benefit. We returned at mid-day, after exploring the whole town, and gave orders for a feast to be prepared against our friend's arrival. Then we sauntered down to the train, and after waiting two hours, our friend made his appearance. After dinner, and over a bottle or two of claret, we discussed the sporting events of the week. W—— (our friend's initial) was in ecstacies, and promptly arranged to stay over Monday and have a try at the salmon. That evening we trained into B——, and at one of the hotels there, which shall be nameless, we got together a decent audience, and gave an impromptu concert. W—— has a capital tenor voice, and his *rendition* of the "Death of Nelson," "Come into the Garden Maud," &c., was much appreciated. Then I sang my favourite, "The Midshipmite," also well received, and some trios, &c., ending with "God Save the Queen," brought the fun to a close. Had we consumed all the liquor that we were pressed to take, not one of us would be alive to tell the tale. We walked home in an extremely poetic mood, at intervals "awaking the echoes," and we arrived somewhat outside of what is termed in Scotland "Elder's hours." On Sunday G—— and W—— started for the Falls of Bruar, while I, my foot feeling seedy, read. The day was uneventful as Sunday could well be. On Monday the water had "fined down," so that salmon fishing could not be tackled with any reasonable hope of success. W—— and myself therefore journeyed up the Tummel with the object of stirring up the trout. We had a good day's sport, killing sixty-seven between us, but no "whoppers" among them. W—— lost a big chap—so he said; but for my part, I never rose a fish above a pound that day. During the evening we had a convivial meeting, and invited Mr. and Miss "Crisp" to grace the assembly. They were highly delighted, and applauded the music and speeches impartially. "Crisp," in an aside, told me that when my friend the old warrior heard we were to leave, he remarked that "he was perplexed whether he should get up a subscription to present us with a piece of plate, or should call in the services of the sole policeman from B——." I duly communicated the story to my *confrères*, and we agreed to send the old chap a bottle of real "northern cream" as a reward for his wit. The next morning, after having satisfied the modest demands of "Crisp," and giving him a honorarium for his services as henchman, which made his eyes glisten, we, followed by the "God speeds" of Mr. and Miss "Crisp," walked to the station, and were soon whirled to our respective "abiding cities." I hope my readers will agree with me in thinking that we had a good time.

W. M. R.

## FISHING AT DEAL.

I HAVE several times visited Deal for the sake of the pure air and rod-fishing off the pier, and have invariably been successful. This time I took my youngest son, Claude, with me, and he caught the most and largest fish. At dusk one evening five pollack with one of Gregory's nickel 3in. spinning fish. The locals always fish with Hearder's indiarubber sand eels, or a piece of parchment cut into the shape of a small fish and hook attached. One gentleman caught thirteen early one morning with this kind of lure. My son missed a large shad (a species of shark); he had just caught a pouting whiting when the shad seized it, chopped it in two, but escaped the hook.

We caught plaice, flounders, bream, codlings, silver and pouting whitings, pollack, sea devils or sting fish, and conger eels. Also an extraordinary star fish as big as a dinner plate, red coral in colour, with twelve so-called fingers instead of the usual five. This has been preserved with some small cuttle fish in spirits of wine.

Monday, 25th August, was the regatta day, and very stormy in the afternoon. One of the pair-oar'd punt boats got water-logged, and were rescued from their perilous position by a steam tug boat. The last race was a plank race, each plank 6ft. by 1ft., a long nail and a string at one end to hold on by. The boys dived from the pier, each one clutching his plank and get ashore the best way they could. One of them would have drifted across the Channel if he had not been fetched back by the men in the boat in attendance. Being so wet on Monday, the fireworks took place on Tuesday, and were very good indeed.

I stayed with my friend, Dr. D., of Twickenham, at the Royal Hotel. The proprietors, Mr. and Mrs. Foster, are most obliging, and cater for their visitors in first-rate style. There is a garden attached facing the sea, and is the only shrubbery and flowers to be seen from the pier. There is also an excellent billiard-table, with Burroughs and Watts' patent markers, one on each side of the table, doing away with the usual attendant, the mechanism being so simple. The company I met, locals and visitors, were very agreeable gentlemen. We went to Dover one day, but the once famous fishing from the north jetty is now spoiled through the Admiralty pier. The fish travel in the tide-way past the head of the pier straight on to Deal and Margate, without giving a look into Dover Bay.

The barracks are being built on the cliffs to house the convicts who are to make another Admiralty pier from the north end of Dover to meet the present one. When done the bay will resemble Dublin Bay. Some of the Friendly Anglers are staying at the Star and Garter, near the Royal, as the latter was full. Some went sailing, long shore-fishing, and trawling. Dr. D. declares Deal to possess the finest air in England, and is a health-restoring place for most invalids.

There are three small ponds at Sandwich, six miles from Deal. I went there one day with a celebrated musical composer for jack-fishing. We caught plenty of roach for baits, but no jack. I found out that the largest pond was pumped out in the spring to get brick earth, and was shown the bricks in an adjoining field. It was a "sell" going there. There is an excellent band on the pier, awnings top and sides to keep off the sun, wind, and rain. The charge is 3d. on and off all day, angling 3d. extra. Cockles, hermit crabs, and lug worms sold cheaply on the pier.

We spent a most pleasant fifteen days, and recommend the Royal to others. The fishing the latter end of this month and October is prodigious. We used salmon gut, paternosters, and Nottingham reels—which is the best tackle I can recommend, as salt water spoils brass winches.

T. R. Sachs, Piscatorial Society.

## THE LONDON DOCKS—A CORRECTION.

WALKING down Fleet-street the other day, we met, and had a chat with, Mr. J. P. Wheeldon. In the course of conversation he remarked:

"By the way, I have been pitching into you lately in the *Morning Advertiser*. Have you seen it?"

"No! What's wrong this time?"

"Why, in answering some correspondent in the GAZETTE, you say that the only thing he is likely to catch in the docks are dead cats and dogs. Would you be surprised to hear that the timber-ponds of the Surrey and Commercial Docks simply swarm with big bream, carp, pike, roach, &c., and that the fishing is restricted to a few annual five-guinea season tickets? I have taken twenty and thirty pounds' weight of bream there in a day."

We acknowledged we were greatly surprised, and explained that we had made inquiries of a gentleman who knew the docks, and he said the water was so foul that there could be no fish in them. Mr. Wheeldon said this was certainly not the case as far as the timber ponds were concerned, and that he had only recently seen such fine roach caught in the Surrey Canal that he intended to give them a trial. We are always only too glad to be able to correct any mistakes, and are much obliged to Mr. Wheeldon for pointing out this instance.

GEORGE JAMES EATON, of Starkholmes, Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required, from gentlemen who can fish, to prove whether they may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—(ADVT.)

SALMON & TROUT-FISHING.

CHAS. FARLOW & Co.,
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MANUFACTURERS OF FIRST-CLASS RODS AND TACKLE,
SALMON AND TROUT FLIES, SUITABLE FOR
ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD.
Mahseer Tackle in Great Variety.
Makers of Split Cane Rods.
Improved Folding Trout Landing Nets
(Very Light).
New Patent Lever Salmon Winch
(Can be regulated to any stiffness at will).
PENNELL'S TACKLE KEPT IN STOCK.

CATALOGUES GRATIS. PRIZE MEDALS. IMPORTERS OF SILKWORM GUT.

A NEW PERFECT FLY AND SPINNING LINE.

"It's Simply Perfection." Such is the unanimous report of all who have used the new line for both fly and mid-water fishing.

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Lengths returned within twelve months from date of purchase, as not meriting entire satisfaction, will be exchanged for cash originally paid for them.

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## THE NEW FRESHWATER FISHERIES ACT.

### Important Inquiry.

An important inquiry, arising out of the Freshwater Fisheries Act of last Session, which fixes the minimum size of the mesh of nets at 1in., was held at the Old England Hotel, Bowness, Windermere, on Tuesday, when a committee of the Kent, Bela, Winster, Leven, and Duddon Fishery Board sat to hear the views of the fishermen as to the size of the mesh and the modes of fishing prior to the formation of new By-laws. The new Act has caused something approaching a panic among the fishermen at Windermere, and they declare that with 1in. mesh their calling will be ruined. Mr. John Fell, of Barrow, presided, and the proceedings excited much interest. John Borwick said he had netted Windermere Lake eight years, and used a net 36 yards long for bottom-fishing. In the centre there was a square of ½in. mesh, and round about the top and bottom 1in. mesh, and then 1½in. The smallest size fish caught in such a net was from 2oz. to 1lb. It would let a fish of ¼lb. through. The floating or long net, which was used about Whitsuntide, was constructed the same way as the bottom one, and with the same mesh. It was used until October. James Fisher, who was frequently interrupted by the other fishermen in consequence of the views he expressed, said he could remember the lake for 60 years. Everything was in drawing the net up quickly, and he considered a fair size of the mesh to be not less than 1in.; no part should be less. The nets at present used were double the length of those in use when he began to fish. Fishermen followed the fish all over the lake. Two other fishermen were called, and stated that it would be no use for them to fish with the 1in. net. The inquiry was then closed. The committee sat in private to consider their recommendations, which will be made to the Board, and considered in connection with the new By-laws.

[We trust the Committee will consider the fishing as well as the fishermen, who are ruining it by their short-sighted policy of catching everything.—Ed.]

"Art, empire, earth itself, *to change* are doomed."—The Hermit.

## EXCHANGE.

### Things Wanted—to BUY, to SELL, or to EXCHANGE.

:o:

N.B.—We take no responsibility whatever in connection with advertisements inserted in this or other parts of this paper; but beg our readers to expose any case of imposition. The prices for inserting advertisements in this "EXCHANGE" Column are 6d. per line for one, or 4d. per line for more than one insertion.—Address, Manager, Fishing Gazette, 12 and 13, Fetter Lane, London, and send stamps with the order, or the advertisement cannot be inserted.

WANTED.—Particulars and Prices of Second-hand Books on Angling and Fish Culture. Must be in good condition.—Address Editor, Fishing Gazette, 12 and 13, Fetter-lane, London, E.C.

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## RIVER REPORTS.

### TIME OF HIGH WATER IN THE THAMES.

To find the time of high water in the Thames at any of the following places, to the time of high water at London Bridge (given below).

Add
30 minutes for Chelsea.
40 " Putney.
45 " Hammersmith.
50 " Barnes.
55 " Kew.
75 " Richmond.
80 " Twickenham.
85 " Teddington.

Example:—If it is high water at 2 o'clock at London Bridge, it will be high water at Teddington about 3.25, or eighty-five minutes later; but it must be remembered that a strong wind accelerates or retards the tide very much.

For Times of High Water at London Bridge.

| | Morning. | Afternoon. |
|---|---|---|
| Saturday, September 13 | 7.18 | 7.53 |
| Sunday, " 14 | 8.32 | 9.16 |
| Monday, " 15 | 10.2 | 10.43 |
| Tuesday, " 16 | 11.21 | 11.55 |
| Wednesday, " 17 | 12.0 | 12.26 |
| Thursday, " 18 | 12.51 | 1.15 |
| Friday, " 19 | 1.35 | 1,56 |

Note.—New Moon September 19.

### THE LOWER THAMES.

#### General Remarks.

The same amount of sport and an equal attendance of anglers continues on the Thames below Staines, and it is really astonishing the quantities of roach and dace that are caught and taken away from the tidal waters of Richmond and Twickenham. There is one item of sport at Kingston which is entitled to special reference, and being supplied direct, it may be fully relied upon. Mr. Alfred Nuthall (Mayor of Kingston) and Mr. John Knechtli, fishing with John Johnson, sen., in the afternoons of Thursday and Friday in last week, caught forty barbel from 2lb. to 4lb. each, three bream from 3lb. to 6lb. each, five chub up to 3lb. each, several roach of 1lb. each, and some good eels. It is also worthy of notice that fully one-half of the barbel were returned to the river again.

#### Angling Results.

**Richmond.**—Christopher Brown, during the week, 120lb. of dace and twelve barbel. F. Brown, in four days, 64lb. of roach and dace and three barbel. Henry Howard, in the same time, 60lb. and five barbel. Job Brain, during the week, 90lb. and four barbel. H. Mansall, in the same time, 100lb. and four barbel. John Bushnell, one day, with Mr. Houghton, a jack of 4lb. 10oz., and eight dozen of dace, and in two other days, 20lb. of roach and dace, four barbel, and a perch of 1½lb.

**Twickenham.**—Mr. Edward Wright, fishing at Twickenham Deep, one day, got three nice tench, and another day, three more, the largest 2½lb. Joseph Dobbin, in three days, 20½ dozen of roach and dace, and five barbel. Pert Hammerton, in three and a half days, 70lb. of roach and dace, and five barbel. Charles Hennessey, in one and a half days, twenty-two dozen. William Spong, in four days, thirty dozen and a couple of barbel. John Spong, in the same time, forty-four dozen. James Coxen, in three days, fifty-eight dozen and four barbel. George Coxen, one day, with Mr. Carter, twelve dozen and four barbel; another day, with Mr. Jones, of Norwood, 10½lb. of dace, and a barbel of 8lb.; and in four other days, 50½lb. of roach and dace, and three barbel. E. Finch, in six days, 90lb. Samuel Cole, in seven days, 150lb., and three barbel. J. Dunn, in one day, seven dozen of dace; and H. Spiers, in three days and four half-days, eighty-four dozen and six barbel.

**Teddington.**—Joseph Baldwin, in five days, thirty dozen of roach and dace; John Stevens, in three days, twelve dozen and two barbel; and Charles Baldwin, in four days, thirty-one dozen and two barbel.

**Kingston.**—In addition to the fishing recorded in the general remarks, John Johnston, junr., in six days, got twenty-seven barbel, the largest 5½lb., one chub of 3lb., two jack of 3lb. each, five perch, and twenty-eight dozen of roach and dace. James Wilks, in two days, five barbel, two bream, one brace of perch, and three dozen of roach and dace. Luke Francis, in two days, five dozen of roach and dace, and two chub. F. Eastland, in six days, fifty dozen of roach and dace, a bream of 4½lb., and two barbel of 4½lb. each.

**Long Ditton and Thames Ditton.**—H. Buttery, in two days, thirteen barbel, the best 4lb., one chub, one eel, and two dozen of roach. E. Tagg, in one day, 13½ dozen of gudgeon, six brace of perch, and one barbel; and C. Tagg 11½ dozen of gudgeon and two brace of perch.

**Hampton Court.**—Charles Davis, in one day, three barbel, three chub, and two dozen of roach. Thomas Davis, in two days, four dozen of roach and dace, and six barbel. C. Stone, in four days, thirteen dozen and one perch. T. Watford, in one day, four dozen of gudgeon and four dozen of roach and dace. W. Milbourne, in four days, twenty-one barbel, the largest 8lb. T. Wheeler, in five days, thirty barbel of 2½lb. and 3½lb. each. At "Tagg's Island Fishery" about twenty dozen roach and dace, four barbel, the largest 6lb., twenty-four dozen of gudgeon, and some good eels have been taken.

**Hampton.**—J. Langshaw, in two days, seven barbel, four dozen of dace, four dozen of roach, and a jack of 5½lb.

**Sunbury.**—Edward Clarke, jun., in six days, thirty dozen of roach and dace, eight chub, the four best weighing together 10lb., eight barbel, the largest 4lb. H. Clarke, in three days, twenty dozen of roach and dace, ten dozen of gudgeon, and one brace of perch. Edward Clarke, sen., in one day, seven dozen of roach and dace, and a fine perch.

**Walton.**—G. Hone, one day, six dozen of roach and dace, two bream, and a jack of 2½lb., and another day six dozen of roach and dace. R. Watford one day with Mr Addison, ten bream and two chub; another day, with Mr. Witter, three dozen of roach and dace, and a barbel of 3lb.; and another day, four dozen of roach, six bream—the largest 3lb.—a barbel of 4lb., and a chub of 2lb. George Hone sent, one day, five dozen of roach and dace, and a barbel of 2lb.; and another day, with Mr. Mackrill, ten bream, two chub, two barbel, and four dozen of roach and dace.

**Shepperton.**—H. Carr, one day, with Mr. G. H. Buckland, hon. sec. to the Guilford Angling Society, two barbel weighing 5lb., two eels 4½lb., and four dozen of roach and dace; another day, with Mr. Foster, five barbel weighing 12lb., a perch of 1½lb., and two dozen of roach and dace; another day, with Mr. Boyton, nine dozen of roach and dace, some of the roach weighing 1lb. each; another day, with Mr. Hughes, ten dozen of roach and dace, a barbel of 3lb., and a chub of 2lb.—all of which were put back again; and another day, the last but one of the trout season, a nice trout of 3lb. Mr. John Wotton, fishing with David Hackett, on Tuesday, caught ten barbel weighing 50lb; and Mr. T. Spreckley and Mr. M. H. Blamey, with the same fisherman on the following day, got twelve fish weighing 30lb. George Rosewell has ended the season with a nice trout of about 5lb., and James Haslett, one of the anglers on the last day at Shepperton Weir, hooked a big trout and lost it.

**Staines.**—G. Osman, one day, 8lb. of roach and one barbel; another day, six dozen of roach and dace; and another day, four dozen. John Keene, jun., one day, five barbel and one jack; another day, eight dozen roach and dace; another day, seven barbel; another day, eleven barbel, and two dozen of roach and dace; another day, five barbel; and another day, one barbel and two dozen of roach. Charles Hone, on the 7th, a fine trout of 5½lb., and a perch of 1lb.

## UPPER THAMES.

River in fair trim after the recent rains, but not quite coloured enough. My reports from Bray, Maidenhead, and Cookham all tell of fair takes of roach, barbel, perch, and chub. Gudgeon are being had all at once by the twenty-four dozen per punt of two rods, Mr. Clarke, of Maidenhead, with Wilder, getting twenty-one and a half dozen, and some pretty perch in one outing. At Cookham and Marlow the tale is that roach are fairly coming on; but my own experience in two hard days' fishing is that the roach are not well on. This is really in consequence of the water being so bright. Medmenham and Hurley Waters have been frequented by Messrs. Kidd, Keats, King and Co., fishing from that comfortable hostelry, the East Arms, the result of a day's doings under adverse circumstances of wind and water being some 12lb. of roach, perch, and gudgeon. Thursday evening.—Water in fine trim for roach and chub. Good bags may safely be now counted upon.

### Thames (Datchet).

The water seems to be going back to its late condition, and a beautiful fortnight has been let slip by. J. Horace, with a patron, on the 8th, 15 barbel; G. Keene, on the 7th, a jack (3lb.) My takes have been as follows:—12 barbel on the 6th; on the 10th, with J. L. Meyer, Esq., six barbel and a trout between 3lb. and 4lb. To-day, with Mr. Gilbert, six barbel and three chub, and a few dace; one chub a beauty. —G. Lumsden.

### Dockett Point.

Missed the post last week. Since my last report, fishing during the week with Mr. G. L. Meyers; took several barbel, bream, chub and roach; the best barbel about 6lb. Fishing with another gentleman, 1 trout just under measure; put back again. On Monday with Mr. C. Waterhouse, 2 chub, 1 trout; I do not know the exact weight yet, but about 3lb. Water the same as ever.—J. Haslett.

### Thames (Goring).

Water very low and clear. Nothing biting much; good gudgeon biting very well. My best day, two jack—largest 3½lb.—and one dozen of perch; next best day, one chub—about 3lb.—and about eight dozen gudgeons and few perch.—John Rush.

### Thames (Oxford).

The gentle sons of toil who prefer to earn what they term "an ornest bob" by a little quiet netting after night-fall, appear to have had their tenderest feelings outraged by the recent captures which have been effected by the city police and the honorary river keepers of the Oxford Angling Society. To add fuel to the smouldering fire, another unfortunate has been taken using a scoop-net in the back stream at the Friars, and, I am very much afraid, if these unfortunates, who have the deepest sympathy of all the disreputable characters in the place, have their business interfered with in this untoward manner by (as an indignant lady once expressively put it when I seized her husband's nets) "any young jackass as choosed to come a-walkin about the place, poking 'is nose into wot did'ent consern 'im," they will be compelled to seek fresh fields and less dangerous pastures for the exercise of their peculiar talents. The Thames and its affluents still continue in splendid condition for any kind of fishing, and for everthing, from pike to the humbler but succulent gudgeon. On Monday the river was slightly clouded from the heavy rainfall; but the sunny weather of the last two or three days has done everthing requisite to fine it down. Despite these favourable conditions the fish have not bitten. My perambulations in search of news have been long and fruitless. The only items I have been able to gather are two bags of 10lb. and 5lb., made by Mr. Surch, on September 4th and 7th. This gentleman, who is a very clever hand with a roach rod, was fortunate enough to take a splendid roach on Thursday evening, which weighed 1½lb.—Cherwell Otter.

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### Ancholme District.

I had three hours yesterday afternoon on a small private water, catching three dozen nice *fontinalis* and Loch Leven trout. The thirty which I retained weighed just 10lb.; for fish of only eighteen months old these results are really excellent. They showed most capital sport, and all were taken with the fly. I used a red double palmer and March brown. The *fontinalis* are getting very full of ova, and it is time to cease catching them. I think these fish would stand a tolerable chance in the Ancholme, as they grow so fast. The greatest drawback would be the absence of suitable spawning-beds. A good many fry have been placed of late years in the tributary streams, and we shall doubtless hear of some of them again on the main water, as we do of the common trout, several of which have been caught recently. Good sport continues to be had at Croxby Lake amongst the perch. The weather is close and dull. A few fish have been taken at the Riverhead, but Ancholme notes are not yet to hand.—Thomas Ford, Caistor.

[The *Salmo fontinalis* is a fraud in this country unless placed in ponds where it can be confined, and then it is not half so good a fish as our English trout. Thousands of pounds have been thrown away in trying to stock English streams and Scotch lochs with the *fontinalis* (which is a charr, and not a trout); they have been a perfect failure.—Ed.]

### The Bollin (Heatley).

It will perhaps be of interest to your Manchester readers to know that Sam Brooks, the well-known Manchester angler, whilst fishing with a Mr. C. Cartwright, in the river Bollin at Heatley, on Wednesday afternoon, the 3rd inst., caught the largest basket of fish that has been taken in the Bollin for years. The catch consisted of one trout, 15oz.; one roach, 14½oz.; and twenty-six roach and dace, averaging, one with the other, 7½oz. Mr. Atkinson, of the Green Dragon, at Heatley, says he never saw a more handsome dish of fish taken out of the Bollin before.—John Thomas.

### The Bure (Norwich).

At all points from Wroxham to Acle and up the Flume sport has been about the same. Large numbers of fish have been killed, and in some instances (few and far) fine fish; but the lover of nature is fully repaid by a visit to this lovely stream if little sport attends him, as, if he has any love of the beautiful in its natural state, he will revel in the Broad districts. The past season on this river has been most successful, although I fully expect many visitors will feel much disappointed, but this results more from their want of knowledge of the waters than from the absence of fish. All the river-side stations have been full, and private lodgings have had no reason to be empty. I trust next season may be as successful. Prospects with a change of wind good, especially for jack.—Robert Moll.

### The Dove.

Sport this week has been only moderately good: the water has been clear, while the weather has been very dull. The bumble, especially the red or furnace variety, has been the best taking fly, though the worm and the minnow have been fairly good. On Saturday last two trout, one weighing 2lb. 1oz., and the other 2lb. 3oz., were taken from the Henmore, in a coloured water, with the caterpillar. The Universal Killer has also proved an effective bait in the brooks. Bottom fishing has been good among barbel and bream on the lower length.—Mentor.

### Ilfracombe.

Sea fishing. Bream fishing has been slack this week, the only catches of note being: Mr. Neil, 30lb., and P. Redmore, 20lb. There has been some good catches of whiting pout, boats averaging from 15lb. to 20lb. per tide. Congering has commenced, and some fine fish have been caught; one boat, fishing off Lee, caught six, weighing from 16lb. to 20lb. each. There is every prospect of the lovers of this sport having a good time of it. Rod and line fishing from the jetty has improved. On Thursday evening Mr. Mingo caught four conger eels; Mr. Gratte, one; Mr. Cox, one, and several other gentlemen, whose names I do not know, have had good sport from there. Prospects good, and weather fine.—E. Comer.

### Lea (Tottenham).

No change to report in the condition of the water; nevertheless, there has been some very good takes of fish. Mr. Bell took some good roach, several of them going ¾lb. Mr. Beresford, on Tuesday, two jack, the heaviest going 6lb. The same day Mr. Thompson took one weighing 3lb., and 6lb. of roach. Mr. Bennett, on Wednesday (whipping), four dozen dace and two chub, and, on Thursday, five dozen dace and roach. Some good fish also fell to the rod of Mr. Wheeler.—Hackles Red.

### Leicester.

Signs are not wanting of the near approach of a change in the season, as although anglers are still numerous at the river side, the shortening days prevent any good late fishing being had. The Aylestone preserves, belonging to the Leicester Angling Society, are just now receiving the most attention, and some fair all-round takes of fish have been had during this week. Several good baskets of roach were among the lots shown, and principally taken with the wasp grub. One basket contained between 8lb. and 10lb. of chub, and in several other instances a brace and a half, from 3lb. to 5lb. each fish, were among the takes that were secured. The weather lately has been in favour of pike fishing; but the largest fish that I could hear of being landed was one weighing 6lb., taken by Mr. Faulkner from the Parting Pool. Out of town anglers have not been numerous. Mr. Chamberlain and two friends, whilst bream fishing, took between 50lb. and 60lb. in two days. A good number of the fish in this lot were over 4lb., and the largest scaled 5lb. 4oz. Sport continues good at the Narborough waters, several of the subscribers having some fair takes of roach and pike. A good many anglers are eagerly looking forward to the annual contest, which takes place in the Soar to-day (Saturday). The weather of Thursday was fine and mild, and angling prospects remain good.—Alert.

### Lodden.

The late rains have very much improved the river, although they did not cause it to rise as expected. Sport all round is first-rate. Perch, chub, roach, and dace feeding freely, and are in splendid condition, and large; half-an-hour's fishing to-day produced the following: 1 trout, ¾lb.; 1 perch 1lb.; 21 roach, average 1lb. each; 2 small chub and 1 gudgeon; this number in so short a time seems large; but I fished with two rods, my own and my son's, my son taking them from the hook, as they were landed; the weather is very hot again, with light winds from south-south-west. A martin entangled itself in my son's line while fishing on Monday last. We are aware this is by no means rare.—F. Gosden.

### Lugg and Arrow (Leominster).

Both these streams are now in splendid angling order. The water is still low, but has run itself very clear again. Rain fell in this district at the end of last week, but it did not colour the water, which is now very clear. The anglers of this part have visited the waters freely this week, and some very good baskets have been taken. The fish are rising freely at the coachman, silver-twisted blue, and green insect. Some very good fish were taken by a gentleman in the Monkland waters, when fishing with the coachman, on Friday. In the Arrow, near the town, some very good grayling were caught with the wasp grub. Good sport has been had in the Lugg, near Bodenham, and some very good dishes have been taken by a gentleman fishing with the coachman and whirling blue. A gentleman, on Saturday, fished the Lugg near to Kingsland, and with the green insect landed a very good dish of fine trout. A very good lot of fine grayling were taken with the wasp grub, near the same place. The Arrow was tried, near to Eardisland, with the silver-twisted blue, and a very good dish of fine trout and grayling was landed, averaging ½lb. each. Up the Stanton waters some capital sport has been had, and some very good grayling have been taken with the green insect and coachman. Some very good fish were taken with the maggot. A very nice dish of trout was taken a little below the town with the fly. On Monday, some very good fishing was had at Fords Bridge, a gentleman, with the fly, landed six grayling and four trout, all in good condition. Near to Aymestry, some very good grayling were taken by a gentleman who was fishing with the twisted blue. A few very nice trout and perch were landed by a gentleman, with the maggot, in deep water. On Tuesday, in the Arrow, a gentleman, near to Irvington, took a nice dish of fine trout with the fly. A few very nice eels have been taken in this part with the worm. A gentleman tried the Lugg the same day and took a splendid lot of grayling and trout with the green insect. The Pinsley is in splendid fishing order, the fish are sporting well at the fly. On Friday, a nice lot of fish were taken with the coachman. On Monday, some very good trout were landed with the green insect, averaging ½lb. each.

### Medway (Tunbridge).

The river during the week has been very thick, but it is now fining down nicely, and there should be plenty of sport. Pike, particularly, are ravenously on the feed. —Ye Medway Water Rat.

### Morpeth.

Coquet in grand trim for fly and worm fishing; 5lb. basket, one gentleman on Tuesday. Small salmon now up.

## Ouse (Huntingdon).

Anglers have been very busy among the roach this last week. Several good takes have been made of some splendid fish, weighing from ½lb. to 1½lb. Since my last report a friend informs me that on the 2nd and 3rd inst. he took 205 fine roach and five bream, besides a great number he put back to the water not sizeable, and the water is in splendid condition for more takes, and the weather very favourable. Wheat is the principal bait for roach, and the red worm for bream. On the 8th I was with two gentlemen working for pike, but did not succeed; but the time is drawing close when every prospect is in view, for there is a great number in the waters.—H. Rout.

## Severn (Shrewsbury).

This river has again been in flood, and some good trout have been taken with the minnow by Messrs. Williams and Perkins. The latter succeeded in landing one weighing 2¾lb. Nothing has been done by the bottom fishers, the fish not being on the feed. Water clearing nicely, and will be in good order for the fly by Saturday. Barometer rising, with an easterly wind, and fine weather may be expected during the remaining fortnight of the trouting season.—Sandfly, 11th September.

## Severn and Stour (Kidderminster).

There is very little news to relate in respect to these rivers. The Severn continues very low and fine, notwithstanding the amount of rain that has fallen this last week. The flush at Shrewsbury spent itself before reaching us, and only a 2in. rise on the river, without any stain, told us there had been a drop of extra water at the head of the river. The Stour, that runs through Kidderminster, was in slight flood two days. While it lasted the anglers took advantage of the rise and travelled to Stourport, where the Stour empties itself into the Severn, discolouring the river for a considerable distance. Some good baskets of roach was the result. Bait, bread-paste. Nothing has been done with the fly. I have not put fly on the Severn this two months. The reports I have heard are not encouraging enough. The United Brothers angling contest came off on Saturday, August 30th, and, as I anticipated, the takes were small; the water was very low, fine, and at a standstill, or nearly so, ounces, not pounds, being the rule. Only twenty-seven entered, and nineteen took fish out of that number: F. Millington, 1st, taking the challenge cup and silver medal, the medal becoming his own property; E. Earp, 2nd; George Robinson, 3rd; R. Yardsley, 4th; Thos. Pearsall, 5th; S. Hinett, 6th; Mr. Briggs, 7th; J. Brooks, 8th; D. Sheldon, 9th; Jno. Evans, 10th; Charles Walters, 11th. An extra prize was given for the best fish; this fell to your humble servant. The annual dinner will take place in a week or two, when the prizes will be given to the winners.—E. Earp, hon. sec.

## South Level Cut (Littleport).

The following are a few of the best takes for the week:—Sept. 5th, Mr. H. C. Hearne, Cambridge, 12lb. very nice roach; Mr. D. Flack. Cambridge, 8lb. good roach; Mr. Fuller, Cambridge, a very nice take of roach; Messrs. E. and H. Fetch, Cambridge, 9lb. roach. Sept. 6th, Dr. Cooper, Cambridge, 15lb. nice roach; Mr. S. Ratliffe, London, 14lb. splendid roach; Messrs. E. and H. Fetch, Cambridge, 8½lb. roach; Mr. B. Brashier, Littleport, a dozen nice perch; and Mr. Tillett, Littleport, six nice perch and three eels, the lot of perch for the two anglers forming the best dish I have seen for fifteen years. Sept. 8th, Messrs. E. and H. Fetch, Cambridge, 16lb. very good roach; Messrs. Pryor, Gray, and Butcher, Cambridge, 16½lb. roach, &c.; Mr. T. Hunnybun, Cambridge, 9lb.; and Mr. W. Rowton, Cambridge, 6½lb. Sept. 11th, Mr. Butcher, Stratford-on-Avon, five dozen nice roach; Mr. Pryor, Cambridge, two dozen and eleven roach; Mr. L. Agger, Cambridge, 18lb. very fine roach. —Charles South.

## Taw (N. Devon).

I have this day, 11th September, made my first appearance upon one of our little streams which has been very low all the summer; but the late rain brought up the water, and when rising many fish were killed. I managed, in two miles of water —although the fish were very shy and taking short—to get twenty-two fish with the rusty blue; and found three others besides myself upon the water, but was surprised to hear that the river is flooded with bank clerks, whenever they are let out of bank. It seems a nusiance that in a small place the rivers are always flooded with five or six, and they mean enough to use worms and minnows when fly only is permitted. I have heard of some perch—some forty—taken, and one or two salmon; but it will take much more water to raise it enough for a good run. The article I noticed last week upon N. Devon fishing is rather misleading, as only one or two days are given a month upon the Bray river, and that ceases after August, so if one should find himself at the hotel, strongly advocated they will find it a sell. I think everyone should read Cutcliffe's books, and remember the days of large catches are over, and fear even the number of two dozen per day is a little multiplication practice. I know two or three who have not got as many fish, and they have known the river for forty years, and agree with me that the days of large catches are over for the Bray—too much draining, Would the writer just say a word or two about flies?—Rusty Game.

## Teme (Ludlow).

This stream and its various tributaries have all improved considerably, and are all in excellent condition. The heavy rains which have visited us, have, to a great extent, restored the tributaries to nearly their proper state. We have heard of a pretty good lot of eels being caught; we ourselves witnessed some very fine ones being caught at the Castle Mills. Large quantities of small ones have been landed at night, many fishermen staying on the river's banks in the moonlight far into the night. We met a woman in Broad-street, who had 27 eels in a basket, which, she informed me, her husband caught the previous night by moonlight, the wife sitting by the river banks and keeping him company. Down the Steventon waters a gentleman, on Monday, plied the wasp grub for four hours; he succeeded in landing seven roach, four grayling, three perch, and two trout, the whole lot weighed about 8lb. A fisherman, on Saturday, caught, between New Bridge and Ludford Bridge, a trout, which weighed 2½lb., with the fly. Up the Oakley Park district the fishing has been pretty fair. One fisherman caught, on Tuesday evening, about six grayling and eight trout, besides some small fish; the grayling and trout turned the scale at 9lb. We have heard little of the doings of the Leintwardine Club waters, but believe the late state of the waters prevented any visitors attending the club water. The rain has so far improved the Clun that fishing has become pretty general, and some nice grayling have been caught with the silver twisted blue. The Ony is getting itself again; the pale blue and red ant have done fair execution this week. A splendid lot of grayling were caught with the maggot in these waters near Onibury, on Monday night. The fish bite well at the wasp grub up the Corve; though this stream is somewhat coloured, good fish continue to be landed from the Railway Bridge up to Mr. Farmer's waters. In the Letwyche a few fish have been caught, but the fishing in that quarter is hardly worth notice.—S. Ludlow.

## Teme (Tenbury).

This stream is now in splendid fishing order; the recent heavy rains which have been had in this district has made the water slowly rise. It is now very clear and in splendid condition for the fly, at which the fish are sporting well. The best flies on the water at present are the green insect, red ant, and whirling blue, and some very large dishes have been taken with them. Some good fish have been taken with the maggot, and a few with the wasp grub. The water on Friday was in very good order for the fly. The fish were sporting well. A gentleman tried the whirling blue and green insect near Little Hereford Bridge, and landed a good dish of grayling, weighing 7lb. the lot, all in splendid condition. In the water near Rochford some capital sport was had with the maggot, and a very nice dish of grayling was taken, some weighing 1lb. each. Some splendid trout were taken with the fly. In the water near Berrington Court, a gentleman fishing with the red ant and green insect landed a very fine lot of grayling and trout, averaging ½lb. each. At Eastham on Saturday some very good fish were taken by a gentleman who was fishing with the wasp grub. Near the bridge a good basket of grayling were landed with the fly. Some very good grayling and trout were landed near to Easton Court by a gentleman who was fishing with the fly. On Monday a gentleman fished the water from the bridge down, and with the whirling blue landed a splendid basket of fine grayling and a few trout. A few very fine grayling were taken with the wasp grub near to Little Hereford Bridge, averaging 10oz. each. A gentleman on Tuesday tried the water near Corn Brook with the fly, and landed a very nice dish of fine trout and grayling. Some very good trout were taken with the wasp grub. In the Ledwyche some very fine trout were taken on Monday with the fly. The Kyre and Rea are now in good order for the fly. In the Rea, up Stoddeston way, some very good trout have been taken with the whirling blue. A splendid dish was taken near Didlick with the maggot. A gentleman landed a good basket with the fly near to Neen Sollars. In the Kyre, near the park, a gentleman took a good dish of fine trout with the green insect. Good sport has been had in the waters near Bruntlands, and some good trout have been taken.—Worcester.

## Trent (Alrewas).

The weather has been very unsettled during the past week, but the river is in excellent condition. Few members have been out, but some very fine samples of roach have been taken. The grayling are now well on the feed, and eagerly taking the fly; one member landing three very fine ones, one scaling 1lb. 3oz.

## The Trent (Nottingham).

Rain fell on Saturday and Monday, and anglers were in hopes that a rise would follow. But in this respect they were disappointed, the only difference consisting of a rise of one or two inches. When our report was despatched on Thursday the river was as low as at any part during the season. Barbel anglers have mustered in force, and at Shardlow more fish than previously were caught. Some have also been killed at Wilford, and a few have been taken in the Holme Pierrepont length. In the early part of the week the roach-anglers fared uncommonly well at and near Trent Lock, and some fine specimens of chub have been obtained at Sawley, and the waters above with the wasp-grub. Fly-fishing has been pursued with success at Wilford and Clifton, and it is not a little singular that another amateur recently caught at one cast a dace and an eel.—The Man at the Clubs.

## Trent (Newark).

Owing to the very heavy rains the water came on a bit, but it very soon went down again, and at the time of writing it is as low as ever again; but it has done one thing, and that is, carried a lot of the weeds away, so that it is possible to float fish comfortably now. Sport, on the whole, has not been of a very brilliant character this last week. A few odd lots of roach, dace, bream, and chub have been captured. A friend of mine out most days this week, says the water is in fairish form. One day he got half a dozen good chub with wasp grubs, and a few dace and roach with gentles another day, while yesterday he says he got the bream on a bit at tail-end of lob, getting ten fair sized fish in the afternoon. Water very low again to-day, but he has gone again to try the bream, and has not yet got home, so I cannot report particulars of his sport to-day. The engineer of the tug that plies between Hull and Newark says that fish are very difficult to catch all down the river, although, where knowing anglers have operated on a well-baited swim, they mostly manage to secure a few fish. He also told me that he saw an angler get four fair-sized jack in about half an hour, with a spoon bait. According to the opinion of these anglers (who are well qualified to give an opinion), tail-end of worm will be the best bait for bream and barbel; creed wheet or gentles for roach and dace; wasp grubs for chub; while jack seem to prefer a glittering spinning bait; water in good form for jack and chub.—The Trent Otter.

## Waveney (Beccles).

In spite of the heavy downpour on Thursday last (a pelting rain which continned for 24 hours straight away), the results to fishing have not been so disastrous as I anticipated in my last report; in fact it has been more beneficial than otherwise. The river was very full for two days, but did not get to overflowing. It has now gone down, and left the water a good colour, and therefore in good trim for angling. To-day it is quite a bronze colour, caused, I am told, by the grass. The rain, besides making the water a good colour, has had a most beneficial effect in clearing the river of weeds, which are very disagreeable to the fishermen wherever they abound. I much regret to learn that the fish are sickly up river, and some of them have been seen dead. No confirmation of this news has reached me, and I am at a loss to know what it is that's doing it. I hope, however, the report is not true. Nothing very wonderful has been done this week. Mr. Algar has had 7lb. nice roach; and Mr. W. Balls a nice jack, weighing about 7½lb., taken with natural bait spinning. Water good, but wind very unfavourable (N.E.)—A Waveney Angler.

## Wharfe (Yorkshire).

There has been a little fresh water in the river during the past few days, but the fish have not been in a humour for rising at fly; indeed, everyone in this district appears to have doserted the river side for the stubble fields and covert. The Leeds and County Angling Association (which is the new appellation chosen for the club lately known as the Rockingham) held their annual fishing match on Thursday, Sept. 4, at Brafferton, on the river Swale. The catches, upon the whole, were decidedly satisfactory. The first prize fell to the lot of Mr. E. Atkinson for 6lb. 9½oz. weight of fish; the second on the list was Mr. C. Hogg with 5lb. 9¼oz.; while the third and fourth were Mr. Fletcher, 5lb. 5½oz., and Mr. W. Ward 4lb. 5oz. respectively. Weather to-day (Wednesday) colder, and inclined for rain.—F. M. Walbran.

## Witham (Dogdyke).

On Monday, 8th inst., we had a small match fished here for amateurs residing within five miles of Dogdyke, when 28 entered for 19 prizes. The takes were small, owing to the state of the water—the fish were not on feed at all—but we are pleased to say all appeared well satisfied with the sport, and wished it might become an annual event. We have had some gentlemen from Manchester who have done very well indeed, more especially Messrs. T. and S. Hill, who have been fortunate enough to catch 55lb. weight of roach, perch, and eels.—Packet Hotel.

## Wye and Derwent.

The Derwent has a beautiful nut brown colouring water on it the whole of the week—a very killing water, and I am pleased to say that both the bottom fishers and fly fishers have had good sport, and baskets from six to ten brace per angler have been daily made. The present time is a very fair one for fly fishing. The killing flies have been bumbles, red and ash dun, and the fish have rose the best in the flats and stills, and have fed the best from 11 to 4. Weather to-night (Thursday) is very close and hot, thunder hanging about.—Geo. Jas. Eaton.

## The Yare (Norwich).

The weather during the past week has not been at all favourable to sport, though a nice change has set in during the past two days; still, from what I can gather, anglers on this river have not been at all successful, here and there one or two have had exceptional luck, and bagged a few good roach. Host Garrett, Buckingham Ferry, tells me that the past season has been by far the best he has experienced during his twelve years' tenure of the "Ferry," and, as regards sport, he never remembers the general run of catches so good; larger individual catches have been had in years past, but, taking the season through, he does not remember a summer in which such uniform good luck has attended the efforts of the disciples of "Old Isaac." From Blundall, both at Flowers' Boating and Yachting Station and also at host Brown's, Coldham Hall, the reports are just as good, and the roach fishing at this station may be said to be as good as of old, Cantley has been only fairly productive of sport amongst the bream;

still, this is only the fault of local anglers, who do not give this station the trial they ought, bream fishing not being in favour whilst the roach are to be had in such numbers, and so fine. I notice several correspondents have referred to large roach being caught at various parts; but I believe I am right in saying the Norwich Angling Club possesses the champion fish, weight just over 3lb., and caught by Mr. T. Lord near St. Benet's Abbey, on the Bure. Any anglers staying near Norwich are welcome to see this fine specimen at the club house, Walnut Shades, Market-place, Norwich. The water is now getting into nice condition for trailing for jack, and I shall expect shortly to hear of some being (not grassed) but gaffed. Taking the past summer as a whole, it may be put down as a most successful season on this river. Prospects (bar wind) good.—Robert Moll.

### Yore (Hawes).

Seeing that Mr. Walbran's remarks for the last few weeks were very applicable to the Yore, and, I having nothing to report, my long silence is explained. The long drought has played havoc with the river in this part. Close to my own residence is a hole or dub which, until this last fortnight held upwards of 18 nice trout, but now only two remain. Other holes have been similarly used. I know of a party who were out for one hour with a little net about 1ft. high and 4ft. long, and they killed 23 nice trout. Rather rough on the trout, I think, especially when this was done in one of the tributary streams. A net of this description is qualified to clear any small stream. Grayling seem very numerous; but the water is, and has been, so very low and clear, that angling is not of the least use. The barometer has been down to "Much Rain," and is now at "Change," without sufficient rain to stir the water sufficiently for successful angling. The season so far has been the worst for many years. Cray-fishers have had fair sport; one man I heard of captured 369 one evening. The crayfish have been fished for so ardently, that they are getting both small and scarce in comparison to what they used to be a few years ago.—Jos. Corry.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

[*We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.*]

### THE TROUT STREAMS OF NORTH DEVON.

Sir,—I have read "Helwr's" article with considerable interest, but it is as well that he should be corrected at once. The fishing on the Mole below South Molton to its junction with the Bray is not free. It is true that, owing to the courtesy of the riparian owners, gentlemen well known in the neighbourhood are permitted to fish; but, sir, your readers must understand that permission is required.

I have lived in South Molton all my life, and members of my family are some of the largest riparian owners in the district referred to, so I speak authoritatively.—I am, &c., S. B. C.

### GELATINE FLY WINGS.

Sir,—Your correspondent "Bittern," and other of your readers, may be glad to know that a modification of the sensitised gelatine, used in carbon printing process, furnishes a material insoluble in water, and suitable in other respects for artificial fly-wings.

I take Coignet's gold-label gelatine (broken in small pieces) 3 sheets, water 2oz., glycerine 6 drops, adding colouring matter as desired, and melt at a gentle heat (too high a temperature decomposing the gelatine).

Having prepared some small sheets of glass by cleaning one side thoroughly and rubbing it with a damped cloth on which a little ox gall has been smeared, I pour a pool of the above solution on the centre of each glass, which must then be tilted to allow the gelatine to spread out in a thin, even film.

When set and dry, I immerse the glasses in a solution of bichromate of potash 1oz., liquid ammonia (880) 5 drops, water 20oz., after remaining in which for about 5 minutes they are taken out and dried in a warm room. They are then exposed to strong daylight for about 20 minutes, after which the gelatine may be stripped off the glass and cut with scissors to the shape of wings.—I am, &c.,

76, Avenue-road, Regent's Park. Richard de Q. Quincey.

[The gelatine leaf is certainly very good, in some respects, for wings of flies, but we still prefer the pike scale—it is so much stronger.—Ed.]

### COLOURED HOOKS.

Sir,—On reading the letter of John E. Wilkes, in reference to myself in your last issue, I at once, through my solicitor, wrote to Mr. C. Court to know if the spiteful and untrue statements therein contained were published with his knowledge and consent, and the reply I received from Mr. Court was that Wilkes had no authority from him for making the statement in the letter under notice, and that "he knew nothing about it." With regard to the *green*, *red*, and *yellow* enamelled rust-proof hooks, J. E. Wilkes states that "it is a well-known fact that *red*, *green*, *blue*, and *yellow* coloured hooks were first introduced by Mr. Charles Court eight years ago." I will forward to you two guineas if J. E. Wilkes, Mr. Court, or anyone else, will submit to you a sample of green enamelled hooks similar to those I sent to you a fortnight ago for your notice, and at your request; or if they will show an invoice where they have sold such hooks prior to this date. Money to be handed over by you to any charitable institution connected with fishing you may think proper to name, on condition that the other party will send you a like amount for the same purpose if they fail to prove their ever having sold or made them, as stated by J. E. Wilkes. If these hooks have been in the market for eight years it is easy of proof; certainly no single sample was exhibited at the "Fisheries" last year. If your paper circulated in Redditch only it would not be necessary to reply to anything John Elias Wilkes may have to say; but the Gazette goes far and wide among sportsmen and business men, with whom all men are equal until they are known. To give a weight to his letter it would not (in your columns) otherwise possess, John E. Wilkes signs himself secretary of the *Piscatorial Society*. This Piscatorial Society to which he signs himself *secretary* is not a fishing society at all, but simply a cheap railway ticket society—the class of clubs so often denounced in your columns. The members pay a shilling a year, part of which goes to pay John E. Wilkes; the remainder, I believe, is given away, as they have no water and no expenses, except the "secretary," who is in no way connected with the fishing tackle trade, either as maker or seller, and, as a fisherman, never wetted a line in his life. One of the members of this "Piscatorial Society" told me the other day that he never fished, but he bought a shilling ticket and a sixpenny walking-stick rod, and with these he could ride to any of the fishing stations at the reduced rates, and it paid him very well. If John E. Wilkes will find some respectable person who will be responsible for what he (Wilkes) says I shall be willing to talk to him; otherwise, as the line has to be drawn somewhere, with myself it must be drawn at John E. Wilkes, secretary of the Redditch "Piscatorial Society." Trusting to your sense of fairness to print this, —I am, &c., William Guise.

Redditch, Sept. 8th.

[This correspondence is closed.—Ed.]

### GOOD NEWS FROM BUXTON.

Sir,—My attention has been directed to a paragraph in the columns of last Saturday's Fishing Gazette relative to the condition of the Wye, near to Buxton. Will you allow me to state that the Buxton Local Board are busily engaged upon the construction of sewage disposal works in Ashwood, and that in the course of six weeks we trust the sewage treatment will be in full operation under a scheme propounded by Dr. Thresh and upon plans approved by the Local Government Board. The scheme has also been laid before Alan Bagot, Esq., C.E., the consulting engineer of the Trent Fishery Board, who last year held an inquiry at Buxton. Unfortunately, the work was let in the first instance to a contractor who most shamefully delayed it, otherwise the treatment of the sewage would have been in operation two months ago. We have been obliged, on account of the delay, to take the work in our own hands, and it is now being proceeded with rapidly. I trust, and have no doubt, that if your correspondent again visits Buxton, he will find the stream restored to its original purity and brightness.—I am, &c.,

Jos. Hague,
Assoc.M.Inst., C.E., Engineer of the Works.

Buxton, Derbyshire, Sept. 6.

### GOOD SPORT AT WALTON-ON-THAMES.

Sir,—I fished on the 8th and 9th inst. at Walton-on-Thames, with old George Hone, and caught nine dozen roach and dace, seventeen bream, two chub (1lb. and 2lb.), two barbel (2lb. and 4lb.), one perch (½lb.), and a beautiful Thames trout (6lb).—I am, &c., Alfred Mackrill.

Tenby Lodge, Kingston-hill, Surrey, Sept. 9.

### THE EXE.

Sir,—I wonder whether your correspondent, J. A. Kelly, could give me any idea as to how they are getting on with the new salmon pass over St. James's Weir, commonly called Salmon Pool Weir? As an "Ex-Conservator of the river Exe," I feel interested, and being well known to J. A. K., no doubt he will reply.—I am, &c.,

Frank Gosden,
Strathfieldsaye. Fish Culturist to his Grace the Duke of Wellington.

### A 15lb. SALMON ON DACE TACKLE.

Sir,—As a bit of fishing news, I send you the following account of landing a salmon last Wednesday, by the veteran angler, Frank West (my father). We were fishing a place in the Donnington Park water, near Derby, a noted barbel swim, and as we could not get them to bite, the old gentleman said he would try dace fishing, and put on *a dace tackle, with drawn gut, and a No. 8 hook.* He had not been fishing many minutes when he hooked a good fish which he thought was a barbel, and, as he appeared to come up easily, he at once shouted for me to come and land him; but as soon as he brought the fish up, and he saw me, he made off at once, and flew out of the water three or four yards, when we saw he was a very fine salmon. "Oh! my poor dace tackle," says the guv'nor. "Be careful," says I, "we shall land him yet." With that, the fish ran back again into the hole where he was hooked, and sulked for half an hour; then he made a rush across the river to a sunken tree that lies straight down the river, with its roots uppermost, and, it being impossible to stop him, he went right round the end, and stayed about in the middle of it; then the float got fast on a bough, and we thought he was gone. I took possession of the rod, and, going a good way up the river, managed to set it at liberty; then I ran down again, keeping my rod well up, I got the line over the bottom-end of the tree, and putting a little pressure on, I got the fish to move down stream 40 yards below, and the guv'nor came and gaffed him, after an exciting struggle of nearly an hour: he just scaled 15lb. A most wonderful performance, considering the tackle. This makes four salmon this season to him, the largest 18lb., and three to me, the heaviest 21lb., which I hooked and landed myself. As we fish an eight mile stretch of water, I can send you some news about angling, if acceptable. One of my friends got a barbel next day, in the same length, 6lb., and another six nice fish on Saturday.—I am, &c.,

Albert West.

[This is certainly a feat of which any "veteran angler" might well be proud. It was probably Mr. West's experience, gained from playing heavy barbel, which enabled him, with a single tiny hook and drawn gut, to keep touch of a 15lb. salmon.—Ed.]

### FISHING AT FOLKESTONE.

Sir,—If "J." will try the small river that runs by Smeeth, he will find very good roach fishing above the mill, the fish running from 6oz. to 1lb.; very seldom under the former size. He should be careful not to trespass on the preserved water above; but four years ago, when I fished there, there was no hindrance to fishing the mill pool. There is a comfortable inn at Smeeth. I once killed 25lb. in a short day on this water.—C. F. W.

### THE WAVENEY AND OULTON FISHERIES' PROTECTION SOCIETY.

On Thursday afternoon the annual general meeting of this society was held at the Suffolk Hotel, W. L. Everett, Esq., presiding. The financial statement for the year ending the 6th of July showed—total receipts, £123 10s. 8d.; disbursements, £77 15s. 5d., leaving a balance of £45 15s. 3d. The chairman proposed the adoption of the report, and said, with regard to the finances, he regretted the Lowestoft residents did not sufficiently support the society. Last year Beccles subscribed £16 11s. 3d., and this year £39 19s. 6d., being an increase of £23 19s. 3d.; whereas Lowestoft gave last year £26 9s., and this year only £27 2s. 7d., being an increase of only 13s. 7d. The society had a great area of water to preserve, and unless lodging-house-keepers and hotel-keepers contributed, the society must abandon the preservation of Oulton Broad. The Broad attracted a great number of visitors, and therefore the angling on the Broad was a great benefit to the town of Lowestoft. The society had only £45 in hand to carry on their work during the ensuing year, which would cost between £70 and £80. The report was unanimously adopted.

### WELLINGTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

On the 7th September, we had next door to a blank, only one member weighing in—Mr. Wright, roach and dace, 1lb. 4¾oz. On the 10th, Mr. Andrews weighed in, barbel, 4lb. 13½oz. Mr. James Weare was duly elected a member. The next South London United visit will be paid to this society, on Monday, the 22nd September.—W. W. Alexander, sec., Prince George, Hill-street, Walworth.

### A FINE TROUT FROM THE CHURNET.

One of our subscribers at Leek, Mr. Albert F. Bingley, has had the good fortune to take a trout of over 5lb. in the Churnet—length, 23in., and 13½in. girth. The Churnet joins the Dove about 12 miles from Leek. It is a capital trout stream, although the fish seldom exceed 1lb. in weight, and the last "big" one was taken with a net. The oldest piscator in the place does not remember such a fish as this being taken by rod and line before. Mr. Bingley caught it with gentles.

Important Decision under the Salmon Fisheries Act.—At the Inverness circuit court, on Wednesday, Lord Mure gave decision in a case of considerable importance to the public and to proprietors of salmon fishing. Higgins, it appeared, was convicted of taking a finnock and a salmon from the river Findhorn, in March last, at a point specified as being the property of the Earl of Moray. Higgins maintained that as a member of the community of Forres, which it was stated had a charter giving the right of salmon fishing in the Findhorn to the burgesses, he was entitled to angle for fish of the salmon kind at the place in question. Mr. Mackay, advocate deputy, who appeared for the Earl of Moray, held that the burgh of Forres had not even a colourable title to the right of salmon fishing on the Findhorn, and maintained that by virtue of his title the right of fishing on the Findhorn and in the pool from which Higgins took the salmon belonged to the Earl of Moray. Lord Mure, after the case had been fully debated, recalled the conviction complained of, and found the Earl of Moray liable in the expenses, the amount of which he modified to five guineas. The case has caused much interest in the North of Scotland.

# CLUB REPORTS.

### ANCHOR AND HOPE ANGLING SOCIETY.

The trays of the above society were very poorly patronised on the 7th inst., only two members weighing in, Mr. T. Bowling, bream 2lb. 5oz. from Amberley; Mr. D. Davis, bream 6lb. 3oz., from the Medway. On the 6th inst., Mr. A. Shakel, roach 4lb. 5oz. from the Canal. A match will take place on the 21st inst., for five prizes given by Messrs. F. H. Rollings, F. Badcock, R. Farmer, D. Liston, and W. Clerke. Members are requested to attend on club night to receive particulars as to where and how it is to be fished.—D. Davis, sec.

### THE ANGLERS' ASSOCIATION, FORESTERS' HALL, CLERKENWELL-ROAD.

The monthly delegate meeting will take place on Monday evening next, Sept. 15th, at the Foresters' Hall, Clerkenwell-road, E.C., chair taken at 9 o'clock. The new instruction cards, with lists of fares and the lists of angling clubs, are now ready, and may be had on application.

### BURDETT ANGLING SOCIETY.

The following have weighed in since my last report:—On the 17th ult., Mr. Shervill, roach; Mr. Wilson, roach; Mr. Kerry, carp and rudd; Mr. Eaton, roach; Mr. De Cort, roach and dace. On the 24th ult., Mr. Stokes, roach; Mr. De Cort, roach; Mr. Eaton, roach. On the 31st ult., Mr. Shervill, roach and rudd; Mr. De Cort, roach; Mr. Wilson, rudd; Mr. Eaton, roach. On the 7th inst., Mr. Eaton, roach and chub; Mr. Herring, rudd; Mr. Shervill, rudd.—T. G. Walker.

### BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT AMALGAMATED ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

Knowing your generous principle at all times in publishing matters concerning angling, I beg to forward the following:—The annual contest in connection with the Highgate Angling Association (branch of the above) was held on Saturday, Sept. 6, at Fernhill Heath, Worcestershire. The weather, upon the whole, was favourable, with the wind from the south, accompanied by variable showers. The takes were fairly good, and a keen and lively interest was exhibited by the twenty competitors. We fished the customary two hours, and after the weighing was carefully gone through, the following were declared the prizetakers in the order named:—J. Bowler, F. Perry, Waite, C. Hall, W. Watkins, J. Powell, R. Gumbly, E. Workman, G. Midwinter, T. Coles, H. Garner, and J. Burnett. The prizes, thanks to the generous donors who contributed in a great measure to strengthen the list, were substantial and numerous. A novel feature in connection with the affair was a prize given by a hairdresser of this town, which consisted of a *carte blanche* check guaranteeing the holder twelve months' hair-cutting, shaving, and shampooing free of charge. It is not so much for its value as its originality that I mention it. To know that one's head can be kept cool and chin clean for 365 days without any aid from the pocket will be admitted is a consideration in these times. The referee, Mr. Field, jun., and the umpires, Messrs. Field, sen., Hands, and Hanks, discharged their respective duties in a fair and impartial manner, and gave evidence of ripened experience in such duties. After the contest was over, we adjourned to the Bull Inn and sat down to a substantial meal, served up by that worthy caterer, Mr. Cave. I should be wanting in courtesy were I not specially to mention the worthy host of the club house, Mr. Field, sen. His own personal kindness in giving a substantial prize, coupled with his instrumentality in getting others to build up the prize list, entitles him to our warmest thanks, and, in conjunction with his genial demeanour upon all occasions, stamps him truly our worthy host. The manner in which the Contest Committee carried out the arrangements reflects great credit to them for the unselfishness they displayed. I will close my letter by stating that the whole proceedings were marked by good feeling and good humour, and we returned home at 8.21 p.m., having spent a most enjoyable time, which will be regarded as a red letter day in the history of the above Association.—Thomas Coles, president.

### BRIGHTON ANGLERS' ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday week our fourth annual outing took place at Leonardslea Park, near Horsham. After luncheon we adjourned to the cricket field, where a match took place by teams selected by Messrs. A. Dolton (secretary), and N. Clark (referee), the latter eleven winning an exciting match by one wicket, thanks to the bowling of N. Clark, who was quite a second Spofforth. Other sports took place, in which H. Inman figured prominently. At two o'clock the fishing competition took place in Mr. Hubbard's beautiful lakes, the scenery in and around the estate being one of the most charming pieces in Sussex. Inman again was well up, winning the first prize, one guinea, easily; Taylor second. Six o'clock, dinner was dished up in splendid style by host Brown (Mr. J. Saunders in the chair). After full justice had been done to the good things, songs and other toasts were indulged in. Mr. N. Clark, as referee, deserved the thanks of all present, which they unanimously voted. Other toasts followed, and at eight o'clock a return was made to Brighton. Between thirty and forty were present, amongst them being Mr. J. Walls, G. Heathorne, &c.—A. H. Dolton, Hon. Sec.

### BROMPTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

Only two members succeeded in getting fish on the 7th inst.: Mr. Burbidge, trout and chub; Mr. Dutton, bream and perch. Several other members being out. —W. Dutton, sec.

### CAVENDISH ANGLING SOCIETY.

*To the Editor of the* Fishing Gazette.

Sir,—In your issue of the 23rd inst., in the Cavendish Angling Society's report, the names of H. Reaves and C. Blackman are mentioned as being expelled from that society at a special general meeting for illegal practices. It would be as well to let your readers know how and under what circumstances they were expelled, if expulsion you can call it. Mr. Brett, the gentleman who brought the charge against Messrs. Reaves and Blackman, bet the latter 7s. 6d. to 2s. 6d. that he could not catch 4lb. of fish each Sunday for 13 Sundays, commencing June 22nd; also a level sovereign that he would not be money in at the end of that time. All went well while Mr. Blackman lost, which he did the first three Sundays; but on Sunday, the 13th July, he weighed in 8lb. of roach. This was too much, and Mr. Blackman was insulted by Mr. Brett and several other members, some of whom had similar bets on with him. He was told he must have bought them or had them given to him, as it was impossible for him to have caught them, &c. On Sunday, 20th July, Mr. Blackman weighed in 4lb. 9½oz. of bream. On Thursday, 31st July, Mr. Brett brings his charge. He tells the members of the C. A. S., from what he had heard about the roach, he felt convinced that he was being swindled, and that Mr. Reaves had caught them on the Thursday previous, and had kept them alive for Mr. Blackman to weigh in on the Sunday. He therefore employed a detective, who watched Mr. Blackman from his house, saw him meet Mr. Reaves, and followed them to Wimbledon, where, according to the detective's evidence, Mr. Blackman only caught one fish, and he weighed in four, and Mr. Reaves pulled one out on Mr. Blackman's line, and left two of his own catching on the bank, and although he did not see Mr. Blackman take them away, he must have done so and weighed them in. On this evidence Mr. Brett wanted Mr. Reaves and Mr. Blackman expelled at once, but this could only be done at a special general meeting. He, therefore, gave notice to the secretary to call a meeting in a fortnight's time. Rule 10 of the society says that the society may at any time, by giving notice to the members, convene a special general meeting upon the receipt of a written requisition signed by at least five members of the society specifying the reason of such special general meeting, and allowing at least two meeting nights between the date of the proposed meeting, which shall take place in the club room, and be strictly confined to members of the society; chair to be taken at 9.30 p.m., or as soon as 10 members are present. Thursday, the 14th August, the meeting took place, and Mr. Reaves objected to the meeting, as it had not allowed sufficient time according to rule for him to find his witnesses; but this was overruled. Mr. Reaves wished Mr. Bunn, of the Dalston Brothers (who was with Mr. Blackman on the 13th of July, and saw him catch the roach), to be called, but this was not allowed. Mr. Blackman then called Mr. Pratt, of the Queen's A. S., who was fishing next to him at Wimbledon on Sunday, the 20th, and saw Mr. Blackman catch three bream before 12 o'clock. At that time he left Wimbledon and went home to dinner; but the detective contradicted him, and said he was asleep on his box at Wimbledon from 2 till 4 o'clock, and although Mr. Pearce and Mr. Hodges, of the Queen's A. S., was called to disprove this, and gave evidence in favour of Mr. Blackman, they were laughed and jeered at, and treated in a manner that was a disgrace to any society calling themselves gentlemen and consider they rank next to the Gresham. Messrs. Reaves and Blackman were then asked to leave the room while the matter was discussed, and when they returned they were told they were expelled, and this on the sole evidence of a paid spy against that of disinterested members of other societies! This unjust verdict would have debarred Messrs. Reaves and Blackman from joining any other society; however, the Queen's A. S., well knowing how unjustly they had been dealt with, unanimously elected them into their own society.

P.S.—We should like to ask you, Mr. Editor, if it is usual to publish the names of members expelled from societies? If not, we think it shows a certain amount of malice on the part of the person who has done so, and if you would kindly give us the name of the reporter you will greatly oblige.—We are, &c.,

H. Reaves,
C. Blackman.

[It is certainly most unusual to give the names of any members who may have been expelled from a club. We are sorry to see betting introduced into an angling club in this way. It invariably leads to rows and unpleasantness.—Ed.]

### CITY OF LONDON ANGLING SOCIETY.

On the 7th inst. a few of our members met at Burnt Mill Station to compete in a pegged-down match in the River Stort. We found the little river in a much better condition than we expected, being low and bright, the weather having had but little effect upon it. Mr. Chambers won the first prize with roach and dace; Mr. Plumstead, sen., second, with roach, dace, and gudgeon; Mr. Robson third, with roach; and Mr. Nitz fourth, with roach; Messrs. Castell, W. Jones, Blackwell, and Bowyer also weighing in fish.—Cas.

### CLAPTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The usual weekly meeting was held on Monday last, Mr. Colls in the chair, a very good muster of members and friends being present. Some capital trays of fish were exhibited, notably:—Mr. H. Short, a splendid trout from the Lea at Ware, scaling 4lb. 3¼oz.; this gentleman also had some fine roach, one scaling 1lb. 3oz.; Mr. F. Tregenza had from Staarbrook 12lb. bream, heaviest 2lb. 9oz., 5lb. roach, and 2lb. chub, and this gentleman had some fine roach and tench from Harlington; I also, fishing with Mr. Tregenza, had a good show of roach and tench from the same water; Mr. G. Colls, 7lb. 4oz. barbel and small jack from Staines. Mr. Short will undoubtedly take Mr. Chillingworth's prize of two guineas with the above handsome trout. —Henry Howse, hon. sec.

### GLOBE ANGLING SOCIETY.

On the 7th inst. Mr. H. Lake had a very nice take of roach and dace, and two small chub, making an aggregate of 11lb. 3oz., the heaviest roach scaling 1lb. 2oz. Messrs. D. Thomas and J. Brown, roach, dace, and gudgeon from the river Wey.— J. J. Holmes, sec.

### GOOD INTENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

Mr. Guntrip brought in a capital lot of rudd on the 7th inst.; Mr. Maybury, roach; Mr. Hewett, dace; Mr. Gadbury, roach and dace; Mr. Murphy, dace; Mr. Haines, carp; Mr. Phillpott, bream and roach, our trays being well filled. Our distribution of prizes will take place on Tuesday, the 23rd inst. Trusting members will send in their prizes not later than Saturday, the 20th inst., the sec. will be at the club house from 8 till 10 p.m. to receive them.—R. Murphy.

### GRANGE ANGLING SOCIETY.

The usual fortnightly meeting of the above society was held on Thursday last at the Earl of Derby, Grange-road, Bermondsey, about 25 members putting in an appearance. The usual business having been transacted, and two new honorary members elected, the secretary (pro tem.) notified to those present that the following prizes had been promised for the month of September, viz.:—A cup given by Mr. Hosken (president) for the first heaviest weight of all fish except jack; a prize given by Mr. Colwell for the second heaviest weight of all fish except jack; a prize given by Mr. W. J. Rich for the third heaviest weight of all fish except jack; also a prize given by Mr. Gibbons for the heaviest weight of perch taken during the month.—Francis W. Croker, hon. sec. (pro tem.).

### GREENWICH ANGLING SOCIETY.

The usual weekly meeting of this society was held at the Prince Albert, Royal hill, Greenwich, on the 4th inst.; Mr. Young in the chair. The minutes were read and confirmed. Our trays were again completely filled by Mr. Young with barbel— two largest, 7½lb.—and a chub of 1¾lb., and by Mr. Martin with roach and dace. Two new members were elected. Some very agreeable musical selections followed, and the evening was brought to a close by a hearty vote of thanks to the chairman.— James Ware, hon. sec,, Sept. 9th.

### GREAT YARMOUTH PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The society, at this meeting on Tuesday, had the satisfaction of entering a 2lb. perch taken by Mr. C. K. Turpin, of Plumstead, and a number of large gudgeon and dace by a member of the Independent Society, also receiving the following subscriptions to assist the society:—Mr. Sterry, 10s. 6d.; Mr. Rivere, 5s.; Mr. Turpin, 5s.; these were duly handed and acknowledged by the treasurer pro. tem., Mr. C. K. Lamb, who is also chairman, not president, Mr. D. S. Bayfield being the president. Captain Blake, who I may tell you is the vice-commodore of the N. and S. Yacht Club, has joined us, and although much feeling has been exercised in for a pointed purpose, members are still being enrolled.—James Lark, secretary.

### GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

The ordinary weekly meeting of the above society was held on Tuesday evening, at the Masons' Hall Tavern, Masons-avenue, Basinghall-street. Mr. Crumplen presided, and there was a good attendance of members and friends. The minutes having been read and confirmed, some correspondence was read with reference to two or three pieces of water which the committee are making efforts to obtain for the use of the members. Captain Alfred reported several good takes by members during the past week, and also gave an account of the meeting of the Thames Angling Preservation Society. Members will be glad to learn that Mr. Godwin (hon. solicitor of the Gresham) has been unanimously elected a member of the committee of the Thames Angling Preservation Society. A perch competition (particulars of which will be found in the prize-list with which each member has been furnished) will take place on Tuesday next. Several gentlemen have signified their intention of competing, and a good show of fish is expected.—H.

### GOLDEN BARBEL.

During the past few weeks, the members of this society have been having some good sport at the various places they are in the habit of visiting. Mr. Chapman has had some nice bream from the Welsh Harp, some of them going over 3lb. each. Mr. Green has been well among the roach and dace, in the Thames and the Avon; Mr.

J. Stanton has also worked well amongst the same class of fish. Mr. Hale, from the Thames, Lea, and Avon, has not been lazy. Our esteemed member, Mr. Lawford, has found a very nice show from a place he was in the habit of visiting for other purposes besides fishing, which has now caused him to enter into that partnership which is generally supposed to last through all "the ups and downs of life," and he has uttered those most important words, in reply to a certain gentleman, "I will." The members of this society and myself wish him and his partner all the "Health, wealth, and happiness this world can give them." A competition among the members will take place in "Quin Ait," on the 14th inst., for a series of prizes. A smoking concert among some of Mr. Lerner's friends, will take place on September 16th, to which all members and their friends are invited.—Pixie,

### HIGHBURY ANGLING SOCIETY.

The annual dinner of this flourishing society took place at the Pied Bull, St. Margaret's, Herts, on Saturday, the 30th ult., when a large gathering of members and friends sat down to a most excellent *menu*, provided by host Lyndsell, to whom too much praise cannot be given for the manner in which he catered for the company. The majority of the members went down in a brake and four from their headquarters, the Plimsoll Hotel, St. Thomas's-road, Finsbury Park, the remainder of the party patronising the train from Liverpool-street. Mr. Charles Rose presided, and Mr. Devonshire occupied the vice-chair. After the removal of the cloth, the Chairman gave the usual loyal and patriotic toasts, which were in every respect duly honoured and responded to. The Vice-Chairman, in proposing the next toast on the programme, "The Anglers' Association," alluded in very eloquent terms to the good work which the executive of that body were endeavouring to carry out for the benefit of the entire angling community, and impressed upon every genuine angler the necessity of combined support. The toast was most cordially received and responded to by Mr. Frank Temple, who, in a well-chosen speech, recounted the many happy days he had spent in pursuit of legitimate angling in the Thames and other places, and fully endorsed the sentiments of the vice-chairman in wishing the Association every success. The next toast was then submitted to the company by the Chairman, viz., "Success to the Highbury Angling Society," coupling the same with the Secretary (Mr. J. E. Wheatley), and in very genial terms observed that, having had the honour of presiding over similar festive occasions for many years past, he felt bound to state that the present one greatly exceeded the pleasure he had hitherto experienced, owing to the fact that he had been chosen by the members to present to Mr. Wheatley a very handsome silver lever watch, which had been subscribed for by them in testimony of their appreciation of the manner in which he had conducted the business of the club as secretary since its formation, nearly sixteen years ago, and by whose instrumentality and exertions the society had been brought to the foremost position in which it ranked amongst those of a kindred character. The toast was most enthusiastically received and drunk with musical honours. Mr. Wheatley, in response, expressed his heartfelt thanks to the chairman and his brother members for their very handsome present, which he should value beyond anything he could say, and stated that he would always be ready and willing to promote the interest of the society to the utmost of his power. The healths of the President, Treasurer, Vice-Chairman, the Committee, Visitors, Press, &c., were afterwards given and acknowledged, and at a late hour one of the most enjoyable dinners of this society was brought to a close.—A Visitor.

### INDEPENDENT BROTHERS' ANGLING SOCIETY.

Our trays on the 31st ult. were well filled with fish of all kinds, Barbel, bream, dace, roach, jack, perch, and gudgeon, taken by Messrs. Leader, Roberts, Coomes, Clark, and Moore, and was considered by the visitors to be a handsome show of fish. —H. Moore, hon sec.

### LINCOLN ANGLING SOCIETY.

Our members were out on the 31st ult., and most of them had good shows of fish. Our return visit took place on Monday, September 8th.—H. Bingle, sec.

[Received too late for last week.—Ed.]

### LEICESTER GRANBY ANGLING CLUB.

The annual fishing contest of the members of this club was held on Thursday in the waters near Brooksby Station, by the kind permission of Mr. J. Main, of Hoby. There were upwards of twenty competitors. Fishing was commenced at half-past two, and terminated at half-past six. The awards comprised a fishing-rod, silver-plated flask, meerschaum pipe and case, pair of carvers, sportsman's knife, together with money prizes. The following were the successful competitors :—1st, H. Jarvis ; 2nd, E. Barrett ; 3rd, D. W. Humphries ; 4th, G. Wells ; 5th, J. Dunkley ; 6th, C. Hollyoak ; 7th, E. Winterton ; 8th, J. Rebaids. The party reached home about eight o'clock, after spending a most enjoyable afternoon.

### NORFOLK ANGLING SOCIETY.

On the 10th the members present were treated to a very fine show of fish, which were greatly admired by them all. Mr. Foulger, roach, dace, perch, and gudgeon, filling two large trays ; Mr. Goldsworthy, some very fine roach (he is just commencing his old form again ; we hope to see ere long some more of his leviathan takes as of old—Come, wake up, old man !) ; Mr. Pilgrim also a pretty show of roach and dace, and a very fine flounder ; Mr. Galloway roach and dace in abundance (he must have taken some of his own stuff down with him and caught them napping). The first of the monthly suppers will take place on Wednesday, 24th, at 8 sharp, when we hope to see a good muster of members and friends.

### PECKHAM BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

The trays of this club were well filled on the 7th, Mr. J. Gafney having bream and barbel, the two largest fish going over 7lb. ; Mr. F. Furnes, jack ; Mr. T. Phipps, perch ; Mr. "Sloper," jack ; Mr. Page and another gentleman, rudd. The next match will be at Kingston, on the 20th. All members are requested to attend on Tuesday next, as there are several gentlemen to be proposed as members.—Gadfly.

### THE PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The usual weekly meeting of the above society was numerously attended at Ashley's hotel last Monday. Mr. C. C. Blundell was unanimously elected to the chair, and after the usual routine of business, the secretary (Mr. J. Lander) proceeded to read the correspondence of the society. A letter from Mr. R. S. Fennings, who is still at Ringwood, stated that the sport had, owing to the state of the river, somewhat fallen off ; he, however, intended staying there for another fortnight, and if he had not too much depleted the waters of the Avon of roach, he hoped to become a prominent competitor in the forthcoming roach competition fixed for the 22nd inst. Mr. Fennings' weights since the last meeting were : Sept. 3rd, 46lb. 8oz., roach—largest 1lb. 8oz. ; Sept. 5th, 21lb. 7oz., and on Monday, Sept. 8th, 9lb. 8oz roach ; 14oz. dace, and a grayling 1lb. 10oz. Mr. Goodger read a letter of thanks which he had received from the secretary of the Orthopædic Hospital for basket of roach he had sent there one day last week, and said that he understood the patients would fully appreciate a further supply of these delicacies. As Monday was the fixture for the annual club competition, for which prizes were offered to the value of £5 8s. 6d., several members during the evening weighed in their fish. Amongst these were Mr. J. Huggett, 2 chub, 3lb. 12oz.; Mr. E. Foreman, 2 chub, 3lb. 9oz. ; Mr. Blamey 2 chub, 2lb. 4½oz. The full particulars and result of this competition will be announced next week. Mr. R. B. Marston then proposed Mr. J. Hodson, of Manchester, who was present as a visitor, as a member of the society, and the nomination was seconded by Dr. Brunton. Mr. J. Lander handed round for inspection one of Slater's (Newark) patent, silent check combination winches ; several of those present were fully acquainted with the usefulness of Mr. Slater's invention. Dr. Brunton was then called on by the chairman to give the society the benefit of his angling experiences during his recent visit to Scotland, and the Doctor related in his usual graphic manner, how he had "astonished the natives" by fishing on the Clyde coast from a moored boat with ordinary ledger tackle ; he only fished on three occasions for two hours in the evening, yet his style of fishing proved so effective, that over 120 codling, pollack, gurnard, plaice, &c., fell to his one rod. The bait he used was mussels, which he succeeded in hardening by soaking in salted water for twenty-four hours previous to using. After spending a few days on the Clyde Coast, he proceeded to his native home, and fished in his native lake ; although the weather was stormy during his visit, and the wind N.E. for two days, his baskets were by no means small, amounting to 76 trout on the first day, 108 on the second, and 32 on the third ; most of these fish were the ordinary four-to-the-pound size, with here and there a pounder to relieve the monotony. A curious fact about this lake was, that a few years ago it was stocked with 6,000 *Salmo fontinalis*. On the following year the Doctor captured a brace, but since then these fish had entirely disappeared : the more remarkable as there was not any suitable outlet from the lake for them to take advantage of. He then visited the Esk for salmon, with some friends whom, the Doctor regretted, occasionally used the "gardiner fly" on small Stewart tackle. The joint bag was four fish, ranging from 10½lb. to 16½lb. Dr. Brunton was not personally successful in hooking these fish, but the able manner in which he used his bayonet-pointed gaff in perilous positions was fully appreciated by his friends. Mr. R. B. Marston's experience fully bore out Dr. Brunton's observation concerning the *Salmo fontinalis*, and he said that there had been thousands of pounds spent in unsuccessful endeavours to introduce this fish into the rivers and lakes of England and Scotland. Rev. George Sumner, whose remarks relating to "striking from the winch," have been somewhat misinterpreted, explains that, in his opinion, whilst fly-fishing, the line should never be held with the hand, nor between the rod and the hand, and after striking a fish, the line should only be controlled through the winch. M. C. R. Blundell had returned from his holiday in Scotland, and gave an interesting account of his adventures and sport, which were principally confined to the neighbourhood of Inveroron. In the river Orchy he killed his first salmon, 13lb.; in Loch Ba, in 2 days, 7½ dozen trout ; in Loch Doghard, one day, 3 dozen trout, and in Loch Tulla two perch of 1lb. each. The usual toast, and a vote of thanks to the chairman brought a very pleasant evening to a close. Pro T. H.

### ROYAL GEORGE ANGLING SOCIETY.

Notwithstanding the rough weather, the majority of our members were out on the 7th inst. Messrs. Hughes, Longland, Angus, Wood, Cromer, Rider, and Palmer had some roach from the Upper Thames. In the tidal waters, Messrs. Guynan and Carter braved the elements in an open boat, at Twickenham, and were carried away by stress of weather with the loss of a mast (that is to say, a punt pole). After suffering great privations, they were picked up in an extreme state of thirst by a friendly craft. The former gentleman heads the list for the day with 7lb. 6oz., followed by Mr. Hewitt with 6lb. 13oz. Messrs. Trotter and Sinclair weighed in fish from Richmond. The other shipwrecked mariner brought in 4lb. 6oz.—C. W. W. Bernhardt, sec.

### ST. JOHN'S ANGLING SOCIETY.

The annual dinner of the above society was held on August 31st, at The Black Dog Inn, Bury, near Amberley, when a number of members and friends sat down to what was declared on all sides to be a thoroughly good dinner, our worthy host, Mr. Henley, doing everything in his power to make the affair a complete success, everything being of the best description and served up in the best style. After the usual toasts, an adjournment was made to the neighbouring hills, where we were well rewarded for the climb by the panorama of beautiful scenery spread out before us, just getting back in time for a good tea, which finished up a thoroughly enjoyable day. Saved from a blank on the 7th by Mr. Dawes, with a nice show of dace, most of the members complaining of there being too much fresh air about.—W. Stevens, sec.

### STOKE NEWINGTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

On the 7th inst., nine members of the above competed in a pegged-down match at Pulborough for three prizes in most unfavourable weather, a violent gale blowing the whole day, rendering fishing almost impossible ; but the competitors, sticking well to their task, just managed to bring it to a conclusion, the following being the result :—T. Gretton first, W. Webb second, and W. Watkins third. An error occurred in my last report as to the result of the gross weight competition. It should read—W. Robinson, 12lb. 10½lb., first ; C. F. Robinson, 12lb. 7½lb., second ; and C. Martin, 10lb. third.—T. Gretton.

### STOKE-UPON-TRENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

The second competition of the season came off in the society's waters at Haywood, on Saturday afternoon, Sept. 6th. Thirteen prizes were offered, for which 23 members competed. Haywood was reached soon after 3 p.m., when a general stampede was at once made for the water, some trying the canal and some the river. It was soon known amongst the competitors that Mr. E. Cocker, fishing the river, was at home amongst the roach, that gentleman eventually securing the 1st prize with a very nice catch. The other winners were—2nd, Mr. J. Stevenson ; 3rd, Mr. J. Bailey ; 4th, Mr. Wm. Hassall ; 5th, Mr. Wm. Evans ; 6th, Mr. J. Brooks ; 7th, Mr. J. Morgan ; 8th and 9th, Mr. Wm. Sweetnam and Mr. Hodgkinson tied ; 10th, Mr. F. Johnson ; 11th, Mr. P. Ellis ; 12th, Mr. Wm. Lea ; 13th, Mr. Bennett. The weather was miserably wet, rain falling in drenching showers, which somewhat marred the pleasures of the afternoon.—J. Hollins, hon. sec.

### WALWORTH PISCATORIALS.

The following is the result of competition, 11th September :—1st prize, Mr. F. Grigg, 35lb. 13oz. of roach ; 2nd, Mr. A. Brodie, 35lb. 2oz. of roach ; 3rd, Mr. Groumett, 33lb. 14oz. of barbel and dace ; 4th, Mr. Gilbert, 19lb 14oz., of barbel, chub, and dace ; 5th, Mr. A. F. Russell, 19lb. 3oz. of barbel, dace, and roach ; 6th, Mr. Hibble, 18lb. 8½oz. of dace and roach, with H. Mansell ; 7th, Mr. Piolaine, 14lb. 15oz. of barbel and dace ; 8th, Mr. Bedford, 14lb. 12oz. of roach ; 9th, Mr. A. J. Russell, 13lb. 6oz. of roach and dace ; 10th, Mr. H. Bayley, 12lb. 12¾oz. of dace and roach ; 11th, Mr. Grocutt, 11lb. 9oz. dace ; 12th, Mr. Delhaye, sen., 10lb. 5oz. of roach and dace ; 13th, Mr. Mawby, 10lb. 5oz. of roach ; 14th, Mr. H. Dale, 6lb. 9½oz. of dace ; 15th, Mr. Irons, 5lb. 14½oz. of roach ; 16th, Mr. Hawkridge, 2lb. 6oz. of bream ; 17th, Mr. Griffin, 1lb. 6oz. of bream ; 18th, Mr. Delhaye, jun., 1lb. 3¾oz. of bream. The gross weight told up to 268lb. 9½oz. This is a red-letter day in this society. There were two specimen chub, one roach, one bream, and two barbel.—Pixie.

The Editor authorises me to say that the printer is alone responsible for the absurd report last week (23/8/84). The printer took the numerals showing the order of the prize winners, 1, 2, 3, &c., as being the number of fish taken. The Editor says the only excuse the printer has is that he has no idea what weight roach grow to, and it would not surprise him to hear "that they grow to over 7lb."—Pixie (pro J. B.)

### WESTBOURNE PARK PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The members of the above held a smoking concert at their club-house on Tuesday evening last, when several visitors were present. After a few songs, Mr. Geo. Evans, the chairman, rose and said he had a very pleasant duty to perform, which was to present a handsome diamond ring to the hon. secretary, Mr. H. Thompson, in acknowledgment of the many services he had rendered the society, and also as a mark of esteem from its numerous members, all of whom had contributed an equal sum towards its purchase. The secretary's health was then drank with musical honours. After a short interval, Mr. Thompson rose, and in a neat, well-worded speech, thanked the members for their valued present, and in doing so drank to their health. The remainder of the evening was spent in the usual manner. Mr. Adeane was in the vice-chair, and several members weighed in fish last week, those most worthy of notice being Mr. Buttery, with barbel from the Thames, and Mr. Archer, who had an eel from the Kenneth, taken with the rod and line, which weighed, when caught, 4lb. 8oz.—G. Archer.

## THE EYED-HOOK THIRTY-FIVE YEARS AGO.

AN Irish correspondent writes to us from Mallow as follows :—

"SIR,—As anything connected with the early history of eyed-hooks may interest you, I send you the inclosed fly, which I got from Mr. Hewett Wheatley about twenty-eight years ago. He strongly advocated the use of eyed-hooks, and, as well as I remember, he had most of his trout flies on them. He tied his own flies, but I cannot say where he got the hooks for them. He wrote an interesting book on angling called 'The Rod and Line.' I read it, but I cannot remember whether he referred to eyed-hooks in it. I believe it is out of print, but I intend to get a loan of a copy if I can. I think it was published by Longmans and Co. Mr. Wheatley lived at a place called Eigne, in Herefordshire ; he afterwards lived in Ireland ; he died some years ago. Mr. Hall and Mr. Bankart might like to see the fly inclosed, so you can let them have it, but please return it to me when you have done with it. If you think it worth while to publish anything I have mentioned you can do so. Mr. Wheatley was in the habit of getting fishing-rods from Copham, of Taunton. If Copham is still alive he might be able to tell where Mr. Wheatley got his hooks made."

Some months ago, Mr. W. H. Aldam wrote to us to say that a friend of his in the North had discovered the original inventor of the eyed-hook for flies, and referred to Wheatley, giving a quotation from his book. We got a copy of "The Rod and Line," the sub-title of which is "Practical Hints and Dainty Devices for the Sure Taking of Trout, Grayling, &c., by Hewett Wheatley, Esq., Senior Angler." London : Longmans, 1849. This most interesting little work had been recommended to us by Mr. Francis some time before. It is illustrated with some coloured plates of spinning baits and flies, most of the latter, including those almost midge size, being on eyed-hooks. Here is his dressing of a very favourite North-country fly :—Body : Orange floss silk. Hackle : Small speckled brown partridge ; wrapped only three times round at most ; No. 13 hook.

Although we have headed this note "The Eyed-Hook Thirty-five Years Ago," it will be seen from the following quotation from Wheatley's book that he must have used them long before 1849, when the book appeared. He says, p. 74 :—

"I generally use them made on hooks having a fine eye at the extremity of the shank ; in fact, I very commonly make all flies, large and small, on similar hooks—a practice which will doubtless be much scouted by many anglers ; nor shall I attempt to persuade anyone to adopt it, though it possesses the advantage of enabling me to use either fine or thick gut with the same fly. It is far more durable, for when the fly is tied on gut, the gut is very soon so worn as to be unsafe, and the fly consequently valueless. Besides, in an ordinary-sized round snuff-box I carry to the river three hundred flies—a compression of the material with which I am well pleased, more especially as each is kept separate and available without trouble.

"Should the good-natured fishing public ask for a second edition, I may perhaps give more details on this subject, for it is somewhat of a pet, though not exactly the child of our old age ; rather the mistress of our youth and the friend of our riper years, combining, as Keats most correctly sings,

'The bread of friendship and the wine of love,'

exhilaration and sustenance, the excitement of sport, and its fruits."

It will be seen that Mr. Wheatley covers the whole ground. His reasons for using the eyed-hook are just those which lead so many fly-fishers of to-day to use them, and if he were to rise from his grave and see the worthy secretary of the Hungerford Club pull out an "ordinary-sized round snuff-box," and fit up one of the dozens of flies on eyed-hooks which it contains he would doubtless think he had not written in vain. And yet it is perfectly certain that the thing has been invented over again, and perhaps improved upon, though, in face of the fly of Wheatley's make now before us with its fine slightly turned-up eye, we think both Mr. Hall and Mr. Bankart will admit the improvement is not great. Unfortunately, no second edition of "The Rod and Line" ever appeared, and this is the more surprising as it is one of the best angling books ever written. We must give our readers some extracts from its always practical and often sarcastic pages. Here is a statement we fully endorse : "I esteem the colour of the fly's body of far greater importance than that of the wings."

[We believe Mr. Mudford, of Taunton, bought the stock of Copham rods. Perhaps he can tell us what became of C. ? We know anglers who still think their "Copham" perfection.—ED.]

NOT A SINGLE BITE.—"I haven't had a single bite since I've been here," pleaded a chap who was caught fishing on a posted stream. "Well, you'll get one now," replied the irate farmer. "Here, Tige—Tige—" The angler broke a ten-dollar gate getting away.

## EASTERN COUNTIES ANGLING SOCIETY, GREAT YARMOUTH.

A meeting of this society was held on Monday evening, the 8th inst., at 9 p.m., at Mr. Seaman's, the Duke's Head Hotel, Quay. The chair was occupied by the president, Dr. Mitchell. The meeting was an adjourned one, called together for the purpose of making re-arrangements towards settling the unfinished match, the weather having defeated the plans so carefully drawn out for the management of the angling tournament, which was to have been fished on the 4th inst. at Ormesby Broad. Unsatisfactory as the conclusion was, too much praise cannot be bestowed upon the competitors, twenty-three in number, who endeavoured, in the face of a howling north-easterly gale, in a drenching rain, to carry out the contest in as strict accordance with the arrangements previously made as possible. After a two-hours' struggle, however, they were obliged to acknowledge the elements their victors, and had to retire as best they could. It has been arranged to finish the contest on Thursday, the 11th inst. A proposition was put to the meeting and carried that a committee, consisting of the president, vice-president, and the acting secretary (Mr. Seaman), should meet on the morning of every competition, and were empowered, in the event of the weather being very unfavourable, to postpone the match about to be fished. To the prizes as already advertised to be contested for, three more have been added, presented by Mr. Freeman, the President, and Mr. Seaman. Ten gentlemen were proposed as members. They will be balloted for at the next general meeeting, which will be held at the Duke's Head on Tuesday, the 16th inst., and, if found eligible, will be admitted. According to instructions given him, Mr. Lee, the honorary secretary, wrote Sir Edmund Lacon, Bart., M.P., and Edward Birkbeck, Esq., M.P., asking them whether they would become members of the society. In reply, the following letters were received from those gentlemen by him :—

"Ormesby House, 8th September, 1884.

"DEAR SIR,—I shall be happy to become a member of the Eastern Counties Angling Society, if you will propose me. By your rules I see my payment will be 10s. 6d. If I am correct I will send you the amount.—Yours truly,

"Mr. John Lee. "(Signed) EDMUND H. K. LACON."

"At Sea. Yacht *Ptarmigan*, 5th September, 1884.

"DEAR SIR,—I have received your letter of the 30th ult., which has been forwarded to me from Norfolk ; and on my return I will read the rules of your society, which have *not* been forwarded.—Yours faithfully, EDWARD BIRKBECK."

"John Lee, Esq.

Mr. Lee explained to the meeting that the book of rules was not forwarded for some days after the letter, because of its being in the hands of the publishers for correction ; but that now, as Mr. Birkbeck was in possession of the rules, a more favourable letter may be expected from him in a few days. In addition to that of Sir Edmund Lacon, Bart., we notice amongst others who have been proposed for membership the names of T. P. Burroughes, Esq., Captain R. W. Styles, C.M.R., John Etheridge, Esq., Terry Hurst, Esq., &c.

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Contributions are solicited, but the Editor will not undertake to return rejected MSS. unless accompanied with a stamped addressed envelope.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only, and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith. Unless this rule be adhered to, no notice will be taken of such communications.

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# The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1884.

## BLACK BASS FOR THE NATIONAL FISH CULTURE ASSOCIATION.

AT the last meeting of the Aquarium Sub-Committee of the above Association, the Marquis of Exeter stated that he was sending Mr. Silk to Canada for more black bass, and he thought the Committee might like to know this. Mr. R. B. Marston said it was an opportunity they ought not to lose, and he had much pleasure in proposing that they accept the kind offer of Lord Exeter. It was finally decided that the Society would take a number of the fish.

Gentlemen or angling clubs wanting black bass should write to Mr. W. Oldham Chambers, Secretary of the National Fish Culture Association, The Health Exhibition, South Kensington. The aquarium at the Health Exhibition, which is under the care of the above Association, will amply repay a visit.

## THE TROUT STREAMS OF NORTH DEVON.—III.

By HELWR.

BEFORE leaving Hawkridge, and conducting the reader to fresh pastures, I must mention that I have fished the waters in that neighbourhood several times lately, not, of course, from any desire for selfish gratification, but to fit myself to efficiently discharge my task of instructing the readers of the FISHING GAZETTE. To my surprise I found the fish larger than I have usually caught them there. On one occasion I killed twenty weighing 6lb., on another twelve weighing 3½lb., and on a third nineteen scaling nearly 6lb. I took several ½-pounders, and few less than the very respectable weight (for the district) of a ¼lb. A friend killed a splendid fish of exactly 10oz., and we both used the fly, and the fly only. We found the March brown, though late, decidedly the favourite.

The portion of the Barle adjacent to Hawkridge[*] is now very accessible for bank fishing, as the trees and bushes have been recently cut down, and fish are very plentiful indeed.

Simonsbath is the place I shall next look at as a very nice place for an angler to put up at for a week or two. This pretty village is 12 miles from South Molton, and the length of the drive therefrom will be somewhat atoned for by the beauty and wildness of the scenery displayed before the eyes of the traveller *en route.* Upon arriving at South Molton Station an omnibus will take one to The George ; here Mr. Kelland has plenty of horses and vehicles to transport the angler to Simonsbath or elsewhere.

There is only one inn at Simonsbath, but it is commodious and comfortable, with but one drawback. The owner of the inn, and of all the wide tract of Exmoor, Mr. Knight, C.B., M.P., does not allow beer or spirits to be sold ; wine is kept, but anything further must be provided by those requiring it. It will be necessary to write and inquire if they are full before venturing upon an invasion. Simonsbath is on the Barle, and not far from the upper waters of the Exe. Permission to fish must be obtained from Mr. Knight, whose private address in town I do not feel at liberty to give ; but a letter addressed "House of Commons," or Simonsbath, will find him. I do not think there is any fear of a refusal from this gentleman.

Mr. Knight's portion of the Barle is about 6 miles long ; I mean, of course, that six miles is the length of fishable water, for it needs not to take into account the river up at its very source. Before Landacre Bridge, the bottom boundary, is reached two or three small tributary streams will be met with, and these lesser streams are more esteemed by local anglers than the large river. My own experience bears out the opinion of these sportsmen.

When I give Landacre Bridge as the extremity of Mr. Knight's water, I am speaking rather roughly, for it really terminates a few hundred yards before that celebrated landmark is reached ; and it is important that persons fishing with Squire Knight's ticket should be careful not to go nearer the bridge than that permit allows, because the persons claiming the portion of the Barle below that point, and all through the Manor of Withypool, are *not* celebrated either for courtesy or consideration towards anglers so transgressing even in ignorance. Fortunately, the line of demarkation, once pointed out, cannot be missed. Fishing down stream from Simonsbath, just before Landacre Bridge comes in sight, we find a stream coming into the Barle from the right, or south-west ; this is Sherdon Brook, and below this junction we must not go. The brook is full of good trout, and it is highly recommended for 3 or 4 miles up when there is plenty of water.

About a hundred yards of the bottom of Sherdon Brook is claimed by the gentlemen having the sporting rights over the Manor of Withypool, so, in order to avoid possible unpleasantness, the angler desirous of ascending this charming stream had better allow his flies to dry in the breeze while he walks past the debateable ground.

The Exe lies about two miles N.N.E. of Simonsbath, and belongs to Mr. Knight for some miles downwards from its source. I think the angler may safely venture to follow the river without so carefully noting the boundary as he does in the other river.

About six miles down the Exe, measuring the distance as the stream flows, we come to Exford, which is the next "point of vantage" I shall discuss.

Exford is nine miles from Dulverton, from which place it can be reached by conveyance.

The White Horse hotel at Exford is pleasantly situated, facing the river, being divided therefrom by a broad road. The angler staying here has thus the pleasure of having the water constantly before his eyes and sounding in his ears. After the evening meal, what more pleasant than lounging on the bridge, or sitting on the parapet, with the "evening incense" in full blast? Should the scene be illuminated by a moon, surely the angler—whether fisherman only, "piscatorial preacher," or a cross between the two—will derive inspiration that will nerve him to fresh efforts in the future. I am not aware of any portion of the Exe above the bridge where Mr. Knight's ticket will not be available, with the exception of a short length belonging to my friend, Mr. S. Moore. This good man cares not who fishes his water. Below the bridge I believe the water is considered free fishing. Mr. King would explain fully to anyone staying in the hotel.

The valley of the Exe is more beautiful and romantic than even that of the far-famed Barle, rushing as it does between precipitous tree-clad heights ; and when we get nearly down to the junction of the two rivers below Dulverton the prospect is indeed noble. The upper portion of the Exe—I mean that within reach of Exford—is narrower than that portion of the Barle running parallel to it, say, at Landacre ; and it is, therefore, more important when fishing this stream to have plenty of water than when fishing the other. For three or four months this summer this part of the river has been almost unfishable, owing to the long drought and consequent lowness of the water. In September, when trout-fishing is almost over, the river has been in capital order, and good dishes have been killed with the fly. I consider the trout from the Exe better for the table than their brethren of the Barle ; but they do not run so large. In both these rivers, in certain states of the weather, the angler is much plagued by the parr. The little nuisances sometimes insist upon being caught, no matter how large the fly. It may be taken as a general rule that when parr sport freely trout do not.

The Exe is fishable for about four miles above Exford. Proceeding downwards seven miles (by the stream) brings us to Winsford, and seven more to Hele Bridge, near Dulverton, of both of which places more anon.

Three or four miles north of Exford both the Oare and Horner streams rise. The latter would be more conveniently worked from Porlock. The former runs through the property of Mr. N. Snow, M.F.H., and is a particularly good fishing stream, being *full* of good fish.

Presuming Mr. Snow's permission to be obtained—which is not very difficult, for he is a kind, courteous sportsman—the angler will have capital sport in this stream, as regards number, for a creelful will not be out of the way. The difficulty of catching these fish will not be great, the ordinary rules of secretion being observed, and the operation will be fraught with particular pleasure to the man who loves wild, enchanting scenery—as what true follower of dear old Izaak does not?

It will not prove a very great day's work to walk from Exford to the water, and to fish up to Oare and back again. *Nota bene,* there is no "pub" at Oare ; fluids spirituous or vinous, together with a morsel to stay the stomach until dinner time, must accompany the angler on this trip. This is the one great drawback to the district I am treating of that has to be encountered by the angler or stag-hunter who explores these wilds—if, indeed, the absence of inns, causing as it does the absence of 'Arry and Co., is a drawback. 'Arry likes his "pubs" to present themselves frequently when he honours the country with his presence and that of his "gal," and when they are few and far between he is a *rara avis.*

I have started a favourite topic : fain would I enlarge upon 'Arry's style of fishing, and the class of fish he delights to enveigle—not trout, you bet ; but I fear I must not stray from the path I have marked out for myself.

I have finished my remarks about Exford and the streams to be worked from that centre, and now to pass on to Brendon.

Brendon is a pleasant village, rather inaccessibly situated upon the northern part of Exmoor. It contains two good inns, and several houses where nice lodgings are to be obtained. At either inn the angler can rely upon being fed and housed comfortably and cheaply. There are several ways of getting to Brendon : driving from South Molton (15 miles) or from Minehead (same distance), or from Lynton, which can either be reached by coach from Barnstaple or Minehead, or by sea from Bristol.

Of Brendon as a fishing centre I cannot speak too highly. It lies amongst scenery so wild and striking, and, withal, so unlike what one ordinarily meets with in these islands south of the Highlands, that *my* pen, at least, cannot attempt description of its charms and grandeur.

In the immediate vicinity there are no less than eight nice trout streams all flowing from the lofty moor into the sea at Lynmouth, one of them being the far-famed Badgworthy water, which Mr. Blackmore has made so well known to us in his delightful romance of "Lorna Doone" (Sampson Low and Co.). Were there no fish to be caught in this stream, the angler of imaginative mind and warm feelings would like to stray along the banks of Badgworthy with charming Lady Lorna wishing ardently all the time that he was John Ridd and her destined husband. But there are trout, loads of them ; and patience, skill, and due manipulation of a light fly-rod and corresponding tackle will lessen their number by something like thirty brace a day.

These streams are usually visited during the tourist season—that is, in the months of June, July, and August. At this time of year the days are generally sunny, and the waters low ; nevertheless, by attending to the hints given us by Cutcliffe in his admirable book entitled "Trout-fishing on Rapid Streams," republished recently by Messrs. Sampson Low and Co., the trout will be brought to bank, despite these great difficulties.

ILLEGAL FISHING IN THE ONEY.—At the Bishop's Castle Salop Petty Sessions, on Friday, before the county magistrates, Richard Smith, John Barnes, Joseph Wilcox, George Morris, and Richard Yapp, living in the vicinity of Plowden, were charged with illegally fishing in the river Oney on Sunday, August 17th. The Bench dismissed the case against Smith and Yapp, and fined Wilcox and Barnes 12s. 6d. each, and Morris 10s., including costs.

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[*] The Rev. Rowland Newman, of Hawkridge Rectory, strictly preserves his stretch of the Barle, and we hear the open water is getting considerably over-fished, and whereas a few years ago you could easily get a 10lb. basket, now you must work very hard to get half that weight. In fact our correspondent gives rather too rosy an account of the numbers of fish in the North Devon streams.—ED.

## ODDS AND ENDS IN SALMON FISHING.

By Geo. M. Kelson.—No. 1.

In self-cultivation, to believe we are able is almost to be so; to buckle to and resolve to attain is almost attainment—at least, it makes success a foregone conclusion. And thus do many toil—by the sweat of the brow and to the uttermost limit of undue strength, begotten in the flame of anticipation, born in darkness, reared in simplicity, led on by one of those instincts which the mind cannot trace but which it invariably follows, aided and abetted in not a few instances by a lad in his teens who traffics in a pretended competency—a wretched parish brat unfit to confer a minimum of benefit, nothing else than a loquacious lubberly loafer very sure to attend carefully to the luncheon basket, to the flask, and to the flies—so the young master toils!

In all our lengthened career is there one who has not contemplated, and most probably witnessed more than once, the young salmon fisherman left to the mercy of an ignoramus whose perennial fame is plunder, and whose certain code of ethics is beer and tobacco?

Respectable and competent gillies having been bespoken and engaged, novices are dreadfully imposed upon, and begin, as usual, knowing nothing, not even the impropriety of thrashing away with a rod shaky in the sockets, innocent of all desirable and advantageous preliminaries, and plod on perhaps till they have paid dearly into the gentle hand of Experience—that unseen hand so singularly qualified to enlighten.

However, in the absence of all science a few sportsmen progress in their own way somehow or other. The miner, in his legal right on the Esk with his rod of hazel, loses no ground, but, as it were, makes headway like a sweep in a crowd—uninterruptedly. He thinks nothing of Failure, which, if he encounters, may turn out to be the stepping-stone to Success. But although it is only by toiling that our ideas can be made healthy, and only by impressions that our efforts can be made pleasant, still there is a right and a wrong way—indeed, always a *best* way of doing everything; and our safest principle, perhaps, is to respect whatever custom has established until some opposite course assures a positive advantage.

Now, it is immaterial whether the wood be good or bad, the ferrules firm or feeble by becoming loose, and the workmanship never so perfect, an 18ft. salmon rod can be racked and ruined in double quick time.

First of all, ascertain in good time before leaving home that all the fittings are tight, as no rod-maker living can ensure their remaining sound under certain conditions of wear and weather, or under the usual conditions of storage. This is simply done by putting the rod together and playing it, so to speak. Hold it firmly in the right hand about 2ft. below the first joint, and place the other thumb and forefinger lightly on each ferrule above and below, when you will easily feel anything amiss if you spring it up and down that the point in so doing may nearly touch the floor and ceiling of your room alternately. In detecting any of this mischief with the top joint less play will suffice.

Time causes the glue to become crumbly—more than that, pulverulent, and therefore it invisibly escapes. Any experiment to overcome the evil would be penny wise and pound foolish; for all that, it is a pleasure to feel well appointed with the modern means in our workshop, and we may well crow when we are master of the situation. If we wet the wood, of course it swells, but it might swell too much; not only that, it is injurious. Farlow, if requested, would fasten loose ferrules in a few minutes, and I know of no plan better than his for doing so.

To rack a rod is as easy as to crank a saw by pushing it when it gets jammed, and if you unluckily do so it is fit for nothing but the fire. A rod may be ruined in this way by making the thrash too soon and before the line is in full swing, or by lifting it too hurriedly and vigorously to repeat a cast when the line is deep and taken down the stream out of course in a zig-zag fashion, and then if the wood is crooked-grained and not well seasoned it would very likely snap asunder. Or, when fishing with treble gut the fly gets caught behind in any thick bough or other unyielding obstacle. And I am aware a rod can be racked without the line attached, by flourishing it about and making a violent down-cast before recovery.

Any distortion by overstraining in use may possibly be remedied, hence the difference between racking and weakening. The former never happens to top joints, which are, however, frequently rendered weak; it is advisable then to strip, sandpaper, and suspend them for a time weighted from the "fisherman's rack," and they will not take long to get over their limp, lopsided appearance. This rack or rail, with hooks in it for the purpose, should be located in a dry, airy place, and all the joints hung upon it when not in use. All three of them are liable to get crooked by constantly fishing from the same side of the river, &c.; or, when taken to pieces and left leaning against a wall, especially after a wet day; but although they can quickly be made straight by heat, the process is one I cannot recommend unless wanted at once. Heavy weights take time, but answer the purpose well, and I think, if possible, we should avoid everything that tends, even in so small a degree, to perish the wood.

We know now that if a rod is properly made, and the line suited to it, that it is possible to propel the fly 45 yards—even more than this was accomplished the other day at the Fishing Gazette Tournament, which cast is the longest on record. Perhaps others, though of less importance, might be enumerated, and would appear to the ordinary mind equally wonderful.

In salmon fishing the love of superiority is almost a passion; so may it continue to be! It is only natural that the captivating and influencing wings of ambition are ever hovering around all acroatic competitions. The fascination of our sport to the uninterested is strange, unknown, unreal; yet how delightfully and familiarly it clings to us, and as we are duly enlightened so do we increase in warmth—steadily, yet surely and naturally as the light of the morning over the gloom—till the whole thing becomes as clear as noonday, and seems to throb with one word—Knowledge. "Surely and naturally"? yes, even so; indeed Nature is in all her mystery a grand field of observation, and within her gates—open to all, denied to none—may one of Fortune's favourites some day discover how to move about in the air over a land-locked pool, or even to live in the water.

## A COMPLAINT FROM ABERDEEN.

I have a few grievances which, through your courtesy, I wish to make known in the columns of the Gazette. As a constant reader, I hope you will therefore afford me the necessary space.

Natural minnow fishing is now being practised on the Dee and Don to such an extent that many of us, who adhere to a more gentlemanly style of sport, are getting perfectly disgusted. Nor is this all, for it seems to me that those minnow fishers, judging by the rapidity of their movements from pool to pool, are more bent upon making the art a paying concern than a pleasant pastime.

Till within a year or two ago nearly every Dee angler fished as every real angler should—with a high regard both for his own reputation and the character of sport; but "times are changed," and with them "old manners gone." Instead of everyone using the fly, as hitherto, "angels," eel-tail, and natural minnow seem to be all the rage. Imagine, therefore, Mr. Editor, to find so-called sportsmen running from one pool to another, purposely to get ahead of you, and pitching in and raking every inch of the pool with one or other of these abominable nuisances.

On the point in question there is really some license for speaking out, and more so is this the case when we couple it with the fact that rents are now absurdly high. How is it that one fisher should be allowed to spoil the sport of another by using, for instance, natural minnow, when so abundant proof can be adduced that more fish could be killed were fly exclusively adhered to? Some minnow fishers maintain that the minnow is irresistible; but this is utter fallacy, for no salmon, after being crossed properly with the minnow several times, will deign to give it anything more than a passing glance. With fly it is quite different, as every true angler well knows.

I do trust that, for the sake of good feeling among anglers, the lures referred to will be used to a less extent. Mark me, I have no wish to insist upon their entire disuse, as often, when fly won't bring up "potted" fish, some of these lures will; and, therefore, to have some sport (a point anglers always have in view) recourse to their use is necessary.

Having suffered of late in my sport from causes too obvious to mention, and having an interest (like others who have beats) in preserving their sport-affording qualities, my remarks, you can see, are not uncalled for.

I now turn to the subject of poaching. If it is too expensive for the Fishery Boards to maintain a sufficient staff of river-watchers, the proprietors ought certainly, in order to secure for their lessees something like equivalent sport to the high rents exacted, to set themselves to preventing, or at least lessening, the nefarious practice of netting by night.

Sportsmen cannot be expected to order their ghillies, who are often heavily taxed in the way of work, to attend to what is the duty of either the proprietors or the Fishery Boards. To frustrate the attempts of netters, a few stakes might be planted in such pools as are suitable for netting. This, by some, may be thought as likely to interfere with the free play of a fish; but experience proves that the object intended is duly served without the line ever, or scarcely ever, getting entangled on the stakes. I would suggest that slender, round metal stakes, with dome-shaped heads, and projecting upwards from the bed of the river the matter of 18 inches or a couple of feet—according to the depth of the pool—might be tried experimentally. These would resist ice better than wooden ones, and, further, reduce to a minimum the danger of lines being held when fish are played.

This method should commend itself to proprietors, because its adoption would give no room for grumbling, and, besides, if not enhancing, tend to give the fishings something like their market value.

I am aware that, on the upper reaches of several salmon rivers hereabout, as well as on their tributary streams, little attention is given to the preservation of fish till too late in the season.

Small salmon usually reach the spawning grounds pretty early in the season, and, once settled in the pools, "black fishing" is carried on to a greater extent than many are aware on all occasions when the water dwindles down to a small size. Instead of having watchers promenading about in places so public that the chances of poaching are almost impossible, the out-of-the-way and upper reaches should have apportioned to them a competent staff of bailiffs in the early season. Fewer "kippers" would therefore be had in the glens, and more fish yearly fall to the angler's rod. I consider it a fatal mistake not to have the natal resorts of the fish—the early spawning fish in the high reaches of rivers—sufficiently protected, say, in September, October, and November. In our rivers, particularly in September, there are few fish, except in the places where I have indicated, and those the salmon, grilse, and sea-trout that ascended in summer.

So full of spawn as they are, if we calculate the number of table fish the destruction of even one implies, very stringent measures, I think, ought to be taken for their preservation. The stakes, in this case, would not answer, and watchers, as I have said, would have to be employed.

If the Fishery Board or the river proprietors will not unite in securing an end so desirable, I shall be happy to unite with other anglers in forming and supporting an association having primarily in view such an object as I have sketched. G.

Aberdeen.

[G. has pointed out some unpleasant things, and we sincerely trust those who have the power to alter matters will do so.—Ed.]

## THE NATIONAL FISH CULTURE ASSOCIATION.

The National Fish Culture Association issued to the public this week the first of a series of publications respecting the work it is doing and intends to do in the future under the title of the *Fish Culture Journal*, which will appear periodically under the editorship of Mr. Oldham Chambers, secretary of the association. This journal will contain from time to time articles from various scientists, and information and statistics relating to pisciculture, together with valuable notes upon the various influences which act maleficently upon fish. The first number contains a full report of the Annual General Meeting of the Association, preceded by an introduction setting forth the views, propositions, and aims of the *Journal*. Some interesting particulars respecting temperatures in fresh and seawater, &c., are also given. The price is one penny.

## AN APPEAL.

Some friends of John Milbourne, who is now a pensioned conservancy river-keeper at Sunbury, whose health for some time past has been of a failing character, are desirous of raising a subscription in recognition of a lengthened service of fifty-five years on the river and at the regattas, and especially to assist him in a time of affliction when medical attendance, good diet, and other necessaries increase his ordinary expenses. It is proposed that no individual subscription should exceed one guinea, but this limit need not extend to rowing clubs and regatta committees.

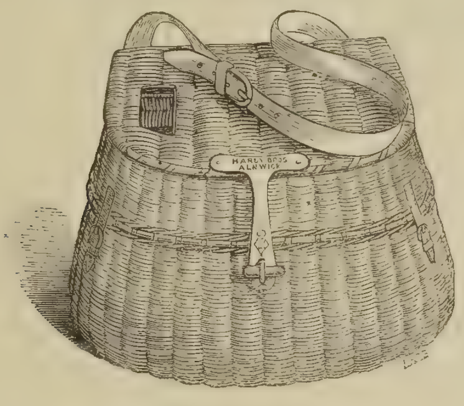
Mr. Alfred Nuthall (treasurer to the fund), Mr. James Forbes, Mr. T. Spreckley, Mr. F. White, Mr. Arthur J. Humphery, Messrs. Willans and Robinson, and Mr. G. F. G. Desvignes have headed the list with one guinea each; and Mr. Edward Clarke, Mr. A. Mitcheson, Mr. G. Bishop, Mrs. John Harris, Mr. A. Burgoine, and Mr. H. A. Benson half a guinea each; Mr. Tims and Mr. H. B. Vears, five shillings each. Mr. W. H. Brougham, Swayfield Villa, Hounslow, is honorary secretary to the fund, and will be glad to receive any contribution.

## NETTING THE CORVE AT LUDLOW—HEAVY FINES.

At the Ludlow County Petty Sessions, on Monday, Thomas Rowley, John Jones, and John Didlick were charged with illegally netting the river Corve on the 31st ultimo. Mr. Bowles defended. A witness, William Morris, deposed to seeing Rowley and Jones in the Corve, near the Boiling Well meadow. Didlick was not in the water. A net was pulled out and about eighteen fish were in it. Robert Yapp, gamekeeper to Mr. C. Wicksted (Master of the Ludlow hounds), said he saw the men at six o'clock in the morning, and went to meet them. Didlick had a net and a pole. Jones and Rowley were in the water. They took the net over a fence into Mr. Bishop's field. Mr. Bowles contended the defendants had a general permission from the occupiers of the land to fish there. The Bench said there was no doubt in their minds, and the case had been clearly proved against them. Rowley was fined £3 and 9s. costs, Jones £2 and costs, and Didlick £1 and costs.

## HARDY'S C. D. T. "CARRY-ALL" CREEL.

The accompanying illustration very clearly explains this "patent" creel. It is made to hold the fish in the lower part, and the lid is formed into a compartment for fly-book, lunch, tackle, and reel, which are thus kept quite separate from the fish. It was made to meet a demand often expressed in the Gazette for a creel which would "carry all." It is very light. The straps can be arranged either for carrying the creel over one shoulder or knapsack fashion. This is a great advantage to be able to distribute the weight of a heavy load over two shoulders as you walk home after a successful day. It has also at the back two small straps for macintosh. The only thing wanted to make this creel perfect is an inside light macintosh bag to fit the fish compartment. This will entirely prevent exudation from the fish on to basket or coat; it will keep them moist and fresh-looking as when caught; and it can be cleaned in a moment or two. A hook or two on the basket inside and an eye or two in the lining bag are all that is necessary to keep it in place. Any practical angler will see the advantages, and especially those of cleanliness, which our suggestion offers. Messrs. Hardy inform us they will supply this inside bag if desired.



## A DAY AMONG THE BARBEL AND CHUB.

Novices in the gentle art, like myself, may imagine with what pleasure I received an invitation to join such a well-known and skilful angler as Mr. Philip Geen in a day or two's fishing at Eynsham, and my anticipations of sport were realised in such a manner, that I think a short account of our expedition may not prove uninteresting to my brother anglers.

We reached Eynsham late in the evening of Wednesday, the 10th instant, to find Mr. Howe, our genial host, awaiting our arrival, and soon received at The Swan that hearty welcome which I am told Mrs. Howe extends to all visitors. The village residents were in a state of feverish excitement in consequence of the Flower Show and Bazaar to be held on the morrow, and as we were given to understand that the attractions there would be of no mean order, it was decided to spend the next morning in baiting our swims, and the afternoon in visiting the show.

This intention was carried out, and I may observe, *en passant*, that the show fully deserved the recommendations it had received, for although the flowers were indeed beautiful, they were far eclipsed by the lovely village damsels present. The Bazaar proved a most dangerous "swim" for us, or rather our pockets, as a fair angler who fished for our shillings and sixpences had securely netted them before we had proceeded far, and when we finally broke loose, it was with lightened pockets and a great respect for the persuasive powers of the bait used. But nothing was able to detract my thoughts from those barbel and chub which I fondly hoped to make a closer acquaintance with in the morning.

> "I went to bed and almost wept for downright sorrow,
> To think the night must pass before the morrow."

However, Friday came at last, and brought with it weather that was all to be desired for fishing—a cloudy sky, with a nice breeze, causing a steady ripple upon the surface of the water. The start we made would have been an earlier one but for Mr. Geen's inordinate desire to get "Nap" the previous evening, the achievement of which feat necessitated a late sitting. On arriving at the river, we took up our position at the head of the swim, wherein 1,500 worms had been deposited on the previous day, and as we prepared for the fray, Mr. Geen's remark to me was, "Well, if you get a barbel in the first swim, we may consider we are among them." My float had scarcely settled before it disappeared from from view, and a small barbel, weighing about a pound, was caught and returned.

Once more my float started on its journey, but only to again disappear before it had gone three yards down stream. I struck with a result which, to me, who had never landed anything heavier than a five-pound jack, was, to say the least of it, astonishing. Before I had recovered myself 30 yards of line had run off my reel; but the coolness and advice of the experienced sportsman at my elbow soon restored confidence, and I managed to check my fish, and gently bring him back to within a few yards of the punt, only to be almost terrified when I caught sight of what I had hooked, as with a splash of his tail, he again went off with a rush which, notwithstanding all my efforts to restrain it, made the winch go round with a whirr, which seemed to me the sweetest music I had ever heard. Again and again was this performance repeated, varied by vigorous dives for the bottom, and "goes" for the punt pole, which, of course, had to be checked in a very summary fashion, forming a severe test of the quality of the light Nottingham *roach* tackle I was using. At last my mentor adroitly slipped the landing net under him, and congratulated me upon landing the splendid barbel, weighing 8lb. 6in., which lay gasping at the bottom of the punt.

I sat admiring it until reminded by my friend that there were others waiting for my attention; and so there were, for, having made a fresh start, I was soon fast in a fish, which, after a little play, gave up the game, and turned out to be a nice chub, weighing a little over 2lb.

The fun continued fast and furious until about midday, when, amongst others, two more eight-pounders having succumbed, the barbel went "off" the feed, and I suggested it was time we went "on," so we adjourned to the neighbouring lock-keeper's house and did justice to the good things prepared for us. Having completed this important part of the day's proceedings, we returned to our swim, but only to find that the barbel had left us. However, by the time when darkness compelled us to desist from fishing we had added several fine chub to our collection. On examining the contents of the well, we found upwards of 50lb. of barbel, the three largest weighing over 8lb. each, together with a splendid lot of chub, several turning the scale at 2lb. They were all taken in the Nottingham style of fishing, on the finest tackle; and so ended what I think may fairly be described as a very good day among the barbel and chub.

H. Clifford Taman.

## ON STRIKING A SALMON.

Mr. Kelson has sent us the following letter from Major Traherne:—

It has been on my mind to write an article in the Gazette on striking a fish. I believe you and I differ on this point; but I am so convinced that striking is a mistake that I should like to state my opinion. Will you send it on to Mr. Marston? It may bring the matter into discussion by some old anglers. I have read several articles lately in the Fishing Gazette on striking a rising salmon from the winch when fishing with double hooks. I tried double hooks for two whole seasons, and lost more fish with them in proportion than I ever did before or since. I did not strike from the winch, which perhaps will account for my want of success. I have taken to single hooks again, and I wish it to be understood that what I have to say relates to these only.

What is desired is "when a salmon takes the fly" to drive the point of the hook in over the barb. In my opinion, to effect this it is unnecessary to strike under ordinary circumstances. It may be advisable to do so when fishing with a long line in dead water or up stream, but I would rather run the risk of not hooking my fish than get into what I consider a very bad habit.

When striking from the winch—especially when fishing with the large-sized flies if the winch is not a very stiff one (which to me is an abomination)—a sufficient strain on the line cannot, in my opinion, be available to fix the point of the hook over the barb, and when striking with the line tightly grasped between the hand and reel, the sudden jerk and strain on the line is apt to leave the fly in the fish's mouth, or smash the top of the rod; also, the fly will often be snatched away before the fish has had time to take hold of it, which may scare him to such a degree that he will not rise again. When a salmon rises to a fly no jerk or strike should be made, and the rod should be kept in the same position as before the fish rose. If he is hooked he will soon let you know it, and all that is required is to raise the point of the rod slowly, keeping a tight line. The action of downward course of the fish after taking the fly will then be quite sufficient to fix the barb; but when fishing with large flies a strong pull or two may be necessary, but no jerk or strike.

It often happens that the point of the hook comes in contact with a bone, in which case it will be impossible to fix the barb. To keep a tight line would then be the only chance of bringing the fish to bank, and this is a golden rule that a salmon fisherman should always keep in mind. Many a time I have seen my fly drop out of the fish's mouth the moment he was gaffed or netted and my line slacked, which so plainly told the tale. There is luck in salmon fishing as in everything else. Many old salmon fishermen swear by double hooks, and will use nothing else. I have killed as many as twenty-eight out of thirty fish hooked with single hooks, and in the long run I will back them against double hooks.—J. P. Traherne.

## ANGLING NOTES AND QUERIES.

The Thames Angling Preservation Society in 1854.—The clubs which supported the Thames Angling Preservation Society in 1854 were the Friendly Anglers, Piscatorial Society, the United Sons of Walton and Cotton, the United Society of Anglers, and the True Waltonians. Mr. F. Pearce (we were very glad to see him at the Piscatorial Society the other night) was on the auxiliary committee appointed by his club to aid the Thames Angling Preservation Society.

The Split-cane Rod Thirty Years Ago.—In the *Anglers' Almanack* for 1854 we find the following notice of split-cane rods:—"Mr. Aldred's trout and salmon-rods, formed of split angular sections, after the manner of a ship's mast, avoiding all splicing, and securing an elasticity perfect and permanent under all kinds of circumstances, are perhaps unique. The top joints in particular, which are too often treacherous when spliced, are here far more perfect than any single piece of material could be made, and it is quite certain that the point of the rod can be brought nearly to the butt, and resume its straight position again without the least appearance of having been so violently tried." Mr. Aldred still sells these rods. In the same paragraph the Editor notices a rod in which "the line is to go up the inside and work on rollers."

"Gross Weight.—What ought we to do to a society that gives a prize to the member who catches the greatest total weight of fish? . . . . We cannot too strongly urge the water-bailiffs to look into punts as they pass, and to watch them, and make one or two examples."—Editor *Anglers' Almanack*, 1854.

"Mr. Little, of Fetter-lane, one day caught two barbel of 12lb. weight each at Teddington."—*Anglers' Almanack*, 1854.

Godfrey's Water at West Drayton.—We find the following notice in the *Anglers' Almanack* for 1854:—"Since last year I have become proprietor of the Thorney Broad Fishery, near West Drayton, 13 miles from Paddington, by Great Western Railway, on the river Colne, about 2¼ miles in length. Since having it I have made it one of the best subscription waters near London for general fishing. All places that are exposed I have had well staked; but the most particular thing is to protect the fish in spawning time. . . . . I have bought a great many fish and put in, and am going to try the artificial spawning process with trout; afterwards, in April, with barbel, perch, &c." New brooms sweep clean.

## ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

C. B., SHEFFIELD.—Thanks. But the books are not rare or of much value.

# CORRESPONDENCE.

[*We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.*]

### A NOTE FROM NOTTINGHAM.

SIR,—Angling news this week is rather more encouraging in the neighbourhood of Nottingham. There has been one salmon 9½lb. taken by a Nottingham angler, and a trout over a pound by another one in the same water. There have been several nice catches of barbel in the Shardlow water. Mr. F. W. caught a nice lot of dace one day and some good perch. I saw a gentleman the other day who had been to the Dove, and he had got four brace of very fine grayling. He said there was any quantity of grayling in the Dove, a fish that we hardly ever see in the Trent now. There is no doubt the refuse from the Burton breweries destroys them.—I am, &c.,

Nottingham, Sept. 15. A. W.

### THE RIVER BOLLIN (HEATLEY, LANCS.).

SIR,—I was very much interested in perusing your valuable paper this week-end to find the account of Sam Brooks and Mr. C. Cartwright's large basket of fish from the River Bollin at Heatley on the 3rd inst. But I cannot agree with Mr. Thomas in stating that it was the largest catch that has been taken out of this river for years. In this respect I am inclined to think that he is rather over the mark. A friend of mine, a well-known local angler, has taken a superior catch out of the same river this season, and during the past two or three seasons has taken equally as good baskets. Hoping you may find a corner in your valuable paper for this—I am, &c., BOLLIN.

Ardwich, Manchester.

### FISHING IN THE WYE, BETWEEN BAKEWELL AND ROWSLEY, IN DERBYSHIRE.

SIR,—In the Wye, between the clean and neat town of Bakewell and the far-famed Haddon Hall up to Rowsley, good sport in fly-fishing may be obtained, while the vernant views and rich meadows with stately trees charm the eye at every point. The trout fishing season commences on April 1 and ends on Oct. 1. The grayling season commences on June 15 and ends on March 15. In the river are found trout of all sizes, the river being well-stocked with this favourite fish. The trout particularly being well-fed and uniformly, season by season, are in splendid condition, offering to the accomplished angler a fund of sport. Mr. Hensbergh, the Duke of Rutland's keeper, who resides in a house on the steep hill-side near Haddon Tunnel, is a most indefatigable caretaker of the river, which is strictly preserved. He takes a great interest in the welfare of the fish, and keeps an attentive look-out against all infringements of the rules. We may add here that he ties a good fly (and most deftly can he do so), and is ever ready and willing to supply any gentleman with flies which at any particular time are required for the river. The writer has fished the river in question all the season, and can positively assert that it has been a good one, the dishes taken being uniformly good ones almost day by day, three and four brace weighing from 1½lb. downwards. Mr. Hensbergh ties a capital fly, which takes very well close to the bank the last thing of an evening. He also produces a very good apple-green and red spinner, all at times and in season having a killing effect. During the season the evening dun has taken remarkably well. It may be here mentioned, however, that in consequence of the winding nature of the river, really in acute curves, it is not at all difficult to fish even in windy weather. The keeper has just put into the river 800 odd trout, so that eventually further sport may be safely anticipated. On July 2 a dish of fine trout was caught by a gentleman. There were eight fish in all, two of which were over 1½lb. each in weight, and the remaining six all over 1lb.; they were in splendid condition, and presented a handsome appearance, forming on a large dish a perfect piscatorial picture, while the rich delicacy of their flavour and their firmness on the table were a rural treat of the highest order—fit to grace the breakfast table of a prince and satisfy the most captious epicure. Although it is probably widely known, it may not be out of place to mention that there is every accommodation for anglers at the Rutland Arms Hotel, Bakewell, or at the Peacock Hotel, Rowsley. At either of these hotels tickets may be purchased which confer the right of angling. Numerous dishes of fine grayling, over 1lb. each in weight, have been taken. It sometimes happens the angler will obtain one fine grayling to four or five trout; but even the grayling have been in grand condition, well fed and affording ample sport. As many trees grow on the water-side, the fish in the river can get plenty of grubs and other food, which makes them fine and strong. The trout remarkably so, and they show, when hooked, good fight, and give the angler rare sport. It is difficult to pick out in England a more happy hunting, or rather fishing, ground than the silvery Wye between Bakewell and Rowsley, in Derbyshire, or one more prolific in sport. A fortnight's visit would well repay any trout fisher, and if he only once lashed the waters of the Wye in this particular length, he would never fail in constantly repeating his visits on every possible occasion. I must again say a few words with reference to Hensbergh, the keeper, who is not only accommodating in every way, but by his attention and urbanity further pleasure is added to the enjoyment of fly-fishing; while his aptitude and skill in the formation of flies conduces much to the success of the angler. He is also skilled in the rearing of the trout, and by his indefatigable exertions and attention turns into the Wye, every year, between these points, some hundreds of trout, which he receives, in the first instance, from Loch Leven and other Scotch lakes, and which is the principal reason why this fishery is the best in the county. The present season has been all that could be desired, and there is every prospect of next season being as equally enjoyable and successful.—I am, &c., PISCATOR.

Bakewell, Sept.

[We do not like to say that "Piscator" has over-coloured his description of this lovely stretch of water and the sport it affords; but to prevent disappointment we may say that the trout of the Wye have a critical eye!—ED.]

### A SUGGESTION TO ALMANACK MAKERS.

SIR,—As most publishers of almanacks are revising their 1885 issue, may I suggest that the fishery districts, names and addresses of their conservators, and secretaries, close times, and license duties be inserted? A very pretentious volume of Messrs. Waterlow's, called the "Country Companion," labours under the impression that all close times are the same. I took the trouble to go and see the publishers, but the marvellous reasons why the information could not be given were so overpowering that I have not felt disposed to call their attention to it, except by letter, since. I may call the attention of Quarter Sessions to it, then I think the publishers of that "official directory" may perhaps think it desirable to correct their statement. I also wrote in vain to the publishers of "Whitaker's Almanack."

Whilst the Fishery Boards state one thing, the almanacks state another. To a foreigner or a man in a strange fishing district it is perplexing.

Now, Waterlow's production disposes of Sept. 1 by saying, "Salmon fishing ends." Does it? I fish for salmon up to Nov. 1; and it professes to be a country almanack for country life! It may be, but it is also a great nuisance to the country conservators of fishery districts, and a very useless and unreliable guide for any man to refer to about sport. Perhaps proprietors of such almanacks will some day find out that to be useful a publication should be *accurate*, and "no use—no sale" is too old a story for us to suppose they have never learnt it.—I am, &c.,

Torquay. ALAN BAGOT.

P.S.—The "Country Companion" is most accurate as to dates and places where Petty Sessions are held. That is desirable, for were any person to fish under its advice he would soon have occasion to attend them.

### THE DEE, NORTH WALES.

SIR,—I had a few hours' fishing on this charming river between Chester and Holt. I killed a few very fine roach ledgering with gentles, but I did not get on so well as I expected. I regret to inform my brother piscators that the steamer which plies daily—except Sundays—between the above places does not improve the angler's prospects. It passes four times daily, and I am sorry to say it not only unsettles the water and the fish, but it also destroys great numbers, as I saw numbers of small fry lying dead on the bank after the steamer passed. If any of your readers intend paying a visit to this river, I should recommend them to go to Llangollen and Bala way. The river would be improved by some good showers.—I am, &c.,

GEO. ATTWELL.

### RECIPE FOR STEWING WHEAT AS BAIT.

SIR,—In answer to your inquiry in GAZETTE of Sept. 6th, I have found the following to be the best plan for stewing wheat—viz.: Put the wheat in a stew jar and just cover with cold water, then place it on the oven side of the grate until it gets hot, when you will find the wheat begin to swell and absorb all the water; you will then keep adding water from time to time to keep the wheat covered for the space of six or seven hours, but on no account allow the water to more than simmer; by the end of that time the wheat will be swollen to its full size, the skin will be soft, and all the flour retained.

In baiting your hook merely press your hook in from the broken side right to the husk, and the odds are twenty to one in favour of your hooking every roach, bream, chub, or dace that bites.

Trusting this reply will meet your inquiry—I am, &c.,

E. TILDESLEY, sec. Bordesley Waltonians.

13, Chapman-road, Smallheath, Birmingham, Sept. 12.

[We are much obliged to Mr. Tildesley.—ED.]

### HOW TO STOP POACHERS.

SIR,—I read in your paper that a gentleman wishes to know what will prevent poaching with nets in his river. I have had many years' experience as water bailiff, and I find forge cinders, or bricks with stout wire twisted round, with the ends left to form hooks, and carefully put on the scours, is a good preventive; or, if the river is sluggish or dead water, I find thorn breezings cut small and thrown in will stop either draw net or trammel—it will either roll it or clog it up, so they will do nothing to hurt, and it will take a long time to get the net free again. As a rule, after a big flood I do the water over again. I also have my river (the Trent) piled with tenter-hook piles, but an old hand at poaching will sometimes walk behind and lift it off when fast; but, still, it will partly spoil the draw.—I am, &c.,

Alrewas, Lichfield. CHARLES DRAPER, Water Bailiff.

### OLD-EYED HOOKS—RECIPES WANTED.

SIR,—Having seen in several of your papers letters referring to eyed-hooks, I inclose you a few which I have had for some time; they must be, at least, 20 years old. Should anyone like to see some, I shall be glad to send them a few.

Could anyone kindly give me a good recipe for blacking ferrules of rods? I mean the rough ones as they come from the factory.—I am, &c.,

1, Mount-terrace, Taunton, Somerset. H. W. BURTER.

P.S.—Could you also tell me where I can get some small coch-a-bonddu hackles?

[The hooks are sneck-bent roach size, with a neat little eye straight with the shank. The Irish correspondent who sent us the specimen of Wheatley's eyed-hook referred to last week, sends us another long shank small hook with a small eye, which was also given him by Wheatley. It is dressed as a small green caterpillar. Our correspondent says, "Friends of mine, who make their own salmon flies, have been in the habit of using eyed-hooks almost exclusively. Flies last much longer, which is a great point. On the whole, eyed-hooks have great advantages over other hooks for salmon and trout flies." We are much obliged to our correspondents for the information and hooks.—ED.]

### EYED-HOOKS: THEIR EARLY HISTORY, &C.

SIR,—I do not wish to trespass further on your space, nor on the indulgence of your readers; but some of Mr. Bankart's statements in his last letter are so inaccurate, and some of his arguments so unfair to me, that I hope I may be allowed a brief reply.

I am not going to criticise Mr. Bankart's elaborate discussion of what took place for the first two years we were thinking of eyed-hooks. I am content to draw the attention of your readers to the following facts:—(1) When I wrote my account in the *Field* of July 3, 1880 (at a time when all the circumstances were fresh in the minds of both of us), there was no allusion whatever to Kelly and Sons, and Mr. Bankart's correspondence with them. Mr. Bankart's only comment on my letter was one of unhesitating approval. I have never written anything inconsistent with that original account, and by it I stand. Some of the points raised now by Mr. Bankart should have been raised then if they were ever worth raising at all. (2) Mr. Bankart is unfair in appealing to our extensive correspondence and making capital out of it. A very large number of my letters had no reference to eyed-hooks, and Mr. Bankart himself insists on the fact that there was no partnership after 1879. Five years' correspondence must, therefore, be left out of consideration. (3) Mr. Bankart *knows* that I was in communication with Mr. Aldam about eyed-hooks as early as April, 1877. I gave him full particulars and dates quite recently. (4) It is unfair to allude to one single failure of turned-up eyes—the only failure I ever had, I believe. I had turned up the eyes of quantities of hooks, both with Mr. Aldam and alone, with perfect success months before the incident he refers to at Abergavenny. This, too, Mr. Bankart knows, unless he has forgotten or overlooked some of my most recent letters. He had full particulars last June. (5) I must beg to contradict the assertion that "the final patterns were settled in 1880, and so they remain." Mr. Bankart assumes that because he has done nothing, nothing has been done. (6) Nor has he any right to say there was no difficulty to overcome in getting the smaller sizes made. I have had endless bother and difficulty of which Mr. Bankart knows nothing. Perhaps he is not aware that I have had three different firms at work for me this year. The most recent patterns I am convinced Mr. Bankart has never even seen. (7) With regard to "elaboration and refinement," I was alluding to what has taken place since 1880, as the context clearly shows. Any "elaboration" Mr. Bankart had a hand in is, therefore, wide of the mark. (8) It is not a fact that I had "a select circle of acquaintances among the best Hampshire anglers." I had a very slight speaking acquaintance (from meeting him on the Itchen) with Mr. Marryat, and nothing more. He was my sole acquaintance.

Mr. Bankart plumes himself on his "facts." I think the points I have referred to (and I could enumerate others did space permit) show that some of the so-called facts are nothing more than assertions made with insufficient knowledge, and which are partially or wholly incorrect; and the rest of Mr. Bankart's letter is a laborious endeavour to defend his first letter of May 26th, which I still assert to be grossly inaccurate, and inconsistent with my *Field* account approved by Mr. Bankart. After four years of silence and inaction, he suddenly puts before the public a series of incorrect statements, and this is why I took the matter up. I never accused him of *wilfully* misstating the case, but I thought the mistakes had occurred through inadvertence, till he obstinately refused to admit any error. Since then he has said: "I wrote hurriedly, and intended, &c."; "I wrote hastily on May 26th," and thereby stands self-convicted. The whole of his last reference to the Kelly correspondence (the importance of which I certainly never heard of until now) is nothing more than an attempt, more laborious than successful, to defend some of the hasty writing of May 26th.

Finally, to sum up the whole question at issue, Mr. Bankart labours hard to prove that I did nothing at all at first, and that everything was settled and done in 1880. He contradicts himself at the end of his letter, saying the partnership "was as equally active as two individuals could make it." With regard to what has been done since 1880, Mr. Bankart is not competent to form an opinion. There are plenty of readers of the Gazette who know more about it than he does. To some of them my thanks are due for hints and advice, and I take this opportunity of once more acknowledging my indebtedness to them. If during the last four years all had been as quiescent as Mr. Bankart, "the hooks of the future" would long since have been forgotten, and would certainly never have come into general use.—I am, &c.,

H. S. Hall.

[This correspondence is closed.—Ed.]

## FINE TAKE OF BREAM AT WALTON.

Sir,—Fishing with "Old George Hone," on the 15th inst., at Walton-on-Thames, I caught fifty-one bream, weighing 110lb., the two largest 6lb. and 5½lb., all taken on the very finest drawn gut.—I am, &c.,

Tenby Lodge, Kingston Hill, Surrey, Sept. 16. Alfred Mackrill.

## MR. GUISE AND THE REDDITCH PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

Sir,—I inclose you the rules of this Society, and ask you to allow me to correct the statement of Mr. Guise, when he says we have no fishing club, but a railway ticket society. See rules. This society was formed to meet the wants of the working class, and has been a success every year yet. Last year we handed over to the Birmingham Hospital 21s., after paying all demands, and left a favourable balance in favour of the club. We shall be glad if Mr. Guise will give the name of the party who says he takes out a ticket simply for the convenience of the railway, and the same shall be forwarded to the railway company for them to deal with.

The Piscatorial club have nothing to do with coloured hooks, or matters connected with trade.

We hope Mr. Guise will be truthful in what he asserts for the future in respect to our club; our accounts are properly laid before the members at the yearly meeting.—I am, &c., George Welch, President of the Piscatorial Society.

Redditch, Sept. 16.

## FISHING AT DOVER.

Sir,—Will you allow me to correct a statement respecting sea fishing at Dover which appears in Mr. Sach's letter to you published in the Gazette of the 13th inst.? He says, "The fish travel in the tideway past the end of the pier without giving a look in to Dover Bay." Now, I can assure you from personal experience that that is not the case. I resided in Dover during the years '80, '81, and part of '82, and whilst there had very good sport amongst the fish in the Bay. By spinning from a boat during the latter part of the summer and autumn in the evening plenty of fish may be had, chiefly pollack; my best take there one evening, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. was twenty-one fish, ranging from 2lb. to 5lb. each.

From the landing stages of the pier, bass, mullet, pollack, silver whiting, codling, and, of course, the ubiquitous conger are taken. The great advantage of the pier for fishing is, that if it is blowing a gale on one side the other is quite calm. The best natural bait I found in my experience there to be the rock lug, which inhabits the little tunnels it makes in the chalk rocks at low water, which are covered at high water. They are obtained by knocking the rocks to pieces with a pickaxe; it is a dirty job, and best done by proxy. Small boys sell the mud lug, which they obtain from the harbour on the pier.

Of course, I do not intend for one moment to say that the fishing at Dover is as good as it used to be; but, in that respect, it is no worse than other seaside towns on the South coast, the shore fishing about all seeming to have deteriorated.—I am, &c.,

Richmond, Sept. 15. Harry Davis.

## ANGLERS AND THAMES ROUGHS.

Sir,—Noticing an article in the Fishing Gazette of August 9th, 1884, upon "Anglers and Thames Rights," and the decision of a committee upon the same after most extraordinary and exhausting exertions for four months, I am surprised that they should exhibit such ignorance in their report of the real state of things to the House of Commons after dealing with the subject so long.

They state, "The paramount object of the river is the navigation." Was, or is, anyone so grossly ignorant as not to know this? Did, or has, anyone ever attempted to interfere with, or even spoken against the legitimate traffic of the river? They say again that the pleasure traffic does not interfere with its navigation? I say it is a very great source of annoyance and trouble to its traffic. The navigation and traffic have for years been on one side of the river—that is, the towing path side, as being the shortest route; but they do not mention a word about the above and annoyance to quiet and inoffensive anglers, on the other side especially. I have myself, as well as others, been a witness on a Sunday, when there were upwards of 500 row boats and numerous coffee-pot steamers between Teddington Lock and Kingston Bridge, full of the grossest indecencies, annoying every angler who dared to courteously ask them to avoid their tackle, and no police or water bailiff to appeal to, or to take cognisance of their conduct. Remonstrance was useless. Indecently dressed, and their female companions lying on a cushion in the boat in disgusting positions, in sight of every passer-by (a gentleman and his wife and daughters taking a walk by the river side), this must be very edifying, and highly to be approved of. This is the filth that is to take the place of quiet serenity on the river Thames. This locality was once a quiet and much-loved place of resort for well-disposed people. Look at it now!

They talk about suggesting that for certain offences there ought to be summary jurisdiction. I think that the chairman must have been in a facetious mood when he made that remark. The fact is, there is no one to take cognisance of their conduct. The anglers have in many instances had to restrain the misconduct of offenders against public and private property.

Likewise they state "that the Conservancy should have the control of the river." This is ludicrous enough. Any person of common sense must know that when there is a large concourse of people that supervision of an authoritative description of some kind is absolutely necessary, more especially upon the river, where the greatest ignorance in the management of boats can be witnessed. I saw a small sail boat sink with seven or eight persons, but, beyond a good ducking, they all managed to get on shore; but things might have been worse, and accidents happen almost daily with this boating by inexperienced persons.

As for ancient customs, it is simply ridiculous; there never were so many anglers as at the present time. How far back the committee have been searching I do not know—perhaps to the time of Henry the VIII., or still further back, when serfdom was in vogue; if they will but read they will find that angling is a very ancient custom indeed. Or have they been hunting to try and find some law to put down angling, so that these pitiable creatures, with their abominations, may splash and steam about anywhere and everywhere to the great annoyance of decent and well-disposed persons, and quiet, inoffensive anglers, who molest no one? Can no legislation reach this lamentable state of things, and rescue this locality from destruction?

As to the legitimate traffic, that, of course, cannot, nor has been interfered with; but the quiet of the Thames anglers and others has been grossly interfered with on both sides of the river. I wonder if any of the committee have ever ventured to pay a visit to this once quiet spot and took notes of his observations thereon; and, whether they prefer a Babel of noise and discordant songs, to the exquisite quiet that once reigned supreme in this highly-favoured locality. For more than 20 years I myself have known it, and never regretted a visit to its shady banks.

There is a quiet nook used now for bathing purposes; notwithstanding this, there are many who will persist in bathing in the main stream, exposing their nakedness to every boat that passes, and also to the passers-by on either bank. They do not seem to know the danger they run, for if one of those large pike were to make an attack matters would be very serious. Perhaps they would desist if Mr. Pike were to make an example of one or two of them, for if he be but hungry, nothing that moves in the water will stay his voracious appetite.

Why is it that all this hurly-burly is allowed to exist. And those that should assist to put a stop to this state of things are actually attacking the quiet, inoffensive angler who annoys no one, and has often to leave the place in disgust, with his tackle damaged, to the intense delight of these miserables who are totally and determinately blind to their own real pleasure. They are like the scum in the pot—require to be removed. —I am, &c. G. W. A. K., of the St. Alban's Club.

[What is wanted on the Thames is an adequate river police, and half of them should be detectives, otherwise the sight of the police boat, with its men in uniform, would give the roughs the chance to get away. It would not be a bad idea to put a few crocodiles in the Thames; they would soon stop indecent bathing.—Ed.]

## ANGLING FOR PIKE WITH BACON.

Sir,—I send you an extract from letter received from an old Wharfe angler who recently emigrated to Manitoba. I think your readers will find it interesting.—I am, &c., Francis M. Walbran.

"Dear Mr. Walbran,—Many thanks for your letter of the 7th July (received 27th). I am very glad the feathers came in so handy. I know from experience that they are very bad to meet with in England, and although I have kept a sharp look-out here, have not come across another yet; but when I do you shall have another lot of feathers.

"I am sorry to hear your report of the weather; it must have been most disheartening both to fishers and farmers. Those brutes who limed the river deserve burying alive in quicklime. I hope they have traced them by this time, but it will be a difficult matter to do, I fear. Shouldn't I have liked to have been at Driffield with you! I inclose a few feathers from the wing of the blue teal. I fancy, if hackled on a yellow body, they will kill grayling, but I have no doubt you will know better what to do with them than I do. I do very often think of Wharfe, and especially on Wednesdays and Saturdays, and should like to have a day in a good water again. Fishing just here is practically *nil*. There *are* fish in the Cypress, six miles from us, but, from what I hear, are only fit for pike baits, and 16 miles from here there is very good pike fishing in a large lake called Swan Lake, and the stream flowing from it. I will now attempt to give you a description of a try to take a fish by your humble servant: I went there to a picnic (save the mark!) on the 11th June, not knowing there were fish (and not having tackle here if I had). Being told we could fish, I ventured to ask if there was such an article as a rod. 'Oh, no! but so-and-so has hooks and some stout whipcord, and you can cut down a young poplar to fish with!' This reply, to a fellow who had just left a pet trout rod behind in England, and could still imagine the play of it in his hand, was rather a 'facer.' However, I cut down a poplar and trimmed the branches off, and succeeded in getting a small scaffold-pole 12ft. long, and fairly straight. I then applied to the hook and whipcord man. Oh, yes, he had *hooks*; and he was quite right—they *were* hooks. At home I should have used them for deep-sea fishing for large cod and halibut! He also had whipcord about the size of three fly-lines laid up together. I borrowed a 10ft. length, and hitched on my hook sailor fashion, tied the other end to the end of the pole, and behold rod and line. Then to see to what length barbarism could go, I asked about bait, and was told they used bacon or pork fat! Nothing daunted, I artistically sliced a piece off and put it on so as to spin; and then for the stream. After nearly tearing my arms out of their sockets by waving the *rod* about for half an hour, I was rewarded by the sight of a big brute that would weigh about 14lb., as near as I could judge; but he was not satisfied with the look or size of the bait, and quietly went home again, and I gave it up in disgust. Some of the party by fishing in the deep holes got a few, which would average about 3lb., and seemed highly pleased at the result, as no doubt they ought to be. With proper tackle and baits there ought to be no end of fun for anyone fond of the art and having time—Mr. Jardine ought to come here; but living as I am sixteen miles away, and with plenty of farm work to be done at home, I am afraid I shan't trouble it much, and especially as I can get my other pet sport—shooting—close at hand. If you care to send the above account to Marston, do so. We had ten days of blazing hot weather in June, from the 13th to 23rd inclusive; the thermo. averaged 118 deg. in the sun, and on the last day it was 128 deg in the sun at 5 p.m. Then, for a change, the 24th opened up with a S.E. wind, Scotch mist, and the thermo. at 48 deg. all day. I should be very glad to have an occasional copy of the 'F. G.'—I am, &c., "Chas. Edw. Porritt."

## A YANKEE ANGLER'S GRUMBLE.

Sir,—This has been the poorest season for angling here for thirty-three years. The water has been too high, roiley, and cold, but a splendid season for poachers with their seines, traps, spears, dip nets, gill nets, set nets, trot lines, shooting, and dynamite. Then they grumble because fish are so scarce. We have good game and fish laws in this and other States, but they are not enforced by gentlemen sportsmen and anglers, because they are threatened with death by the hoodlum poachers and pot-hunters. Some people are allowed too much liberty in this free America. I can recollect back twenty years, when I could go and catch a mess of fish in a few hours; a 4lb. black bass, and a 10lb. cat fish were very common. Those days are past.

On the 2nd inst. our city druggist, Daniel H. Calvert, and a young attorney, Frank Connolly, went to the Embarras river for an afternoon's angling, about four miles S.E. of here. They fished in the Mike Hall Hole; they caught twenty new lights (croppies), total weight 10lb. Weather clear and fair, water clear. This is the first creel of fish here this season. Please send specimen copy of your paper with this item. More anon.—I am, &c. J. B. Dazey.

Charleston, Coles County, Illinois, Sept. 4th.

## FISHING SHARP STREAMS.

Sir,—Supposing I am fishing a river, the current of which is rather fast, is it not possible for me so to manipulate my float, and the shots or leads attached to the taft or tackle, that by keeping a certain backward pressure on the tip of the float, either when floating for barbel or tight-corking for the same (Nottingham style, of course) I can *always* keep the bait at about an angle of 75 deg. or 80 deg. from the float, and so constantly present the bait to the mouths of the fish? Says one, quite easy. Very good. "Philo" says the top of the stream is so much stronger and quicker than the stream even half-way down (you must admit it), and the stream at the bottom much slower than the stream in the middle (admitted again), that do what you will, you cannot help the tackle and line bulging and forming a huge bow, and the consequence is, instead of the bait being presented to the mouths of the fish, as you seem to imagine, it has quite a contrary effect, I assure you, and the fish have to *turn round*, follow the bait, and seize it the best way they can.

In this case I am forcibly reminded of the old saying, "Who shall decide when doctors disagree?"

Many thanks for your foot-note on pike. You mean to say a 15lb. pike would smash a 4lb. bream all to ribbons. I shall not contradict you, Mr. Editor. I am inclined to think you are right; but it is rather extraordinary that dear old Izaak should have made such a mistake about the tench, for he says (Chapter XI.):—"And it is observed that the tyrant pike will *not be a wolf* to his physician, but forbears to devour him, though he be never so hungry." We live and learn,—I am, &c.,

Mark Antony.

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## IMPORTANT DECISION AS TO A TRIBUTARY OF THE TEME.

At the Ludlow County Petty Sessions, on Monday, Richard Dansey, Esq., of the Sheet, was charged with illegal fishing in the river Ledwyche. The case had been adjourned for the attendance of Mr. Stallard, clerk to the Severn Fishery Board, who was now present. Mr. Salwey said the case had been adjourned to enable the clerk to the Board to state whether a tributary of a tributary came within the meaning of the Act, and to produce the order of the Secretary of State defining the arc of the Severn Fishery district, copies of which should have been lodged with the Clerk of the Peace for the county of Salop.

Mr. Stallard then produced the order, &c., from the Home Secretary, which stated that the Severn with all the tributaries of such river as are situate in the counties of Salop, Hereford, and Worcester should form the said fishery district. He also quoted the case of Merricks *v.* Cadwallader, which was heard before Justices Grove and Lopes, in which the district was defined, showing that so much of the river Severn with rivers Teme and Vyrnwy lying in the counties of Salop and Worcester with all tributaries.

Mr. Salway: Then you contend that a tributary of a tributary is included?

Mr. Stallard: Yes.

Mr. Salway asked Mr. Stallard to oblige him with the recital of the words of Mr. Justice Grove again.

Mr. Stallard read as follows:—"If all tributaries of tributaries were tributaries of the river Severn, it would be so much of the river, and all tributaries thereof as are situated therein."

The Bench said that a conviction must take place, and their opinion was that the justice of the case would be met by Mr. Dansey paying the costs and the amount of a double license, 2s. (The Ledwyche is a tributary of the Teme, and runs near Ludlow, joining the Teme near Tenbury.)

George James Eaton, of Starkholmes, Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required, from gentlemen who can fish, to prove whether they may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—(Advt.)

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# RIVER REPORTS.

## TIME OF HIGH WATER IN THE THAMES.

To find the time of high water in the Thames at any of the following places, to the time of high water at London Bridge (given below).

Add
30 minutes for Chelsea.
40 " Putney.
45 " Hammersmith.
50 " Barnes.
55 " Kew.
75 " Richmond.
80 " Twickenham.
85 " Teddington.

Example:—If it is high water at 2 o'clock at London Bridge, it will be high water at Teddington about 3.25, or eighty-five minutes later; but it must be remembered that a strong wind accelerates or retards the tide very much.

For Times of High Water at London Bridge.

| | Morning. | Afternoon. |
|---|---|---|
| Saturday, September 20 | 2.15 | 2.35 |
| Sunday, " 21 | 2.51 | 3.8 |
| Monday, " 22 | 3.27 | 3.43 |
| Tuesday, " 23 | 4.1 | 4.17 |
| Wednesday, " 24 | 4.43 | 4.49 |
| Thursday, " 25 | 5.4 | 5.21 |
| Friday, " 26 | 5.41 | 6.2 |

## THE LOWER THAMES.

### General Remarks.

The trout season this year closed with the capture of more trout than many previous years, not only at its terminating point, but throughout the entire period. In addition to those which were reported in the Fishing Gazette of last week, there are two others which were caught on the closing day. One at Kingston, by Mr. A. E. Fricker, in the Town's End Hole, weighing 6lb. 3oz., and a small one at Teddington, which was returned to the river again. In throwing the cast net for some minnows at Teddington, Benjamin Stevens caught about forty small barbel, from two to three inches in length, which he carefully put back again. It is the general opinion the supply of barbel in the river was never greater than it is this season, and in the tidal district there are few takes of roach and dace unaccompanied without barbel. There is only one good rule necessary to be observed in barbel fishing, and that is only to take away the best fish, and put the smaller ones back to grow bigger. The barbel is becoming more recognised as an article of food, and certainly more acceptable as a gift. The water above the locks is in about the same condition as last week, and is reported to be "in good order for fishing." In the tideway the report is: "The water is low and bright, and the mud is leaving fast." The returns of sport this week are satisfactory, and no lack in the attendance of anglers and the emyloyment of fishermen.

### Angling Results.

**Richmond.**—Christopher Brown, in five days, 65lb. of roach and dace, and five barbel, the largest 7lb. F. Brown, in the same time, 90lb., and four barbel. Henry Wheeler, in six days, 150lb., and nine barbel. Job Brain, in four days, 80lb., and fourteen barbel. Henry Mansell, in six days, 70lb., and seventeen barbel. Henry Howard, in six days, 124lb., and fifteen barbel. F. Young, in four days, 40lb., and four barbel. John Bushnell, in four days, 60lb, and two barbel. The bank anglers, on their favourite day, weighed in 31lb. of roach and dace, and four barbel. The total result of thirty-eight takes in punt fishing, as reported above, represents 679lb. of roach and dace, and seventy barbel.

**Twickenham.**—Pert Hammerton, in five days, 80lb. of roach and dace, 10 barbel, and a perch of 1½lb.; Joseph Dobbin, in the same time, 62lb. and 10 barbel; Richard Coxen, in four days, 46lb. and three barbel; George Coxen, in the same time, seventy-eight dozen and three barbel; James Coxen, in five days, 40lb. and five barbel; W. Spong, in six days, forty-five dozen and two barbel; Charles Hennessy, in four days, forty dozen; Samuel Cole, in six days, 100lb. and five barbel; Edward Finch, in the same time, 105lb. and three barbel; George Chamberlain, during the week, 120lb.; H. Spiers, in five days and two half-days, eighty-six dozen and a barbel of 4½lb.; C. Miles, in one day, ten dozen; and John Spong, in six days, forty-nine and a half dozen and five barbel.

**Teddington.**—Joseph Baldwin, in one day, seven barbel, weighing 22lb., and in three other days 55lb. of roach and dace; John Stevens, in four days, 30lb. and two barbel.

**Kingston.**—John Johnson, jun., in five days, seven barbel and seventeen dozen of roach and dace; John Johnson, sen., in four days, fifteen bream—the largest 5½lb.—seven barbel, fifteen dozen of roach and dace, five perch, four eels, and a couple of flounders; James Wilks, in four days, twelve dozen of roach and dace, six dozen of gudgeon, two barbel, one bream, and the trout referred to in the "General Remarks"; Luke Francis, in one day, four dozen of roach and dace; F. Eastland, in six days, thirty dozen of roach and dace and four perch. It is estimated the bank anglers have taken during the week forty bream, thirty barbel, and six flounders, and some of the daily takes have been seven dozen of roach and dace. The taking of flounders at Kingston affords good evidence that some of the fish taken there at the end of last year still remain.

**Long Ditton and Thames Ditton.**—H. Buttery, in five days, 22 barbel—the largest 8½lb.—two chub, three perch, seven dozen of gudgeon, one dozen of roach, and three jack, the largest 3½lb.; C. Tagg, in two days, six dozen of gudgeon, and the same quantity of roach and dace; H. Rogerson, in one day, eleven dozen of gudgeon and three brace of perch; H. Tagg, in one and a half days, fifteen dozen gudgeon, nine perch, and nineteen dozen of roach and dace. The bank anglers have taken a nice quantity of roach and dace.

**Hampton Court.**—C. Stone, in three days, twenty-three dozen of roach and dace, several of the roach weighing 1lb. each. Thomas Milburne, in six days, twenty dozen of roach and dace and three barbel, the largest 8lb. Thomas Davis, in the same time, eighteen dozen of roach and dace, five dozen of gudgeon, and fifteen perch. Charles Davis, in one day, two dozen of roach and dace. William Milburne, during the week, thirty-five dozen of roach and dace and three barbel. Thomas Wheeler, in four days, twelve barbel—the largest 4½lb., and twelve dozen of roach and dace. At "Tagg's Island Fishery," the anglers from the bank have made some good takes of roach, dace, and perch. James Langshaw, at Hampton, in two days, has taken fifteen barbel—the largest 4½lb., and eight dozen of roach and dace. Roach, dace, gudgeon, and barbel, have found their way into the baskets of the bank anglers.

**Sunbury.**—Edward Clarke, jun., in six days, twenty dozen of roach and dace, fifteen dozen of gudgeon, and eleven barbel—the largest, 4lb.; and Henry Clarke jun., in two and a-half days, ten dozen of roach and dace and eight chub—the largest 2lb. The bank anglers have done well amongst the roach, dace, perch, gudgeon and chub.

**Walton.**—George Hone, in one day, an eel of 2lb., two barbel weighing 6lb., three bream and a brace of jack weighing 8lb.; another day, five dozen of roach and dace; another day, eight bream; and another day, 60lb. of bream—the largest 6lb., one barbel, and three perch. R. Watford, one day, one barbel, one perch, one chub, and five dozen of roach and dace; another day, a fine barbel of 8lb., and a couple of bream of 4lb. each; another day, two bream, one chub, four dozen of roach and dace, and four dozen of gudgeon; and another day, four bream and five dozen of roach and dace. George Hone, jun., in one day, four dozen of roach and dace. John Hone, one day, twelve bream and four dozen of roach; another day, four bream and six dozen of roach; another day, twelve dozen of gudgeon; and another day, four bream and two dozen of roach. Mr. Wilderspin has taken several good jack from the banks.

**Shepperton and Weybridge.**—H. Purdue, in one day, eighteen dozen of gudgeon and two dozen of roach and dace; and in three other days, twenty dozen of gudgeon, three brace of perch, and three dozen of roach and dace. Mr. M. H. Blamey, in one day, with D. Hackett, 40lb. weight of barbel. W. House, in one day, seven barbel and four dozen of roach and dace. F. Purdue, one day, ten dozen of gudgeon, six dozen of roach and dace, and two brace of perch; another day, seven dozen of gudgeon, three brace of perch, and six dozen of roach and dace; and another day, four dozen of roach and dace, eight dozen of gudgeon, and two brace of perch weighing over 2½lb. Herbert Curr, in one day, with Mr. Horsley, six dozen of roach and dace; and another day, with Mr. Dutton, nine dozen.

**Chertsey.**—John Poulter, one day, three barbel, three chub, one jack, one perch, and two eels; and another day, five dozen of roach and dace and a fine chub. T. Taylor, in one day, nineteen barbel and chub; and another day, with Mr. Abrams, seven barbel and three chub. James Haslett has been getting some very fair sport amongst the barbel, chub, and eels, and residing as he does at Dockett Point, where there are some of the best swims on the river, he ought to be well patronised by the anglers.

**Staines.**—John Keene, jun., one day, seven barbel and a brace of jack; another day, eight dozen of dace and one barbel; another day, eight dozen of roach and dace; and in two other days, with Mr. Bates, thirty-one barbel and two chub. J. Osman, one day, fourteen dozen of roach and dace; and in three other days, fourteen dozen of roach and dace. E. Keene, during the week, nine barbel and thirty dozen of roach and dace. Charles Hone, one day, with Mr. Randell, eight barbel; and another day, in two hours, a couple of barbel.

## UPPER THAMES.

The river is still very bright, and the ordinary fishing hardly worth the candle; but those who persevere under all and any circumstances are rewarded with a modicum of comfort in the shape of miscellaneous bags of roach, perch, chub, and gudgeon. The latter succulent dainties are feeding better than they have been all the season, and are running up to a wonderful size—2oz. gentlemen or women not being at all an exceptional size. At Bray, Mr. G. H. Panter, with a friend, last week, in two days' hard work, obtained 12lb. of roach, 6¾lb. chub, 20½doz. gudgeon, and 6 perch—the best fish of latter persuasion going 1¼lb. At Maidenhead, Mr. J. H. Clarke, with L. Wilder, has had on one occasion 21½doz. gudgeon, in addition to a swarm of undersized roach and perch returned to the water. My correspondent from this district tells me that the water is improving, and that roach and chub are likely to "soon be well on the feed"—I doubt this, my lord. At Medmenham, Bob Young, with a frequenter of the Ferry Hotel, has been daily at work; but with the exception of gudgeon, no grand hauls have been made. From Reading, I glean that on Thursday in last week 137 splendid stock trout of the Wycombe breed were placed in the Thames at the cost of the Reading Angling Association. The fish weighed from ½lb. to 3lb. each, and were liberated in excellent order. They make, with those previously put into this water, 350 trout, besides the stocking of grayling, perch, and carp mentioned in previous notes. Thursday evening.—River as bright as it possibly can be; very little chance of good sport, except with the gudgeon, which may now be had for the asking, with the addition of a nice little red worm on a No. 10 hook, and the grand desideratum of a smart knock from a supple wrist whenever there is a smell of a bite. Mr. Woodroof and Mr. J. Davenport, I have just heard, have had good sport, fishing with T. Barnes at Marlow, being located at Complete Angler's Hotel.—Marlow Buzz.

### Thames (Eynsham).

Friday and Saturday in last week, Mr. Tamen, with Mr. Geen, were very successful with barbel and chub, a lot of good fish coming to their share. Mr. Tamen had a splendid show of barbel—seven weighing 35lb., the three largest 8lb. each; in addition to these he had about 15lb. of good chub, making gross weight of fish 51b., all taken float fishing on very fine tackle. Mr. Bonvoisin has this week taken a few barbel, but has been more fortunate with perch and chub, having taken several good ones. On Monday, he (Mr. B.) caught a trout 4lb. ledgering, which he returned. The fish was in splendid condition. The river is low, but in capital condition for all-round fishing.—H. B. Howe.

### Thames (Goring).

Water very low and clear. Fishing not very good. Gudgeon biting very well. My best day, three chub and a few good perch; next best day, ten dozen of gudgeons and two dozen of perch.—John Rush.

### Sonning.

They have been taking a good many barbel since I sent the last account. Mr. Hughes along with another gentleman got over a hundred weight a day at the same place where he took over 150lb. a few weeks back. Mr. Penton has been taking some good chub, he got a very nice trout two days before the close, weighing over 3lb., it was a female fish full of row, he was very sorry when he saw it. Water still very bright and low.—W. Hull.

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### Ancholme District.

As an evidence of the popularity which atteuds the Ancholm fishing, I may state that in a match which took place on Monday week there were nearly one thousand anglers present, and the chief prize was taken with 6lb. or 7lb. of fish. Some few stayed all night at Brigg, and had heavy catches the next day. A fine roach was taken weighing 2lb. 1½oz., and a bream of 4lb. 12oz.; a pike of 12lb. 6½oz. has also been landed. On Monday last, between three and four hundred were out. I went trout fishing on Monday after tea and caught one and a half brace, and lost three, fish of about 1lb. each. With respect to the fontinalis, which called for an editorial note last week, I may state at once that they were caught in a pond, and better sport I never wish to see with fly. I caught six fontinalis to one trout, and I know of some more ponds where they are thriving equally well. I quite agree with the Editor that they are not so good as English trout for culinary purposes. My estimate of their value is, however, somewhat higher than his. I put them in comparison with trout in the ratio of three to four, whilst for beauty of colour they are, in my judgment, superior to our own. They may possibly be a failure in Scotland and some English waters, owing to climate and absence of suitable food. I find they thrive best where there are plenty of freshwater shrimps. I am experimenting on one or two small local streams in which this food abounds, and on one occasion this season caught ten two-year-old fish. This was the only time I fished for them. The time of their introduction hereabouts, as far as brooks are concerned, is too limited to speak with confidence. In another season or so I shall be able to speak better from experience. Any way, I have met with great success when they have been put in ponds fed by chalk streams, and containing suitable food. They have then nearly doubled trout in size in the same time.—Thomas Ford.

[The fontinalis may do in ponds; but even there our English trout are better. We have not been able to find any case where fontinalis have bred, even in ponds, in this country.—Ed.]

### Ballynahinch.

Since last report the following are the takes on above:—Col. Biden, in 11 days, one salmon (7lb.) and 81 sea trout; De Whipham, in 10 days, two salmon (15½lb.) and 70 trout; Mr. Grissel, in 12 days, three salmon (23lb.) and 69 trout; Mr. Porter, in nine days, 63 trout; Mr. Pemberton, in seven days, 49 trout; Mr. Webb and Major Wallis, in eight days, 49 trout; Mr. Bromley and Mr. Birken, in eight days, one salmon (7lb.) and 46 sea trout; Mr. Higham and Mr. Oakden, in six days, 61 trout; Mr. Rooper and son, in three days, 16 trout; Mr. Nall, in six days, 43 trout; Mr. Summerville and Mr. Cadwell, in five days, one salmon (10lb.) and 26 trout; Mr. Hathabawn, in 12 days, 144 sea trout; Mr. Oliver, in eight days, and Mr. Ashwell, in four days, 72 sea trout. Total for fortnight, eight salmon (62½lb.) and 789 sea trout. Weather much improved for angling.—Walter Blackadder, Sept. 17th.

### The Bure (Norwich).

A second summer may almost be said to have set in, and this beautiful stream is alive with yachts and anglers; the latter, however, having indifferent sport, as the wind keeps in the N.E. and E., which, as all fishermen believe, is usually fatal to their efforts. Still, I gather at Wroxham, both from Simpson's and also Whittaker's, that several fairly good catches have been had during the past week; one boat in particular, which went up stream towards Coltishall, returned with nearly six stone of good bream, several being large fish, and most of them takeable size. Others have caught from two to three stone, which is not bad for two rods and these shortened days. Jack are being taken with the paternoster. I have just seen three small fish which were thus caught this afternoon. Of course, the weeds put a stopper on trailing much as yet; but success should soon attend this mode, using a dead dace for choice. Small roach appear just now to be the favourite with both perch and jack, though I prefer minnows for the former. Prospects would improve with a change of wind.—Robert Moll.

### Chichester.

During my absence anglers in this quarter have been somewhat busy. Some good bream have been taken from the Canal, while at Selham Mr. S. Young has proved successful among the roach, 14lb. of good fish falling to his prowess, a few days since. Mr. Willison informs me that roach up to 1¼lb. have been landed. At present I am among the pike in private waters; six nice fish was the result of Monday's angling, but the water is generally low and bright. At Selham some good pike have been seen, but at present are not feeding well.—George F. Salter.

### The Churnet (Macclesfield).

In the paragraph in the Gazette last week about the big trout, you have unfortunately given the angler's name as "Bingley"; it should be "Brindley." Fishing here for the past week has been comparatively *nil*. The river still continues very low. I hear of some good takes of grayling at Rocester, where the Dove joins the Churnet; and also at Hartington, in the Dove, an old piscator, J. Fossbroke, caught one (a grayling) over 2lb. whilst fishing with a gentleman. I trust to be able to send you regular notes next season.—Churnet Otter.

### The Dee and Don (Aberdeenshire).

With the advent of autumn we have, with unfailing certainty, the ascent of the autumn fish. As a writer said the other day (quoting the words of our regal Solomon), the salmon begin about this time to evince "a most natural . . . . affection for their native stream." They may be late this year in running, but they are by no means scarce. With the last spate—and we wish we had more spates—some very fine heavy fish ascended the Dee, Don, and Ythan, but the water has again subsided, and is now so low that large fish, though inclined, are unable to proceed upwards. Especially is this the case as regards the Dee, where the numerous garths check their progress. Finnock are showing abundantly in the tidal waters, but poachers are manifestly at work, as a few whitling, submitted to us the other day, bore unmistakeable evidence of having been dragged in a small mesh net. In confirmation of this statement, Inspector Cruickshank and bailiffs captured, early the other morning, a gang of notorious poachers, having in possession no less than eighty-five whitling and sea trout. We think the riparian proprietors ought to co-operate with the Fishery Board in directing the services of their keepers to be given in aid of the river watchers. A few salmon have been landed in the Ythan by the rod, and on the Don some seven or eight salmon have fallen to anglers since the close of the net fishing. On the Dee, Albert Farquhar, Esq., Carlogie, secured one salmon 8½lb. On the Borrowstone section, Walter Evans, Esq., Derby, had a grilse 6lb. and a salmon. On Kineskie, C. Wolleston, Esq., Bath, had a salmon of 10lb. On Cairnton, W. Farnell Watson, Esq., Dorking, had a salmon of 14lb., and seven or eight sea trout; and on Loch Kinnord, the same gentleman had, one day, eighteen pike from 4 to 15lb., and another day ten of a similar weight. On the Aboyne Hotel water a few fish were got, and the Glentana water has produced several, the largest 27lb. Mr. Potter has had fair sport on the Park section; and Mr. Knowles' fishermen on the Durris water landed one or two salmon, the largest by John Sheriff's, being 32½lb. General the Hon. Fane-Kane, and Mr. White, of Overtoun, are fishing the Kineskie and Crathes waters, and all that is wanted to insure them good sport is a rise of the river. The flies most successful on the middle sections (between Cairnton and Culter) have been the Jock Scott and the blue charm pattern, dressed by W. Milne, Aberdeen. Old George Craven had a fish on Durris of 9lb., and James Dawson, of Brancepeth, along with one of the fishermen, secured one of 7lb. for W. Knowles, Esq., banker, London. On Culter and Kingcausie respectively, R. W. Duff, Esq., M.P., and Archer Irvine Fortescue, Esq., have as yet been rather unsuccessful. The fishings on the Feugh are still a total blank. Trout fishing may now be regarded as over for a season. Mr. George Smith, saddler and tackle-maker, Ballater, kindly sends us the following report:—Sept. 6th, Tom Grant, gillie to J. T. Mackenzie, Esq., of Kintail, had, on the Pannanich water, one fish 10lb. Invercauld Arms Hotel water, Donald Morgan, gillie, one fish 7lb.; Monaltrie water, 13th, Captain Greig one fish 10lb., and on 15th one fish 8lb. This gentleman has had splendid baskets of fine trout during the past six weeks. Mr. Smith reports that, in addition to a number of sea trout, Greig had the largest-sized trout he has ever seen taken near Ballater; they ranged from ½lb. to 3lb. Fishing has been poor lately, but ought to grow very good soon if we get rain. Blackhall, one fish; Cairnton, Farnell Watson, Esq., one fish 14lb., and grilse 5lb; Culter, one fish 10lb.

### The Dove.

The above river has been running in fair angling order since my last report, and sport on the whole has proved very profitable. The best killing flies have been the general black, the olive dun (April and September shades), and the honey dun bumble. In the upper reaches of the river the minnow has killed freely, and I hear of one excellent take of nine and a half brace of trout with the well-known Derby killer, in the Dovedale length of water. They were a splendid sample of fish, and afforded the successful rodster some capital fun. On the lower lengths of the stream the worm and maggot have been instrumental in accounting for many heavy baskets of roach, bream, chub, perch, and barbel. The wasp-grub is rapidly going out of season, and is becoming difficult to obtain. Weather fine, but overcast.—The Splodger (Thursday).

### Exe (Exeter).

Some very fine perch have been taken with live minnow and brandling worm in the river at Cowley, Exwick, and also in the canal at Turf and the lime-kilns. Some good catches of roach have also been had near Exwick fields with wasp grub and new bread; but the heat is intense, and a cooler temperature and some nice rain are badly wanted to ensure good creels —J. A. Kelley.

P.S.—I answer Mr. Frank Gosden's letter about Salmon Pool Weir next week or by letter direct.

### Ilfracombe.

Sea fishing.—Sport has been very good this week, and gentlemen fishing from the rocks and jetty have come in for a fair share of it, but the principal catches have been from the boats. On Friday F. S. Redmore's party took 40lb. conger; R. Souch's, nine conger, the largest weighing 30lb. the smallest 10lb. T. Davie, G. Comer, J. Bushen, G. Rudd, and C. Bamford's parties each had five strings of whiting pout. Saturday and up to to-day the catches have been both numerous and varied, some having fine strings of whiting pout, others having good catches of tamlin cod, conger, &c., from the rocks and jetty. Mr. Gratte has caught some nice sized codlin and conger eel. On Saturday he hooked a large fish, but his gear was not equal to the occasion, the fish getting away with the best part of it. On Tuesday a gentleman from London fishing from the jetty caught two mullet weighing 3½lb. each. Prospects good; weather fine.—E. Comer.

### Lea (Tottenham).

Some capital fish have been taken during the week, both bottom fishing and on the surface. Master Cann, on Monday, had four roach, the heaviest going 1lb. 1oz., the smallest 14oz. Mr. Bennett, jun., four dozen capital dace. On Tuesday, a gentleman (whipping) a creel full of roach, dace, and chub, several of them going fully a pound. Mr. Wheeler, with "blow line," killed some nice chub; and "Little Harry" got some good perch close on 1lb. each, fishing under the bridge early in the morning.—Hackles Red.

### Leicester.

The attention of anglers was absorbed in the angling match, organised by the Leicester Angling Society, during the latter end of last week. The contest, as will be seen by a full report given elsewhere in these columns, again terminated successfully. There was a large gathering of anglers and their friends at the Old Town Hall, Leicester, on Monday evening, when the prizes were handed to the winning fishermen. Mr. A. Smith occupied the chair. In the course of some remarks made by the secretary to the local society, he urged the necessity of all anglers joining the society, and thus practically assisting the furtherance of sport in this locality. This week there has been a remarkable change in the weather, the heat being intense at mid-day, and anything but favourable to large takes being had. In the sharp streams some nice lots of roach have been caught. The brook at Aylestone has afforded the best sport, and several anglers showed good lots of roach and chub, the grub being used with good results as a rule. Some of the baskets contained a few nice perch, taken with the maiden dew worm. Pike fishing quiet, and but few anglers have been paying attention to the out-of-town resorts. The waters at present are fine. Thursday was another hot day, and water still rather fine for bottom fishing.—Alert.

### Lugg and Arrow (Leominster).

These streams are now in splendid order for the anglers, who have fished these streams freely this week. The water still keeps very low, but in good fly-fishing order. The fish are sporting well, and good dishes have been taken with the willow, little pale blue, and black ant, which are the best flies on at present. A fisherman visited the water near Ivington on Friday and landed a splendid lot of fine trout and grayling with the little pale blue. Good sport was had in the water near Stanton. A gentleman with the fly landed a nice dish of grayling, averaging 8oz. each, all in good condition. In the Lugg, near Ford-bridge, the fish were biting well at the black ant and willow. A gent fished the water and took a basket of 6lb. of fine trout and grayling. The water at Aymestry was fished the same day, and a splendid lot of fine fish were taken by a gent who was fishing with the little pale blue. On Saturday a good basket of fine trout were taken in the Arrow with the fly. The Lugg was tried in the Bodenham district, and a nice dish of grayling was landed with the willow. A few good trout were taken from the Arrow in the Monklane quarters on Monday with the fly. A good dish of grayling was taken with the maggot the same day. A fisherman tried the Lugg near Kingsland, and with the black ant and willow landed some splendid trout and grayling averaging 10oz. each. A gentleman tried the Lugg near the town on Tuesday, and, with the pale blue, landed a nice lot of grayling. In the Arrow a good dish of trout and grayling were landed with the willow the same day. The Pinsley is in capital fishing order, being clear but low. The fish are now sporting well, and some good fish have been landed. A gent tried the pale blue on Saturday and landed a nice lot of fine trout, a good dish of fish were taken on Tuesday by a gent who was fishing with the fly.—Gwynne.

### Medway (Tunbridge).

At last the long looked-for rain has arrived in sufficient quantity to make a run in the river and side streams, and as a result those who have been out between the storms have been tolerably successful, though some have returned home with a severe soaking. Several good pike have been taken, as well as bags of roach and bream. Mr. H. Cox, of New Cross, in two or three days, secured from 25 to 30lb. of bream in High-bridge Hole. On the 14th inst., we had an invasion of London anglers, whom, I am glad to say, were remarkably well behaved, though I am, at the same time, sorry to say they do not have much sport, owing, I fancy, to their ignorance of the swims. When the water clears, fish of all kinds will be ravenously on the feed.—Ye Medway Water Rat.

[Received too late for last week.—Ed.]

The water has fined down nicely, and early in the week bream and roach bit very freely when they had been baited. The hot sun has, however, brought them to the top during the middle of the day, and it is only possible to get them in the early morning and late in the afternoon. Chub are taking wasp grub greedily, and pike should be well on the feed.—Ye Medway Water Rat.

### The Ouse (Huntingdon).

Some fine sport, roach fishing, was obtained in the river Ouse, near Huntingdon, by Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Bryant, of that town, who captured in two days, on the 2nd and 3rd inst., five large bream and 200 very fine roach, all sizeable fish. The water is very bright for fishing. Nothing of importance has been done, only on the 14th inst., when a neighbour of mine took 98 roach, some of which were very good ones. On the 17th I was on the river noticing some most splendid roach. The water being very bright I could see a great depth, and I don't think much will be done until we have a good rain to colour the water. Jack are lying on the shallows, it being so hot, and nothing in that line of business will be done yet, unless we have a great change in the weather.—H. Rout.

### South Level Cut (Littleport).

The water is very bright here now, and the fishing is very slow in consequence. The weeds are also still very troublesome. The best I can give among a number of anglers are:—Sept. 12th, Mr. F. Lawrence, Old Chesterton, 7lb, nice roach in 2½ hours; Sept. 13th, Mr, B, Brashier and T. South, Littleport, 8lb, roach and perch during afternoon; Sept. 14th, Mr. H. C. Stearn, Cambridge, about 9lb, roach; Sept. 15th, Messrs P. and A. Holland, Newmarket, 6lb, roach; Sept. 17th, Mr. A. Pace, Newmarket, 9lb. good roach; Mr. E. Fetch, Cambridge, 6lb. roach and small jack 2½lb. Keeper Benton reports; Messrs. Piggott and Ely, 50 very nice perch on Saturday, giving an average of 7oz.—Charlie South.

### The Suir and Tributaries.

The late heavy rain, though it did not raise the river many inches, or colour it perceptibly, still put some stir in the fishing. A few good trout were killed, both on the streams and main river. Doubtless much more would have been done had not the superior (because nearer) attractions of the Gun caused many of the votaries of the rod to forget their old love and desert the river for the mountain. The grouse have been more plentiful this year than for many years past, and this is looked on with favour by the rod as well as the gun, for one of our most killing flies now is the grouse hackle, especially with orange body. It will take a great deal more rain to make the fishing anything like what it ought to be: if we only had a good flood, the trout are in such excellent condition, and so plentiful, there ought to be good sport till the end of the season, which closes in four weeks more. The salmon-fishing is almost *nil;* an odd fish or two in the week is all that falls to the rods, the majority of which are idle; still, if the flood came every stand would be fully stocked again, especially on the lower waters. I see that the Blackwater anglers are stirring themselves to have the Open Season extended to the end of October instead of the beginning, when it closes at present. They say that in the Blackwater, as in the Suir, there is a run of fresh salmon from the sea just as good in October as in March. These do not ascend the river very high, but keep to the lower waters, and thus afford sport to anglers who cannot fish in the spring on account of the netting and constant high and flooded state of the river—we wish them all success. The Suir formerly closed in the middle of September; but two years ago the Clonmel anglers petitioned for an extension, and brought such evidence forward as induced the inspectors to give us till the 16th October (we wanted to get the whole month, but four weeks additional was not bad)—thus not only giving sport but employment to the poor fishermen, and good food to the public that would otherwise be lost.—Dora.

### Teme (Ludlow).

The weather has been very favourable for angling pursuits and the water in good condition; the tributaries have almost all returned to their normal state, and are fairly free from impurities. Anglers, on the whole, have fared well this week, though the shortening of the days makes a wonderful difference to fishermen visiting some of the tributaries—the Clun, for instance. You must stop fishing very often when the fish are just beginning to take the bait well or arrange for a conveyance (which is a scarce thing) to convey you to Craven Arms Junction to catch a train. Some pike were caught the other day in the Teme down at Asford. I understand that Mr. Ralli's water was netted for the purpose of separating the rough fish from the grayling and trout, and during the process on Friday, just below Asford Bridge, two pike were caught in the nets, one weighing 7lb. and the other 5½lb. There are a number of pike I am told hereabouts, but all efforts to catch them have failed. In a meadow, near Saltmoor, on Monday, an angler, who was fishing with the little black ant, managed during the afternoon to land four nice trout, seven grayling, seven roach, and three perch, the whole lot weighed over 10lb., the trout being the best of the lot. A gentleman lower down the water, fishing in the evening, with the wasp grub, managed to land a basket of very good trout and grayling. Another gentleman went down to the same quarter late on Tuesday evening and caught nearly a dozen fish with the cabbage grub. A few fish were caught up the Leintwardine district with the maggot and wasp grub. Good fish have been caught down at Lord Windsor's waters top fishing. The Clun has risen, and fishermen can again visit that stream which is swarming with grayling. The Clun is now getting into nice order, and some very fair catches have been made in that quarter. The Corve, as usual, has been visited, and excellent fish have been landed. Up Mr. Earmer's waters a fisherman caught thirteen grayling while fishing in a meadow with the wasp grub; on going into the next field he landed four more, all splendid fish. I have not heard of the Letwyche being much disturbed of late.—S. Ludlow.

### Teme (Tenbury).

There is but little alteration in the state of this stream, it still keeping in splendid fishing order. It has now run very low again. The fish are now rising well at the fly, and some very good sport has been had. The best killing flies at present are the silver-twisted blue, little pale blue, green insect, and hare's ear dun, the latter fly being a sure killer when the other flies fail to kill. Some very good dishes have been landed with the willow in the evening. Fishing quiet with the wasp-grub and maggot. At the end of last week a gent landed thirteen splendid fish in the water below the bridge with the fly, averaging ½lb. each. On Friday capital sport was had in the water at Berrington Court, a gentleman with the hare's ear dun and pale blue landed a splendid dish of fine trout and grayling, some weighing 1lb. each. In the water near Corn Brook some very good grayling were landed with the fly. In the water at Little Hereford some good sport was had with the green insect on Saturday. A gentleman took a basket of 5lb. of fine grayling and trout. Near Rochford a good dish of fish averaging 10oz. each were taken with the fly. A nice dish of grayling was taken below the Teme Bridge with the willow. In the Eastham quarters a good day's fishing was had on Monday; a gentleman with the pale blue and silver-twisted blue took a dish of ten fine trout, all in good condition. Below the town a splendid lot of fish were taken with the fly. On Tuesday, a capital dish of fine grayling were landed by a gentleman who was fishing with the hare's ear dun. In the water near to Easton Court some fine grayling were taken with the green insect. The Kyre and Rea are both in good fishing order, but very low; the fish are sporting well at the fly. In the Kyre on Saturday a nice dish of trout were taken with the fly, and a few good fish were landed on Monday. In the Rea, near Cleobury North, a fine dish of trout were taken with the pale blue on Friday. A fisherman who was fishing on Monday at Didlick, landed a nice lot of trout with the fly. The Ledwyche is in good fishing order, but low, and fishing very quiet.—Worcester.

### Torridge (Torrington).

There was a good rise in the river on Tuesday, and several peel have been taken. One gentleman came in this morning and was going to fish; he said he took 21 trout yesterday with the fly, mostly in the broken and rough water. Weather very bright and sultry.—Practical Angler.

### Trent (Alrewas).

The river is in first-class condition for all kinds of fishing, particularly grayling. The late rain has much improved the character of the water.

### Trent (Newark).

The water has been in capital condition most of this week; but somehow or other, sport has not been very brisk. A few good chub have been taken with wasp grubs, and a few roach and bream have fancied the tail end of lob. The weather has been delightful this last day or two, and everything in favour of the angler; but the fish have got the best of the argument—that is, as far as I can learn; but, anyhow, the water is in good ply, and the patient angler should be rewarded with a good bag for his trouble. Tail end of lob will be found the best general bait just now, while wasp grub and gentles can be used for a change.—Trent Otter.

### Trent (Nottingham).

The Trent, so far as this district is concerned, is low and clear; but anglers during the week have mustered in strong force, especially at Weston and Shardlow. The barbel swims have been freely baited, and on Tuesday, amongst other fish, Mr. C. Taylor, of Nottingham, took a trout of 2¾lb. Fly-fishing has been pursued with success, more particularly at Hoveringham, Gunthorpe, and Wilford. The Sheffield contingent appear to have been busy at Marnham and Dunham, below Collingham, and fairly good sport has resulted amongst the bream. On Thursday a splendid take of barbel was effected in Sir John Crewe's water.—H. Coxon.

### Witham (Dogdyke).

During the past week we have had many of our angling friends from Leeds and Bradford, and other large towns, many of whom have been very fortunate, having secured some very good baskets of roach, perch, and dace, caught in the river Bain, which river empties into the Witham behind the flour mills at this place. We have also heard of some good pike being caught, weighing from 2lb. to 5lb. each, also some tench, from 2lb. to 3lb. each. The water is now much higher, and we consider it is in very good condition for angling.—Packet Hotel.

### Wye and Derwent.

We have had several very heavy thunderstorms since the last report, which was the cause of discolouring both the Wye and Derwent a little the beginning of the week; but the weather has been excessively hot, and has quite taken both trout and gudgeon off the feed at either top or bottom, consequently small baskets have been the order of the day. In fact, most of our local fishermen from about this district have been either out shooting or gone to the race meetings. Weather again to-day, Thursday, is excessively hot, with thunder-clouds hanging all around us.—G. J. Eaton.

### The Yare (Norwich).

Reports from the various stations on this river are not over encouraging, and I do not expect much improvement until the wind shifts from the east quarter. The best accounts come from Brundale, both at Flower's Station and also at Brown's, Coldham Hall, the anglers have, during the last few days, been doing better than lower down the stream; Professor Day has had several good catches of nice bream this week, I saw some last night which I should think weighed 2lb. and upwards, whilst I hear that four stone of good roach have also been caught at the same station, which looks as if the fish were working up stream; of course, the middle of the day is now the best time, as the mornings and evenings are chilly, and the fish are not sharp at any time. I am surprised not to have heard of some jack being taken on the stream, which I know contains plenty and of large size, but I suppose we must be patient and wait a little longer. Prospects will be more cheering as soon as we get a change of wind.—Robert Mole.

### GREAT ANGLING CONTEST AT LEICESTER.

The fifth annual fishing contest promoted by the Leicester Angling Society took place in their preserves on Saturday; £8 in prize money was offered as an inducement to followers of the piscatorial art by the society, and this amount was divided between the first, second, third, and fourth anglers in the competition. Additional prizes were kindly contributed by gentlemen of the town who take an interest in this particular class of sport. There was a large entry, no less than 123 anglers paying the required fee for permission to compete, and among these were the best known rodsters of Leicestershire. Representatives from Barrow-on-Soar, Thurmaston, Quorndon, Mountsorrel, and Loughborough took part in the proceedings, whilst it may be mentioned that the first prize fell to the lot of one of the visiting anglers. The weather, which is always an important item with this kind of competition, was not in favour of large takes, a keen north-easterly wind blowing right across the river in the faces of the fishermen. The sun was shining brilliantly the whole of the afternoon, and a large concourse of spectators, who seemed to evince the liveliest interest in the contest, assembled along the banks. The swims extended a distance of about two miles, from the Twelve Bridges, Leicester, to the Aylestone Bridge. The marking-out was done under the direction of Mr. J. Benskin, and gave general satisfaction, and the whole of the arrangements were, as on past occasions, in the hands of the able secretary, Mr. J. T. Hardy, assisted by Messrs. Benskin, Clark, Farrar, Wood, Ritson, Rowlston, and Paterson, and were carried out in a complete manner. The pistol was fired for the start exactly at 2.30 p.m., and fishing ceased at 6 p.m.

The following is a list of the prize-takers:—1st, Mr. Blount, 2lb.; 2nd, Mr. Shelton, 1lb. 12¾oz.; 3rd, Mr. Bampkin, 1lb. 7¼oz.; 4th, Mr. Hurst; 5th and 6th, Messrs. Hurst and Vincent; 7th, Mr. Burgess; 8th, Mr. W. Walker; 9th, Mr. J. Mee; 10th, Mr. Webb; 11th, Mr. G. Brown; 12th, Mr. Beddar; 13th, Mr. C. Goode; 14th, J. Parsons; 15th, Mr. Broadhead; 16th, Mr. R. Hoe; 17th, G. Fisher; 18th, Mr. Elkington; 19th, Mr. A. Marvel; 20th, Mr. A. Lee; 21st, Mr. T. Hornby; 22nd, Mr. Barrett; 23rd, Mr. Oswin; 24th, Mr. Green; 25th, Mr. Bird; 26th, T. M. Hunt; 27th, Mr. Shuttlewood; 28th, Mr. Breedon; and 29th, Mr. Gould.

### TWEED AND TEVIOT.

Angling operations in these rivers and their tributaries still continue to be almost barren of results, the most persistent disciples of the gentle art being only now and again rewarded for their pains by a capture of from 2lb. to 4lb. of trout.

On Tuesday, last week, Mr. Charles Kerr, angling on the Sprouston water, caught two grilse of 4lb. each; and on the Friday following he had the good luck to secure three others, weighing on an average 6lb. a-piece. The rivers, however, are too low for successful rod fishing; and as the net fishings have now closed for the season, a flood is much needed to enable salmon to ascend to the upper reaches of the streams and thus afford sport to the angler.

Fully a week ago the occurrence of rain in the district brought down the Blackadder and Whitadder and other small tributaries of the Tweed; and when the rivers subsided, good takes of trout were obtained.

The salmon net-fishings on the Tweed, which closed for the season on Saturday night last, have been most unsatisfactory in their results. The quantity of trout and grilse caught has been much below that of the last two or three years. The yield of salmon also has not been up to the average.

Although the prices obtained for salmon, grilse, and trout have been higher than they were last year, still, the outcome as a whole will barely pay wages and working expenses. One company, it is stated, will have to face a deficiency of something like £3,000.

The largest salmon captured this year weighed 42lb. The prices on Saturday were—Salmon and trout, 1s. 3d. per lb.; grilse, 1s. 4d. On the closing day last year the prices were—Salmon, 1s. 3d.; grilse, 1s. 6d.; and trout, 1s. 2d. On Tuesday last week, the Berwick District and Bonder Angling Clubs combined had their autumn competition on the Whitader with the following result:—1. Mr. W. Redpath, 8lb. 15oz.; 2. Mr. Melville, 8lb. 5oz.; 3. Mr. F. Richardson, 5lb. 6oz.; 4. Mr. Martin, 3lb. 3oz.; 5. Mr. R. C. Steven, 2lb. 1oz.

One day last week the salmon fishermen at Far Seas Fishery, Spittal, had the singular experience of capturing an angler or devil-fish in their nets. One of the men opened the "devil's" mouth, and, and inside of the capacious orifice he found a grilse about 3lb. weight, which was partially swallowed.

Maxwheel, Kelso.

Illegal Fishing in the Avon.—At the Evesham Petty Sessions, on Tuesday, Wm. Spragg and Jno. Spragg, of Bidford, fishermen, were summoned by Messrs. Tomes, of South Littleton, for fishing in a portion of the river Avon, the fishing of which was rented by them, on the 21st July last, by throwing a net. Defendants said they thought they had as much right as the Messrs. Tomes to fish in the water; but the Bench, taking a different view, fined each defendant 5s. and 8s. 6d. costs.

Cost of Railway Sleepers.—The other day, while journeying in the train to a fishing station, we got into conversation with a railway official who was collecting orders for the new sleepers wanted along the line, and having often wondered what sleepers cost, we asked him, and were informed the plain ones cost 3s. 2d. each, and the black ones 3s. 10d. each, and their durability depends on the nature of the ballast they lie in.

# CLUB REPORTS.

### THE ANGLERS' ASSOCIATION.

The monthly meeting of the above took place on Monday, 15th September; there was a very full attendance. Mr. Geen was in the chair. The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, the committee representing this association on the Fisheries Society were called on for a report. Mr. Manning rose and said that the committee to the number of twenty-one members attended according to notice duly given at the Star and Garter, St. Martin's-lane, on Monday, the 8th inst., that they were there informed by Messrs. Crumplen and Hatfield that the new members of the committee would not be received, feeling that it was not the business of one association to dictate to another who should represent them on any committee whatever. The committee adjourned to the Green Man, and the following business was transacted:—Mr. Geen was voted to the chair, and Mr. Ghurney then rose and said he had had a letter on Monday, saying that the Central would not recognise the new members of the committee chosen by above association; such letter was received too late for information to be sent to the members of the committee. Mr. Geen pointed out that as Messrs. Crumplen and Hatfield had just informed him that the Central had decided upon three gentlemen to meet three others chosen from this association, for the purpose of winding up the Fisheries Society, that the decision not to receive the new members of the committee could only have been arrived at to show as much discourtesy as possible to the Anglers' Association. Mr. Nicholls said that under legal advice he was of opinion that nothing could be done without calling a general meeting of each individual member who had paid his shilling for a ticket. Various members combatted this opinion, and it was decided that the committee were empowered to act for the general body. Nevertheless, it would be advisable shortly to call a meeting of anglers generally belonging to this association. The president pointed out that the Central demanded the same voting power in the Fisheries Society as the Amalgamated Societies; this sounded very fair, but taking into consideration the fact that the united associations had paid into the Fisheries one hundred and forty pounds, and the Central only three-and-twenty pounds, the proposition could not be entertained. This preposterous proposition of the Central having been scouted, it was resolved to offer them one-sixth of the cash in hand and certain portions of the waters, the Anglers' Association to take the remainder; if no agreement should be arrived at, it was resolved to convene a meeting of the ticket-holders. Mr. Ghurney received instructions to write and inform the Central, and appoint Friday for a meeting at the Foresters' Hall, of their three delegates to meet our three (Messrs. Tibbatts, Beckett, and Manning). Mr. Ghurney received a reply on Friday saying time was inconvenient: this time also letter was too late to inform our delegates. The Central suggested any time after Tuesday next, and some place other than the Foresters' Hall or the Star and Garter after this report. The balance-sheet of the West Central up to the amalgamation was received, and consequent thereon a resolution was carried that the debts due by both old associations should be discharged at once, there being ample cash in hand. Messrs. Tibbatts and Manning were elected trustees pro tem. Mr. Grey was elected a bailiff for the River Lea. Mr. Ghurney announced amidst loud cheers the capture of another net at Clapton; 42ft. it measured. The poachers escaped, but being well known, will be summoned. Mr. Ghurney also announced that the railway tariff cards were ready. A vote of thanks to the president concluded the business.

### ACTON PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

On Thursday last, five members of this club fished the like number of the Hammersmith United Angling Society, in punts, between Twickenham Ferry and Richmond-bridge, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. At 8.30, they all met at Richmond Railway Station, and there drew lots as to which members were to fish together, the stipulations being that one of each club were to fish in each punt. Everything being satisfactorily arranged, by 10 o'clock they had all commenced to fish. The weather was everything that could be desired; occasionally the wind from the east was a little troublesome, causing the lines to get entangled with the rods. From information conveyed throughout the day from one punt to the other, it was thought the competition would be a very close one, as the competitors in each punt appeared alternately to take a lead, and before 6 o'clock they had all ceased to fish, as the tide flowed fast at 5.30, it being found useless to continue the fight. They all mustered again at Richmond Railway Station with the object of returning to Hammersmith Broadway Station, as it was arranged that they should all weigh in at the club-house of the Hammersmith United Society, held at the Builders' Arms, Bridge-road, where they were to have a supper after their day's toil, the losers of the competition having to pay for it. Each competitor's fish was scrutinised by his opponent at the station, and so close did it appear that not no one felt sure of victory. Arriving at the club-house, each competitor's fish was emptied into the trays, and although there were a good many in the large room, no one felt capable of forming an opinion as to which was the heaviest. The fish in each tray having been examined, and the doubtful ones measured by Mr. Penny and Mr. W. Howell, for their respective sides, each tray was emptied into the scales by the same gentlemen, with the following result:—Acton Picatorial Society.—W. Howell, 11lb. 5oz.; F. A. West, 11lb. 5oz.; C. Simpson, 7lb. 2oz.; W. Eydmann, 6lb. 9oz.; W. A. Smith, a blank; total, 36lb. 5oz. Hammersmith United Angling Society.—G. Bacchus, 12lb. 7oz.; H. G. Penny, 10lb. 7oz.; R. Hobden, 6lb. 15oz.; J. T. Inman, 6lb. 6oz.; Mr. Peachey, 1½oz.; total, 36lb. 4½oz. Thus the Acton won this extraordinary close contest by ½oz. All the competitors and their friends, about 20 in number, after the weighing in was completed, sat down to an excellent supper very liberally provided by mine host of the Builders' Arms, the chair being taken by Mr. W. Eydmann of the Acton, and the vice-chair by Mr. Smith of the Hammersmith. The cloth being cleared, the chairman said every one who had taken part in the competition appeared to have thoroughly enjoyed themselves. There had not been an unpleasant remark throughout the day, and although the Acton had won, it was only by the skin of their teeth; and if there were more of such friendly competitions he felt sure it would greatly strengthen the clubs, and be the means of creating a good feeling one toward another, more especially if they were carried out in the same spirit as this had been. They were very pleased to think that they had won, and they were looking forward for the return match, which, he would suggest, should take place about that day month, the arrangements to be left to a small committee as before. He would now propose "Success to the Hammersmith United Angling Society," coupling the name of Mr. Hobden with the toast. In rising to return thanks, Mr. Hobden said that their thanks were really due to Mr. Penny, who had carried out all the details of this friendly competition, and on behalf of the Hammersmith United Angling Society he begged to thank them for their good wishes, and he only hoped that this competition was the first of a series of them, and before the season was over that they should have several such meetings. During the evening several good songs were sung by Messrs. W. Howell, Peachey, Reynolds, G. Howell, and others, being accompanied on the piano by Mr. Vimade.—W. E.

### ALEXANDRA ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of the above society fished for some very handsome prizes on Sept. 14th, Mr. E. Wieks taking first prize, Mr. Flanse 2nd, Tom Gripton 3rd, and Mr. Dabbs 4th, roaming from the Ordnance Factory to Waltham Lock. Messrs. Wells and Durant had a very good show of roach and dace from the Stort, making a most excellent show of fish for the evening.—F. Wagner, sec.

### AMICABLE BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

The following members weighed in fish on the 7th inst.:—Mr. Squire, roach, 1lb. 14oz.; Mr. Harding, chub 1lb. 8oz., bleak 4ozs., dace 9lb. 5½oz., roach 5lb. 9½oz.; Mr. Partrick, roach, 2lb. 12oz. Sept. 14th, Mr. Harding, roach 2lb. 12½oz., dace 3lb. 8oz.; Mr. Moir, bream, 1lb. 14½oz.; Mr. Lake, roach, 6½oz.; Mr. Medcalf, jack 3lb. 5½oz.; Mr. Squire, roach 2lb. 10oz., perch 2oz. The members will fish a pegged-down match at Pulborough on Sept. 28th.—J. Worledge, sec.

### BATTERSEA FRIENDLY ANGLING CLUB.

On the 14th inst., most of our members fishing at Great Marlow for a prize presented by Mr. W. Burgess had some good sport; but owing to the conditions the prize was not taken. The following were the top weights who weighed in:—Messrs. A. Sampson, G. Mumford, G. Butterworth, H. Martin, and W. Johnson. The prize will now be fished for in October, pegged-down.—A. T. Sampson, hon. sec.

### BOSTONIAN ANGLING SOCIETY.

Our trays were well filled last week, Mr. Taylor having the best show with 16lb. of roach from the Thames; Mr. Brothers, roach and dace from Amberley; Mr. Elton, bream and chub; Mr. Constable, bream; Mr. Mann, bream; Mr. Jennings, roach and bream; Mr. Jamieson, a nice show of perch from the Ouse, the largest weighing 1lb. 14oz.—J. J.

### BORDESLEY WALTONIANS.

Two members of the above club—Messrs. Holloway, sen. and jun.—have been among the barbel and chub in the Trent at Barton and Walton, taking 30lb. of barbel, besides some excellent specimens of chub, on Sept. 10th, and, according to true fisherman's creed, leaving some far better specimens in the river for next time. —E. Tildesley, sec.

### BRISTOL GOLDEN CARP ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday last forty-one members of the above association fished their first pegged-down match of the season in the canal at Sharpness, the conditions being as follows:—Five hours' fishing, twelve yards apart, and no single fish under 1oz. to weigh. The pegging-out and judging were again most satisfactorily carried out by Mr. John Inch and Mr. H. Warr, and the weighing of fish by Messrs. F. Cornish, J. Hadden (president), H. Inch (vice-president), and L. Wride (secretary), whose decision gave great satisfaction. The fish caught were very large in numbers and of a very fair size. We are pleased to say this is the best contest we have ever had. The prizes fished for amounted to over £20, and will be distributed to successful members on Monday next, which are the following, named in order:—J. Clements, E. W. Tippitt, G. Trickett, C. Oxenham, Mr. Perry, Mr. Mallett, P. Hall, D. Ford, S. Fox, F. Withers, Mr. Bryant, Mr. Winter, Mr. Snailham, Mr. Counsell and Mr. Groves (a tie), Mr. Cox, J. Hadden, Mr. Hucker, Mr. Llewellyn, Mr. Bell, Mr. R. D. Frost and Mr. Moody (tie), Mr. Whyatt, Mr. F. Morris, Messrs. Cornish, David, and Vaughan (tie), Mr. H. Inch, Mr. Everett, and Mr. Roberts.—Lewis Wride, sec.

### CAVENDISH ANGLING SOCIETY.

Several takes of fish have recently been shown, though nothing exceptional. In my last report Mr. Canton's roach should have been given as 14lb. instead of 10lb. Our annual outing will take place at Pangbourne on Sept. 28, *viâ* excursion train. Seven prizes will be competed for on that day, some of which should really tempt the most inactive to try their fortune.—S. C.

[We have received a letter from Mr. Chambers in answer to Messrs. Reaves and Blackman, but it is too late for this week.—Ed.]

### COBDEN ANGLING SOCIETY.

On the 14th instant the majority of our members went out, but the individual takes of fish were not very great, although the total presented a nice display when laid out on the trays in the society's room. Mr. Evans had a nice show of roach, dace, and perch, the total being 5lb. 12oz.; Mr. Stead had 3½lb. of good roach; Mr. Sharland had a few roach and dace; Mr. Hallowes weighed in some very fine dace from West Drayton; and Messrs. Philpotts, Hammons, Baker, and several other members also had some nice fish from the Thames. The society's annual concert takes place on the 22nd at the Cobden Club, Kensal-road, Upper Westbourne Park. Tickets, 6d. and 1s. each, can be obtained of the secretary; also at the club.—C. Reeves, sec.

### CITY OF LONDON ANGLING SOCIETY.

Only two of our members weighed in on the 14th. Mr. Chambers, 3lb. 3½oz. of roach, dace, and bream from Amberley; and Mr. Castell, 1lb. 13½oz. of roach, perch, and gudgeons from Burnt Mill. Mr. Robson had fish from the Stort, but did not weigh in.—Cas.

### EASTERN COUNTIES ANGLING SOCIETY, GREAT YARMOUTH.

A meeting of this society was held at the Duke's Head, Hotel Quay, on Tuesday evening, the 16th inst., at 9 o'clock p.m.. the president, Dr. Mitchell, being in the chair. The prizes won at the late angling tournament on Ormesby Broad were presented to their respective winners by the president. This contest, the largest as regards the number of competitors which the society has as yet been able to get up, was fished in splendid weather on Thursday, the 11th inst., as the wind was dead east, and the water almost as clear as glass. The catches were not heavy; this fact, however, probably made the fishing all the more keen—each angler knowing pretty well what his neighbours were doing, all the boats being staked down within easy hailing distance of each other. At the end of seven hours' sport, the boats having been called together, each basket was weighed in on the president's boat. After some very anxious minutes' waiting, the following gentlemen were declared the winners of the eight prizes:—Mr. Easter, 1st; Mr. Freeman, 2nd; the president, 3rd: Mr. Harbord, 4th; Mr. Hannant, 5th; Mr. Parker, 6th; Mr. Lowne, 7th; and Mr. Bacon, 8th. The competitors then separated after having spent a most enjoyable day; not the slightest hitch having occurred to in any way mar the proceedings. It was resolved that another match should be fished on Thursday, the 25th inst. Five prizes having been offered for competition by members present at the meeting. it was proposed and carried that a sixth should be given out of the society's funds., A special meeting will be called for Monday evening, the 22nd inst., to make arrangements for the contest—all members being requested to attend. The society has presented the 1st prize, and the following gentlemen have also presented prizes:—Mr. Hannant; Mr. Lowne, Fullers-hill; Mr. Dicker, Southtown; Mr. Budd; and Messrs. Bonfellow and Freeman. Eleven gentlemen were proposed as members who at the next meeting will be balloted for, and if found eligible will be admitted. Many good catches have been weighed in during the week, the following being some of the largest:—Messrs. Chapman and Bateman, 16lb. roach, caught at the New Cut; Messrs. Freeman and Craney, 32lb. bream, caught at Ormesby Broad; Mr. Hayward, 13½lb. bream, Ormesby; Messrs. Dicker and Tooley, 26lb. bream and roach, Ormesby.—A. M.

### GLOBE ANGLING SOCIETY.

Our display of fish on the 14th inst. far exceeded previous ones, Mr. S. Howell heading the list with 15lb. of very excellent dace and bream; Mr. J. J. Holmes 10lb. 4oz. of the same class of fish; Mr. H. Lake, 9lb. of capital roach and dace; Mr. W. Whatcott, 10lb. of roach and dace, equally as good fish, one roach scaling 1lb. 3oz. Messrs. F. Lawrence, W. Lawrence, J. Brown, A. Chambers, G. Brown, H. Jeffries, W. Brown, and D. Thomas also weighed in roach, dace and gudgeon. Mr. G. Harris was unanimously elected a member of this society on our last meeting night. On Tuesday next, 23rd inst., the Alexandra Variety Club will pay us a return visit, when I hope to see a good muster of members to give them a hearty welcome. Chair taken at 8.30 p.m.—J. J. Holmes, sec.

### GOOD INTENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

There was a good show of fish at the club on the 14th. Mr. G. Bates and Mr. Snook showed about 40lb. of good bream; Mr. Maybury, roach; Mr. Hewett, dace; Guntrip, rudd. Our distribution of prizes will take place on Tuesday next, the 23rd inst. The secretary will be at the club-house on Saturday and Monday next, the 20th and 22nd inst., to receive prizes from members and friends, from 8 till 11 p.m. —R. Murphy.

### GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

The usual weekly meeting of the above society was held on Tuesday evening at the Mason's Hall Tavern, Mason's-avenue, Basinghall-street, Rev. J. Walker, M.A., in the chair. Among those present were Dr. Cash, Dr. Lloyd, Captain Alfred, Messrs. Crumplen, Lake, Bentley, Kent, Darling, White, and Ellis. The visitors included Mr. Short, of the Clapton Society, and Mr. Ghurney. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. A letter was read from Mr. Chambers with reference to a fishery which he had undertaken to inspect at a previous meeting. Mr. Bentley had a very nice show of perch and roach taken from a water which, he is of opinion, it would be desirable for the society to acquire. A vote of thanks was unanimously passed to him for the great trouble he has taken in this matter. The perch prize was taken by Mr. Ellis with a remarkably fine specimen from the Lea. A vote of thanks to the chairman concluded a most pleasant evening.—H.

### GREAT NORTHERN BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

On Sept. 7 Mr. J. Watling weighed in roach and bream 5lb. 13oz.; Mr. T. Watling 6lb. 4oz. (one bream weighing 3lb. 12oz.), from Pulborough; Messrs. J. A. Fitch, Theobald S. Baker, and J. K. Fitch also had roach and bream. On Sept. 14 we had a fine show of fish, Mr. J. Dingley having 16lb. of dace, 14lb. 4oz. of bream, and 2lb. 11oz. of roach, total 32lb. 15oz.; Mr. J. K. Fitch, 2lb. 9oz.; Mr. G. Watling, 10lb. 11oz.; Mr. Theobald, 4lb. 11oz.; Mr. Walker, 1lb. 8oz.; Mr. F. Watling, 2lb. 6oz.; Mr. Baker, 3lb. 10oz.; Messrs. E. Smith and J. Hambridge also had some fish.—J. Fitch.

### GREAT YARMOUTH PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

At a meeting held on Tuesday, Sept. 16th, Mr. C. K. Lamb in the chair and Mr. H. Lawrance in the vice-chair, the secretary reported that Mr. Baldwin and himself had taken 16lb. of bream and roach on Thursday, Sept. 11th, the day that less than a fourth took the first prize of the Eastern Counties Society, and that the Waltonians from Norwich had at least 50lb. of fish to decide a match for two rods. This occurred at Fritton, illustrating that the wind does not affect all waters alike, or something else. The Fritton water was not ground-baited till fishing commenced. The secretary also, through the kindness of the owners of some marshes, could supply young jack, roach, and bream to any society who will forward tanks for the same, but which must be done before the "salt tides" are sufficiently high to destroy them, as it does the larger fish higher up the rivers. A letter from the late treasurer to the president was read by the secretary.—J. Lark.

[Copy.]

Burton House, Great Yarmouth.
June 2, 1884.

Dear Bayfield,—As vice-president of the Great Yarmouth Piscatorials, I wish you to call a meeting of the finance committee immediately in order that some other treasurer than myself be appointed, as I wish to have the responsibility of the money belonging to the society removed from my shoulders. I wish also that all the accounts be carefully audited by some competent person, as, of course, for my own interest, I must be present.

I do not mind meeting the finance committee and auditor anywhere. Let me know a day before it meets, so I may manage to be able to attend. I will bring all bills, bank-book, &c., with me.—Yours faithfully, Alexander Mitchell.

Mr. Bayfield.

### HAMMERSMITH UNITED ANGLING SOCIETY.

On Thursday last four of our members competed in a match against four members of the Acton Piscatorials at Twickenham. We fished in pairs from punts, and the weather being fine, a most pleasant day was passed. We lost the match by 2oz., on our own total weight, and consequently obtained the honour of having to pay for the supper, to which we afterwards sat down in our room, and at which we were joined by several of our members, and of the Acton Piscatorials. The evening passed in its usual rapid manner, when the company are unanimously satisfied, and the songs good, as in this case they were, several being excellently rendered by Messrs. Peachey, Penney, Howell, and Reynolds. The toast of "The Losing Side" was proposed by Mr. Edymann, and responded to by Mr. Hobden, who in return proposed "The Health of the Winners," and after a return match had been agreed upon, this very satisfactory day's pleasure was brought to a conclusion. The following are the names and weights of the respective contestants:—Punt No. 1: Mr Bacchus, H.U.A.S., 12lb. 7lb.; Mr. West, A.P., 11lb. 5oz. Punt No. 2: Mr. Penney, H.U.A.S., 10lb. 7oz.; Mr. Howell, A.P., 11lb. 5oz. Punt No. 3: Mr. Hobden, H.U.A.S., 6lb. 15oz.; Mr. Edymann, A.P., 6lb. 9oz. Punt No. 4: Mr. Inman, H.U.A.S., 6lb. 6oz.; Mr. Simpson. A.P., 7lb. 2lb. Our fish were all roach and dace, some of the former up to ¾lb. each, and the latter 6½oz. The Acton numbered one barbel and one bream among their take.—H.

### HIGHBURY ANGLING SOCIETY.

Since my last report a goodly sprinkle of our members have met with some capital sport both from the Thames, Lea, and elsewhere. Mr. McDermott weighed in some nice and dace; Mr. Frank Temple, Mr. E. Wheatley, Mr. Chas. Lewis, Mr. Higley, Mr. Anthony, Mr. Edwards, Mr. F. Pheasant, and Mr. S. Howell, jun., also have had good takes of bream, dace, perch, roach, and gudgeon.—J. E. Wheatley, sec.

### IZAAK WALTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

Mr. W. H. Mecham had seven very good bream on Wednesday last, the 17th inst.; Messrs. T. Goodwin and A. Bass had roach on the same day. Messrs. T. Goodwin and H. Butt will give two half-guineas to be fished for on any Sunday; competitors to fish at one water, the date and place to be named on Wednesday next.—H. B.

### NORTH-WESTERN ANGLING SOCIETY.

Sept. 14 was not a big day with the members of this Society so far as decorating the trays in the clubroom. Of the numerous members out the following weighed in:—Messrs. Aldis, Plumpton, sen., W. Plumpton (jack), E. Cross, and G. Weaver (roach), and Hillier (bream).—W. Hillier, sec.

### ORIGINAL CLERKENWELL PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

We had on the 14th a fair show of fish weighed in by the members: Mr. Lucy, one jack, 2lb. 4lb.; Mr. Crafford, one jack, 2lb. 5oz.; roach, 2lb. 15oz.; dace, 2lb. 3oz. Mr. Kent, roach, 4lb. 13oz.; dace, 11oz.; perch, 7oz.; Mr. Longman, roach, 10lb. 4oz., and dace 10oz.; Mr. Laundy, roach, perch, and dace. Our visit on Tuesday next promises to be a good one, many friends having promised to be present.—J. Obborne.

### THE PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

Before commencing my weekly report permit me personally and publicly to thank Mr. Reginald E. Booker for having so fully reported the meetings of this society during my absence from London. The ordinary meeting of this society took place at Ashley's Hotel, on Monday evening last, when a very large number of members were present, amongst them being Messrs. Patterson, Lemann, Wright, Robinson, Jesse, Meyer, H. B. Brown, H. H. Brown, Wheatstone, J. Lander (hon. sec.), Gray, Booker, J. Huggett, Blundell, C. C. Blundell, Sachs, Dr. Brunton, Rev. G. Sumner, Mr. Butler, Goodger, Harden, Walker, &c., &c. Mr. Huggett was voted to the chair. The minutes of the previous meeting were of considerable interest, announcing as they did the winners of the club competition which took place on Monday last, were duly read and confirmed. The result of the chub competions was as follows:—Mr. H. B. Brown won the first prize with 9lb. 7oz. of chub, the largest 3lb. 5oz; Mr. T. Huggett won the second prize with two chub weighing 3lb. 12oz.; Mr. E. Foreman won the third prize with two chub, weighing 3lb. 9oz.. Mr. Blamey also weighed in 2lb. 5oz. chub. Mr. Butler showed the same evening a fine tray of chub caught the day previously, total weight 9lb. 4oz., the largest 3lb. 12oz. The whole of the above were taken from the Thames. Since our last meeting the following fish have been weighed in: Mr. Meyer, one trout 3lb. 7oz., and one perch 1lb., from Datchet; Mr. Blamey, 31lb. of barbel, the largest 4lb. 8oz., and some roach and perch from Shepperton; Mr. Fennings, one grayling 1lb. 10oz., 6lb. 8oz. of dace, 69lb. 6oz. of roach, the largest 1lb. 13oz., and two perch, all from Ringwood. A letter was read from Mr. Fennings, saying he had had good sport and fine weather during the past week. He has been unable so far to get a 2lb. roach, but hopes to do so before returning to London. He sent up this evening for weighing in and inspection a single day's tray of roach, total weight of over 30lb.—viz., 28lb. 12oz. roach, largest 1lb. 13oz., three dace, 1lb. 3oz. The chairman, with the hearty concurrence of the members, thanked Mr. Fennings for his splendid show. Messrs. Robinson and Wright weighed in and showed this evening about 60lb. weight of splendid perch, the largest 2lb., 1lb. 12oz., 1lb. 12oz., and 1lb. 12oz. respectively; also 7lb. 1oz. of chub and two jack, public waters. The chairman proposed the healths of Messrs. Robinson and Wright as the successful anglers. These gentlemen very gracefully replied. Mr. Robinson considered first honours had fallen on Mr. Wright, who had taken the largest fish. He also stated that Mr. Wright, on their previous visit to the same waters, captured a pike weinging 26lb. Mr. Wright refused to take all the credit, saying that it was only through the kindness of his friend, Mr. Robinson, that he could have captured such fish, as he had piloted him to this locality. Mr. Booker called attention to the Thames Parliamentary Committee (Mr. Storey Maskelyne's), and the hon. sec. read the same. A long discussion ensued, in which Messrs. Pattinson, Sumner, and Wheatstone took part, regretting the decision the committee had arrived at, and considering nothing further could be done in the matter. Mr. Huggett was of a different opinion, and thought that, considering the present enormous population of London, its limited amusements, and the ever-growing number of its inhabitants, to leave the question as at present decided by the committee, was to give up privileges which had been almost uninterruptedly enjoyed by the public for hundreds of years. He moved, "It is the opinion of this meeting that the Corporation of the City of London would confer a lasting public benefit by taking such steps as are necessary for carrying through Parliament an Act giving power to the Corporation to buy up the various riparian interests which at the present time appear to be of little value, and throw open the Upper River Thames, its entire length, as a place of recreation for angling as well as for boating to the general public." A long discussion ensued, and it was the feeling of the meeting that such a motion might perhaps do more harm than good. Messrs. Summer, Dr. Burton, Brown, Robinson, &c., supported this view, and the motion was not pressed to a division. The Chairman next proposed, "The continued success of the Piscatorial Society," which was most heartily responded to by all present. Mr. Wheatstone, who was amongst us for the first time since his serious accident, proposed "The health of the Chairman." Mr. Huggett replied, and the meeting terminated. Mr. Thomas J. Hodson, of Mincing-lane, has been proposed as a member by Mr. R. B. Marston and seconded by Dr. Brunton. The ballot will take place shortly.—T. H.

### PECKHAM BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

The trays of this club were moderately filled on the 13th, Messrs. Griffiths, White, Martin, Parsons, Lang, and Page weighing in fish. Two new members were elected at our last meeting. A match at Kingston on the 20th; train leaves Vauxhall at 7.30. Mr. A. Brodie (our president) killed 35lb. of the red-eyed innocents at Tring last week. It was a splendid show, and he was heartily congratulated on his success.—Gadfly.

### PECKHAM ROYAL ANGLING SOCIETY.

The above society will hold their first supper (tripe) on Thursday, the 2nd October next, at 8 o'clock punctually. Harmony afterwards. Tickets 1s. 6d. each. All tickets not sold to be returned on or before the 29th inst.—J. Moyler, sec.

### PHŒNIX ANGLING SOCIETY.

Things have been very quiet lately, either the fish or the fishermen having a very good time of it at home. On the 14th inst., Slater had a decent show of bream and roach—about 15lb.; Joe Keen was on his track with a trifle under; the Brothers Ashley, Messrs. Murch, Reed, Bartrip, Milton, Elbourn, and Packer bringing in a few to keep the scale from getting rusty. All members requested to attend next Tuesday for a little business of importance.—W. E., sec.

### RODNEY PISCATORIALS.

On the 11th, Mr. T. Hughes and H. Smithers succeeded in getting 120lb. of barbel from the Thames. On the 14th, Mr. R. Smith had about 10lb. of nice roach from the Medway; Mr. Chantry had roach, dace, and carp; and Messrs. Grant and W. H. Flower had roach and gudgeon from Datchet. At the meeting held on the 17th, it was decided that Amberley be the place for the competition of the 21st day of September. All members starting on Saturday are to meet those members that arrive by the first train at Amberley on the morning of the 21st, in order to have their boxes, baskets, and other articles used for the purpose of carrying or storing fish, examined. All fish taken by those members are to be marked in such a manner as to distinguish them from those taken between 15 minutes after the arrival of the train from London to Amberley, and 5 o'clock in the evening.—Pixie.

### SALFORD FRIENDLY ANGLERS SOCIETY—ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of this society was held on Wednesday evening, September 10th, at the Globe Inn, Bury-street, Salford. This is one of the oldest, if not actually the oldest society in Lancashire, having been formed about 70 years ago, since which time it has had an uninterrupted progress; it now numbers nearly 100 members, several of whom have belonged to it between 30 and 40 years. The secret of its continued success is the fact of a sick club being associated with the society, this having proved a most successful auxiliary. The annual members' match was held in the Bridgewater canal, at Moss reach, Barton, on Saturday, August 30th, when 34 prizes were fished for. A capital dinner having been partaken of, the president, Mr. J. Burgoyne, took the chair; and Mr. A. W. Platford occupied the vice-chair. A vote of thanks to the donors of the prizes was proposed by Mr. Walter Ashworth and seconded by Mr. Walter Foy, and passed with acclamation, and was suitably responded to by Mr. Councillor Jamieson. The prizes were then distributed to the successful competitors by Mr. Mark Baxter, of the Royal Hotel, Pendleton, and formerly treasurer of this society: 1st prize, C. Whitehead; 2nd, Wm. Kelsall; 3rd, Wm. Jones; 4th, John Vipond; 5th, Jos. Senior; 6th, Hy. Snape; 7th, Thos. Lawton; 8th, Miss Livesley; 9th, James Hare; 10th, Jos. Wainwright, sen.; 11th, Thos. Cooper; 12th, Adam Bates; 13th, Robt. Bates; 14th, Eli Harris; 15th, Wm. Bunting; 16th, Wm. Thetford; 17th, Rd. Thomas; 18th, Mr. Eckersley; 19th, Wm. Butterworth; 20th, Mark Baxter; 21st, Wm. Court; 22nd, P. W. Wardle; 33rd, J. Ahearne; 25th, Jos. Kinsey; 26th, John Hunter; 27th, Wm. Hughes; 28th, Joseph Burgoyne; 29th, J. Robinson; 30th, Jas. Daley; 31st, Wm. Wilson; 32nd, Walter Foy; 33rd, Walter Ashworth; 34th, Thos. Driver. The presentations over, votes of thanks were passed to the Bridgewater Navigation Co. for the use of the canal, and to the officers of the society for their services during the year. The remainder of the evening was spent convivially, Messrs. Thos. Roscoe, Thos. Lawton, David Lawton, Jos. Burgoyne, John Vipond, Jos. Lamb, Jos. Senior, and John Robinson contributing materially to the harmony. The president, in reply to a vote of thanks, said angling was destined to become one of the finest and most popular sports of the day. A man would not be considered respectable in the future unless he knew how to cast a fly and use a worm. The company, after passing a vote of thanks to the hostess for her able catering, separated shortly after midnight, having passed a very enjoyable evening.

### SOUTH-EASTERN ANGLING SOCIETY.

On Tuesday next, the 23rd inst., is our quarterly night, when it is hoped all, or most, of the members will kindly attend, more especially as there are three nominations standing for election on that night, which should have taken place last Tuesday; but, owing to a slack meeting, could not legally be carried out. I will also call attention to members wishing to contest for prizes on Oct. 5th, that they should give in their names at once. On the 14th inst., Messrs. Keeble and Holben were the only two to weigh in, the former with 11lb. of bream, the latter with barbel, roach, and dace, 7lb. I hope the members will all attend to this slight notification. —F. H. Weston, sec.

### STANLEY ANGLING SOCIETY.

I send you herewith a few details of the various weights of fish registered at the club room of this society during the past month. Mr. W. Ellis, 1 perch, 5¾oz., 1 jack, 3lb. 7oz.; Mr. W. R. Humby, 1 perch, 4½oz., 30 roach, 14lb. 10½oz., 13 ditto, 7lb. 9½oz., 20 ditto, 10lb. 5oz., and 7 ditto, 3lb. 4½oz.—total, 36lb. 2oz.; Mr. Lupton, 3 dace, 11oz.; Mr. H. Rose, 2 perch, 10oz., 4 roach, 1lb. 15½oz., 6 ditto, 3lb. 3oz., 8 ditto, 5lb. 9¼oz., 5 ditto, 3lb. 12oz.. 2 pike, 5lb. 10½oz.—total, 20lb. 12¼oz.; Mr. C. Scull, 11 roach, 6lb. 4oz., 16 ditto, 4lb. 13oz., 26 ditto, 10lb. 3½oz., 19 ditto, 6lb. 7oz., 22 ditto, 7lb. 14oz., 35 ditto, 11lb. 5oz., 30 ditto, 11lb. 6oz., 30 ditto, 10lb. 12oz., 43 ditto, 14lb. 12oz.—total, 83lb. 12¼oz.; Mr. G. Walker, 3 perch, 1lb. 3oz., 2 roach, 1lb. 1¼oz., 16 ditto, 10lb. 12oz., 57 ditto, 38lb. 6½oz., 16 bream, 35lb. 14oz., 5 dace, 1lb. 1oz.—total, 88lb. 5¾oz.; Mr. A. F. Wrightson, 7 perch, 3lb. 12oz., 4 ditto, 1lb. 13oz., 1 ditto, 14oz., 33 roach, 20lb. 14½oz., 23 ditto, 14lb. 8oz., 14 ditto, 8lb. 13¾oz., 93 ditto, 57lb. 11½oz., 6 ditto, 4lb. 7¾oz., and 4 bream, 8lb. 8oz.—total, 121lb. 6½oz., making a total of 354lb. 14¾oz. weighed in by the above gentlemen during the past month. I am pleased to state that our secretary (Mr. Wheatstone) is gradually regaining the use of his broken limb, and is again out on the war path, so I trust to be able to report some good takes by this gentleman in my next account.—G. E. W.

### STOKE-UPON-TRENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

Several of our members had some very fair sport on the 13th inst., some of the fish shown being very good ones. Mr. H. Evans had 5½ brace of trout, Mr. E. Cocker, 3½ dozen roach and 1 chub 2½lb.; Mr. T. Riley, a nice basket of trout and grayling; Mr. William Hassall, chub; and Mr. T. Evans, 3½ brace of trout. Messrs. Hollins and Pope had a few hours amongst the perch in the afternoon, bagging nine fish, which weighed 16lb. 3oz., a very pretty dish. The trout here are showing symptoms of spawning, and the water is still very low and fine.—J. Hollins, hon. sec.

### UNITED BROTHERS, DEPTFORD.

Several of our members were out on the 14th, but, I am sorry to say, did not turn up. The following members weighed in:—Mr. H. Tyler, 23lb. of bream from the Medway; F. Watts, 14lb. 3oz. of roach and bream from the Medway; J. Currans, roach from Pulborough.—H. T.

### WALWORTH PISCATORIALS.

Five prizes will be competed for on the 28th day of September: 1st prize given by Mr. Delhaye, sen.; 2nd, by Mr. F. Grigg; 3rd, by Mr. H. Dale; 4th, by Mr. Beckett; 5th, by Mr. J. Collins. The conditions as to where, and how, will be decided on Thursday next, the 25th day of September. All members interested in this competition are requested to attend that evening. On the 18th, Messrs. Beckett and Boalch had a nice show of roach from Rickmansworth.—Pixie.

### WALTONIANS.

On Sept. 14th, Mr. Roland had 7lb. 7oz. roach, and 15¾oz. dace; Mr. Phillips, 4lb. 11oz. roach, and a jack 2lb. 9oz.; Mr. Morris, 6lb. 11oz. roach; Mr. Hunt, 3lb. 5oz. roach; Messrs. Horsford, Read, R. Dodge, Packman, Juckes, Jas. Moore, and Morgan also weighed in.

### WAVENEY ANGLING CLUB, BECCLES.

At the ordinary monthly meeting of this club on Thursday evening, the 11th inst., at the Caxton Arms, Mr. W. P. Garrod in the chair, there was a good attendance of members and friends, and Mr. J. Hooker read a paper on "The Best Method of Fishing for Pike," in the course of which he described the various methods of taking pike by trailing, live-baiting, trolling, paternostering, and spinning, and the tackle required, together with sundry directions as to flights and hooks, and the different methods of casting. He contended that fishing was not a matter of luck any more than cricketing, billiard playing, or the sailing of a boat. But of all comparisons the soldier, in his opinion, stood *par excellence*, for, like the fisherman, was he not particular about the *formation* and *dressing* of his *line*, and did he not use the greatest efforts to induce the foe to take his *flight*—or his *hook?* and if his *line* got broken in the struggle, he had, like the fisherman, to retire defeated, *reeling* the remnant home. The *habitat* of the pike was traced in the different seasons, and the various methods devised for his capture having been criticised, Mr. Hooker concluded by saying that he was in favour of spinning where the water is clear of weeds, and paternostering where weeds abound. A discussion followed, during which the various flights and hooks described, with fishes attached, were passed round for examination, after which the chairman moved that a vote of thanks be given to Mr. Hooker for the very practical lessons he had given them in pike fishing. This was seconded by the Mayor, and carried with acclamation. A vote of thanks was also passed for the chairman. On Saturday, the 13th inst., the third match of the season, pegged-down, took place between the bathing-place and Dunburgh. The wind was very strong from the north-east, causing the water to be very rough, which spoilt the chances of good takes. Fishing lasted from 3 till 6.30 p.m. with the following results:—Mr. J. Rouse, 8lb. 2oz.; Mr. H. Stimpson, 7lb.; Mr. C. Chase, 5lb. 10oz.; Mr. J. Hooker, 4lb. 2½oz.; Mr. Knell, 3lb. 13½oz.; Mr. Oldham, 3lb. 3½oz. The special prize, given by Capt. T. Wilson, for the best six fish, was taken by Mr. H. Stimpson, with six roach weighing 2lb. 12½oz.

The Bladderwort.—Office of State Entomologist, Normal, Ill., Aug. 29.—Editor *Forest and Stream:* While the very interesting fact of the destruction of young fishes by the bladderwort is occupying the attention of your readers, permit me to mention another method than that of direct destruction, by which these plants must often greatly hinder the multiplication of fishes in waters infested by them. In an article on the Entomostraca of Lake Michigan and adjacent waters, which I published in the *American Naturalist* for July, 1882, I remarked that in ten "bladders" of *Utricularia vulgaris*, taken at random, I found ninety-three animals, either entire or in recognisable fragments, and representing at least twenty-eight species. Seventy-six of the animals found were Entomostraca, and belonged to twenty species. Nearly three-fourths of both individuals and species were Cladocera. Just one-third of all the animals found in these bladders belonged to the single species *Acroperus leucocephalus* Koch. Now, my studies previously made of the food of young fishes, reported chiefly in the third bulletin of the Illinois State Laboratory of Natural History, showed that the principal food of all young fishes, with quite insignificant exceptions, consists of the very class of minute animal forms which the bladderwort is constantly engaged in selecting from the water by means of the hundred of bladders with which each plant is covered. It thus not only occasionally entraps the youngest fishes, but likewise habitually and continuously contends with them for food, and may be said to thrive largely at their expense.—S. A. Forbes.

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London Central Fish Market.—The *City Press* states that so far the London Central Fish Market has not proved a financial success. The accounts just issued by the City Corporation show that the receipts for the past year amounted to £2,063, while the expenditure for that period was £9,109, leaving a deficiency of £7,046.

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American Office and Agency—Mr. De Witt C. Lent, 30, Park Place, New York.

N.B.—All Remittances must be sent, and all Cheques and Money Orders must be made payable to Messrs. SAMPSON LOW, MARSTON, and Co., the Proprietors, 188, Fleet Street, E.C.

The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1884.

## IMPORTANT OFFER MADE BY THE NATIONAL FISH CULTURE ASSOCIATION.

IT is with much pleasure that we call the attention of our readers to the letter from Mr. W. Oldham Chambers which appears in our columns this week, embodying one of the most important offers ever made to the coarse fish anglers of this country.

At a meeting of the Council of the Association, the Marquis of Exeter in the Chair, Mr. R. B. Marston stated that if the Society expected to get assistance from coarse fish anglers—by far the largest portion of the angling community—it must offer them some inducement to join, and he proposed that the Association should distribute coarse fish, and purchase nets and fish carriers for the purpose. He pointed out that there would be no difficulty in getting splendid coarse fish from trout streams and other trout waters, the proprietors of which annually destroyed millions of coarse fish, and would be only too pleased to give them to the Association. Mr. T. L. Sayer seconded Mr. Marston's proposal, which, after some discussion, was unanimously carried. The Secretary stated that he had got applications for live coarse fish from all parts of the country.

Secretaries of trout clubs and other gentlemen who desire to get rid of their coarse fish are invited to correspond with Mr. Chambers, as are also all those who want live perch, roach, dace, bream, carp, tench, pike, &c., &c., for stocking their waters. We cordially recommend Mr. Chambers's letter to the careful attention of all who are interested in improving both trout and coarse fisheries.

## SHAWFORD BROOK.

MANY a disciple of Walton and Cotton has visited the famous fishing-house on the brink of the Dove, with its dual cypher and immortal inscription, "Piscatoribus Sacrum," but few, I think, have made pilgrimage to another spot, also made classic by Walton's sojourn there and actual ownership. I allude to Shawford Brook, immortalised by him in what is, if I mistake not, the flower of his few poetic flights in verse, "The Anglers' Wish," the fourth verse of which runs as follows :—

Or, with my Bryan and a book,
Loiter long days near Shawford Brook;
There sit by him and eat my meat,
There see the sun both rise and set.
There bid good morning to next day,
There meditate my time away,
And angle on and beg to have
A quiet passage to a welcome grave.

These lines, it will be remembered, he tells Venator he composed sitting upon that very primrose bank, beneath that very sycamore, under which they breakfasted and sheltered from the showers on the third day of their memorable if mythic expedition. It is the beauties and pleasures of that scene on the banks of the Lea which he has extolled in the first three verses, till in the last his thoughts turn also to his early haunts and present possession, as if he felt they held an equal place in his regard, and the poem takes a sadder tone as he remembers perhaps the days of his youth, not altogether without some touch of "Eheu! Fugaces," for he was then in his 60th year, and, though doubtless hale and hearty, could hardly be expected to anticipate the patriarchal age he would attain to.

Since Sir John Hawkins, I am not aware of any writer who has given to the public any information respecting this locality. Possibly, the reason may be the village is now known as "Shallowford," and the brook as the "Meese Brook." Sir John Hawkins, quoted by Fitzgibbon, writes thus on the subject :—

"Shawford Brook, part of the river Sow, running through the very land which Walton bequeathed in his will to the Corporation of Stafford to find coals for the poor, the right of fishery in which attaches to this little estate. The house, described by Walton in his will, is now divided. The brook is a beautiful winding stream, and the situation such as would be likely to create admiration in a mind like Walton's."

The village is some five or six miles from Stafford in a northerly direction, and is close to Norton Bridge Station, a junction of the London and North-Western and North Stafford Railways. It is easily seen from the line, lying to the east, on the other side of the Brook, whose windings for some miles hereabouts never take it far from the line, by which, indeed, it is crossed both above and below the station. No doubt many an angler whirling north or south will have noticed from the train the pretty trouty-looking brook, without thinking for a moment that its former owner was the veritable "Father of Anglers" himself. The Brook rises in some hilly ground near Madeley, in the north-west of Staffordshire, and after a short course reaches and flows past Shallowford, to join, about a mile below that village, another brook of about the same size, the juncture of the two forming the origin of the Sow, which runs through Stafford, and ultimately into the Trent. For some miles above the Shallowford reach, the brook abounds in trout, being strictly preserved by a club of very limited numbers, and the fishing is said to be excellent, but I cannot speak from experience. In the neighbourhood of Shallowford it is, as Hawkins says, a pretty winding brook, and to the practised eye suggestive of trout, though almost devoid of positive rippling scours, for it has plenty of swirling runs beneath broken banks, glassy glides, and deep holes which promise endless charms of variety to the angler. Its banks are fairly open, though here and there alders render some parts inaccessible to the fly-fisher. Here and there, too, is some ancient ash or oak or willow, beneath their shade I have sometimes pleased myself with the thought that old Izaak may have sat and read and angled as he loitered those long days away to which he turns with such grateful memory. The stream, indeed, is one whereon he could—and doubtless did—most successfully practise his worm-fishing or his dapping, for it has many a deep hole and quiet corner or likely hold beneath the alders most fit for such practice. On the outskirts of the village, a stone's throw or so from the stream, still stands his house, now, as in Hawkins' time, divided into two. It is an ancient cottage, with thatched roof and whitewashed stone walls, the black beams built into them, like others in the village, and of a kind frequent in the neighbourhood. It is, probably, little altered since Walton dwelt there; but though cottage and brook remain, if their whilom owner were to revisit his possessions he would find vast alteration. Close to brook and cottage now runs the London and North-Western main line north, and no longer by day or night could he hope to "meditate his time away" in peace. The scream and roar of many a score of trains tearing through the little junction, mostly without a stoppage, would scarcely form fit environment for him, whose motto was, "Study to be quiet."

As to the sport obtainable on the brook, I have already mentioned how good it is said to be above Shallowford, and in Walton's day it was probably as good or better near the village. To-day, for reasons to be given later, it is but moderate. However, I have heard even now of good fish being taken from it. Trout of 2 to 3lb. weight, and of one chub of 7lb., concerning which a friend took the trouble to write to the reported captor, who confirmed the statement. Such fish, however, are few and far between. My own experience is confined to two or three evenings' fly-fishing on the length near Shallowford, fortunately under excellent atmospheric conditions, when, novice though I am, I usually took some three or four brace of trout, generally including a pounder or two, except one evening when I found the water run off and almost stagnant, and could only get a fingerling or two—of course, returned to the stream.

On one occasion, with rain falling and a little colour in the water, I put on an "Alexandra"—I believe a perfect novelty on the water, and certainly no member of Walton's "jury of flies." It created quite a sensation among the trout. They came at it with a rush and a somersault out of water, and I moved about a score in about half a mile's fishing. I took eight, and was twice broken in striking, as I was using fine drawn gut, while the hook was large, requiring a fair stroke to bury the barb. I had also, probably, got a little flurried with so many misses and the startling manner of the rises or runs. I never like to see trout come at fly or minnow in this way: it startles you to begin with; they often miss the bait altogether, or, if they take it, must be hooked, as it were, flying, or they have dropped it.

I do not, however, wonder that fish are not more plentiful in this part of the stream, but rather that there are any left at all, for at two points upon it, about a mile apart, are floodgates for irrigating purposes, and at each floodgate bag nets covering the whole apertures through which the stream flows, so that nothing can pass up or down except through the nets. Add to these the use of trammel nets in some of the intermediate parts, and the occasional visits of otters, which hunt down the very biggest of the fish, and you will see the stream must possess excellent natural capabilities to remain stocked at all.

The nets at the sluices are owned by the farmers occupying the land, who also possess the rights of fishing, and in floods, or when the water has been shut back for some time, and then the sluices suddenly drawn up are most effective. In low, clear water they do not take much. Occasionally, too, a stroke of retribution, from the angler's point of view, falls on the net in the shape of some floating plank or log, which, if drawn end on into the rush of water through the sluice, goes through the net and sets free its captives, rendering it, moreover, harmless till repaired.

Below Shallowford, to the spot at which it joins the other brook to form the Sow, it still contains a few trout; but the other brook and the Sow contain only coarse fish at this part of their courses. I am not, however, sufficiently acquainted with the river Sow to say if it is devoid of trout throughout its course.

W. T. S.

[Is "W. T. S." a member of the Izaak Walton Angling Society which has recently been established at Stafford, which preserves Shawford Brook ?—ED.]

## THE TROUT STREAMS OF ABERDEENSHIRE.

### THE MUICK.

THIS fine stream takes its rise in Loch Muick on the eastern side of Lochnagar, and, after a course of some nine miles, joins the Dee near Ballater.

The proprietors are H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, and J. T. Mackenzie, Esq., of Kintail and Glenmuick.

The scenery about the source of the Muick is of a very wild and majestic character, nothing but lofty hills and wide moors for miles around. About four miles along the run of the river the prospect is of a bare, bleak description, being almost void of trees, and marsh prevailing most of the way along the banks. After this distance we come to the Falls of Muick, where the water tumbles with a headlong rush over massive rocks into a deep whirling pool some 20ft. below.

Here the scenery changes greatly, wood being abundant all around, and, were it not for the rumbling roar of the water as it descends, one would not be aware of the existence of the falls until approaching quite near. This scene is quite worthy of a visit in itself. From this point to the confluence with the Dee the river runs along a more cultivated country, plantations and farms becoming more common as it proceeds nearer its mouth.

The upper part is generally of a slow, winding character, with occasional deep pools, and a sandy bottom. From the Falls, for a couple of miles or so downwards, large bouldery stones abound in the channel, and its subsequent course is marked by more variety in the way of stream and pool.

Salmon and grilse rarely ascend the Muick, but there is abundance of brook trout averaging four or five to the pound. Some large fish, however, are sometimes to be met with, and an occasional sea trout after a spate in summer.

We reckon May and June to be the best months for fly fishing, and the most killing flies March brown, partridge ruff, hare-lug, spiders, and duns, of a small size and used with fine tackle. Some days, however, peculiar varieties are very killing. Occasionally, we have basketed as many as five to six dozen, many of them ¼lb. and over.

In July and August, when the water is low and clear, small red worms are very deadly, and after a spate a good basket can be had for certain by using a slightly larger size.

Particularly near the mouth of the Muick there are some fine streamy pools, where good sport can be obtained with minnow whenever the water is fairly high, and in these, at such times, large trout are frequently got.

Generally, the whole breadth of the stream can be commanded with a single-handed rod, and altogether by wading in a little at the wider parts.

In some parts the Muick is not strictly preserved; notwithstanding, we advise the asking of permission, as courteous applications from respectable parties are seldom refused. Mr. McGregor, of the Invercauld Arms Hotel, Ballater, can manage to arrange fishing for his guests.

Some distance from Ballater, on a gently-sloping eminence on the south side of the Muick, is Glenmuick House—the palatial residence of Mr. McKenzie—in the centre of a magnificent expanse of birches, with fine mountain scenery in the background.

Birkhall Lodge, a residence of the Prince of Wales, and the ruins of Castle Knock, are on the north side of the river. The Prince of Wales's hut, Alt-na-guisach, is no distance from the head of the river, and under the shadow of "dark Lochnagar."

Here, as elsewhere on the Deeside Highlands, the air is remarkably pure and invigorating, and the picturesque scenery and pleasant excursions are alike attractive to the health-seeker and tourist.

Accommodation at the Invercauld Arms, or Deans' Temperance Hotel, or in the village of Ballater.

Rod season—February 11th to October 31st. Route—By rail to Ballater, thence fifteen minutes' walk to the mouth of the stream. W. M.

## THE TROUT STREAMS OF NORTH DEVON.—IV.

By Helwr.

Mr. Editor says that I give rather too rosy an account of the numbers of fish in the North Devon streams.* Whilst I am aware of his intimate knowledge of several of the principal streams of this district, I beg to assert that I do not give too rosy an account of the numbers of fish in the streams upon and near Exmoor. For example, on July 28th, I killed 50 trout in that part of the Barle between Landacre Bridge and its source, the weather being dull, and the water high after rain. The landlord of the Sportsman's Inn, Sandiway, saw my creel. My friend Mr. Lucas, of North Molton, often takes 40, 50, and even 60 fish in the moorland streams—like myself, using the fly. I do not know what Dr. Spicer, of North Molton, has done this season, which has been an exceptionally bad one; as a rule, he does not think much of taking a basketful.

With regard to the Editor's note to the effect that the Rev. R. Newman preserves a stretch of the Barle near Hawkridge, and that the open water is getting considerably over-fished, I must plead that I am aware of both facts. Still, my remarks were not *very* misleading, as there is free water not far from Hawkridge—viz., above Mr. Newman's, at Torr Steps, and below for a short distance until the water of the Dulverton Association (Rev. S. Jellicoe, sec.) is reached. The latter water is, I am informed, much improved under the present management, and I will shortly try it and report further.

At the foot of my article No. 2 the Editor says, "We are sorry to say it has been fearfully poached during the drought, and so have most of the moor streams." This refers to Dean's Brook, and is only too true. Some miscreants turned the water aside and caught every trout, big and little! Since the recent rains, a great many trout have come up this brook from the Barle, as is usual in the autumn.

In the district of which I write is one of the most beautiful trout streams I know. It is beautiful as regards its position and scenery, and *was* beautiful on account of its being well stocked with larger fish than its size would warrant one in supposing. It is called West Molland Brook, and it runs into the Yeo river at Molland station.

When treating of the Yeo river I said nothing about this brook, because it is very difficult for a stranger to get permission to fish it, and because it has been almost denuded of fish. With (or without, I know not which) the permission of the owner, the farmers upon this stream took advantage of the drought to *murder* the trout therein by all manner of unsportsmanlike means, the principle plan adopted being the simple one of turning the water aside. In the face of the agitation that is going on, it behoves the lovers of any one branch of sport to sympathise with and help the lovers of all others. For, *l'union fait la force.* I appeal to the hon. secretary of the Sports Defence Association to put me right if I am wrong. Thus it is pitiable to see the anglers decrying racing, the sporting man injuring the interests of the lover of coursing, or the man who loves hunting alone—be it stag, fox, or hare—taking fish unfairly, and thus depriving some honest brother of the angle of the sport his soul loveth. How much more sad is it when those who aspire to take a prominent position in the world of sport so act!—a steward at race meetings, a master of hounds, or the owner of a crack racing yacht.

Perhaps after this digression (all of which I consider necessary after due consideration, although I am so fond of launching out in "too rosy" a manner) I may be allowed to proceed with my text. And so we come to Dulverton.

Dulverton is, perhaps, the best known and most popular fishing station in either N. Devon or its adjacent (and for sporting considerations inseparable) district of N. Somerset. There are three good hotels in Dulverton—the Lion, Mr. King; the Carnarvon Arms, Mr. Nelder; and Tarr's Hotel. Mr. King's and Mr. Tarr's houses are in the town; Mr. Nelder's at the station. That there are plenty of good fish in the waters of the Barle, and Exe, near Dulverton, I cannot deny; but I do not think so much of the angling there as at other places I have mentioned. The great drawback to fishing near Dulverton is the extreme popularity of the place with the angling fraternity; and no one can say that a river is any better worth a fisherman's attention because its banks are crowded with his brethren. Remarking *en passant* that in the vicinity of Dulverton many hooked and pricked fish are in the water, and that those trout that have not yet felt the steel have become very wary from the constant whipping of the water, I must still admit that there are most reliable reports of good sport constantly to hand from that neighbourhood. Further, it must be said that the quarters at either of the hotels in Dulverton are better than the majority I have mentioned, and there is less "roughing it" in that place than at some others. Persons staying at the Carnarvon Arms have the privilege of fishing some miles of the Exe and Barle *free;* and as regards the latter river, there is the great advantage of being able to commence operations almost as soon as the hotel door is passed. This is convenient for those who use wading-stockings, for they dispense with the nuisance of carrying any other "togs" with them; moreover, can they can slip down to the river for an odd hour at any time when in the humour, when the water and weather are suitable, and just before dusk, when the best sport must be looked for. When the river is fining after a "spate," a good man ought to creel a score or more in a day, some of the fish being half-pounders, and many of them a quarter of a pound.

Mr. Nelder, of the Carnarvon, is a very good fisherman, and is a correspondent of the Fishing Gazette. He keeps a varied assortment of fancy tobaccos—no mean *desideratum* in country quarters.

Should the angler choose to stay at the Lion, he will find an omnibus meeting all trains. The Lion is a very favourite house with anglers and hunting men. Mr. King keeps about a score of capital hunters, all of which are in great request. It will, therefore, be necessary to give timely notice of an intention to patronise this house during the stag-hunting season; and not this house only, but all of them.

From the Lion, both Exe and Barle can be fished. In the case of the latter, a ticket can be procured in the bar for the Dulverton Association water preserved by the Rev. Mr. Jellicoe. The change is very moderate, being, I believe, only one shilling a day. Every angler knows that however great his skill, practice, and experience, he will kill more fish when he knows the water than when he does not, and that it is, to say the least, very convenient to be informed on which side the river to walk, and when and where to cross over. This being so, the angler staying at the Lion should send for John Holcombe, the water-bailiff, who lives hard by. This artful fisherman knows every pit in the river, and every stone and fish in each pit, and will accompany one for a small *pour boire.* His company, besides being very agreeable, will be found very conducive to a heavy creel.

Fishing up the Association water for about three miles, we come to the point where Dean's Brook joins the Barle, and at this brook we must fish for some distance. For the first mile or two the bushes will prevent our seeing the stream, let alone throwing upon it, except three or four places. Most of the knowing local hands advise us to push on until we come to Zeal Farm without attempting a cast. I advise otherwise. The few open places are the hovers of good fish, as I have found this season to my great satisfaction. When Zeal is reached, the angler will find good water, productive of much sport for a mile or more—viz., until a small brooklet joins Dean's Brook; then he must retrace his steps.

Time was once when above this point one might confidently expect rare sport for some miles; but the atrocious misdeeds alluded to at the commencement of this article (and mentioned by Editor) have altered all this. That the water for a distance above Zeal is good business will be seen when I say that, at the time of putting pen to paper, I have only just returned from fishing that very portion of the stream in question. Result of three hours' careful fishing (3.0 to 6.0) in drizzly weather and moderately high water, 20 trout weighing 4lb. Flies, blue upright, coachman, and hare's ear. I hooked at least forty parr, some of them weighing nearly 3oz.; but, of course, returned them to their native element.

We will now suppose that the disciple of Cotton whom I have located at the Lion is about to retrace his steps towards that comfortable hostelry, accompanied by Mr. Holcombe aforesaid—this person, by the way, will tell some marvellous yarns about the tons of trout an eel will devour in a year; I mean, the tons of what would be trout, supposing the *spawn* so eaten was allowed to grow into trout. On the homeward journey, a different style of fishing must be adopted, and, perhaps, different flies, because not only is it getting towards sundown, but we shall be fishing down stream with a long line, instead of up stream with a tolerably short one. It will be advisable to take that side of the river opposite to the one we came up along, not forgetting, however, to try once more any nice pit, hole, or stickle where we moved a good fish in the morning, and "moved" it to no purpose. Having got back to the town, having reeled up, having either dismissed the companion at the waterside or taken him up to the Lion in order to point out to him the stag's head and antlers in the bar, we will say no more about Dulverton; for the rest of the evening, being devoted to dinner, smoke, and chat, does not call for remark in a paper upon "Trout Streams."

## ON THE DESCRIPTION OF SALMON FLIES.

By Mr. Geo. M. Kelson.

### Major Traherne's Patterns *(Continued).*

### No. 14.—The "Evening Star."

We have nearly done with the distinctive features in bodies, and without disturbing the dusty corners of one's recollection to brood over every-day particulars which the fly-dresser picks up in his infancy, there is little more to add.

The ordinary chenilles behave uncommonly well in the water, but, as usual, the dyes are rather disappointing. I dip mine in a weak solution of tartaric acid to set the colours; some it suits, while others require a different mode of treatment. Another drawback is that they are rarely to be obtained sufficiently small for our work, the smallest being quite large enough. Helbronner, in Oxford-street, supplies them, and his collection is an extensive one. If we include the tinselled sort, there is nothing to beat chenilles for grubs, and that kind should always be wrapped up in special paper sold with them, and kept as much as possible from the air and light. In tying in the ordinary, do not omit first to remove the flocculent finery by pinching it away with the finger-nails in diminutive quantities.

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* Our correspondent must not feel hurt at our pulling him up a little. It is far better to under-rate than to over-rate the fishing, as to do the former invariably causes disappointment. In speaking of the fishing in the Barle adjacent to Hawkridge, he speaks of trout being "very plentiful indeed." We have fished this water many times during the last ten years, and have taken 60 and often 30 trout a day in it; but some friends, good anglers, who have fished the N. Devon streams every year for years have been on the Barle all this season, and inform us the fishing has immensely fallen off, and the fish are smaller than a few seasons back. Our correspondent at Barnstaple pointed out that "Helwr's" remarks were more applicable to the state of the fishing some years back. We do not deny that on some exceptional days a clever angler may take great numbers; but "Helwr's" articles are not intended only for clever anglers, and we can assure him that, as we said before, it is far better an angler should be agreeably, rather than disagreeably, disappointed. Mr. Jellicoe deserves every praise for his endeavours to improve the fishing; but we are sorry to say some of those who ought to be first to support him do not scruple to pooh-pooh his exertions. His tickets can also be had of Mr. Nelder and Mr. Tarr, who both know how to make anglers very comfortable.—Ed.]

When the ribs and hackle are companions down the body of any fly, the former is the first to wind and fasten off.

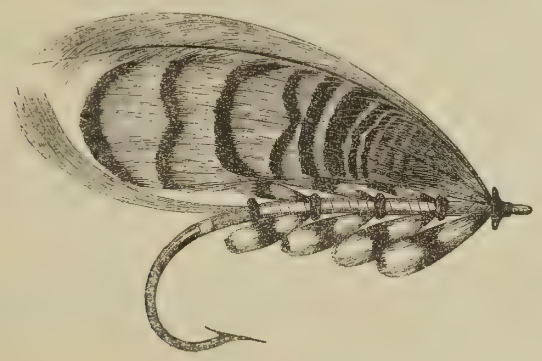
The usual way of managing Peacock, Emu, and Ostrich herls is to tie in a couple and spin them on the thread. I can scarcely say a stronger, but a much more effective way is to use only one wound on its side in close coils, after the fashion of butts; it follows that the appearance in water is more life-like.

I wish to say a few words by request on stripping hackles, my attention being called to an excellent work on angling, which in reference to this says, "Take care you strip off the right side." Coming from one considered a high authority, it is just possible "the right side" means the correct side, because it is unquestionably the left which we always take away. Another construction could be put upon it, as these feathers are on their backs, so to speak, when we double them, so the under part of them faces us during the operation, and therefore the sides then are reversed. However, it is not the first time I have known this subject under discussion, for I have been called over the coals myself. But in future let it be understood, as far as I am concerned, that the right and left sides are known by laying the feather with its point from and quill towards us, having the best side of it uppermost.

I am indebted also to an old fly-dresser for pointing out a printer's error in another article of mine, July 26. It seems that I consider the hackle should be placed on the head side of the tinsel. Not at all; I am convinced that would be incorrect. The paragraph runs to this effect: *The hackle follows alongside the tinsel on the head end;* but that line is preceded by "He (the student) should endeavour to arrange his work (the work on the body) *for the tinsel to guard the feather*" (meaning the hackle), so that could not possibly hold good unless the hackle were located on the tag side. There were other reasons given August 23rd why it would be wrong the other way. However, if I were making a "show fly" I should certainly prefer the head side, because it looks so much better there.

Beauty, at any rate, does not always guarantee security. I admit she is an ever-enticing lovely decoy-duck, but still a "latent lurking cheat," having no power of endurance, and although she has her day she is utterly unreliable—she contaminates us, and then dims the mirror of our most ardent expectations.

In all cases, from the beginning to the end of the work, the tying silk can be kept tight best by holding it between the third and little finger. All the materials that we require should be selected and in readiness, but if both hands be wanted and the fly laid down the silk should be wound three or four times spirally up to the head and squeezed in between the gut loop and shank of the hook, and for so doing sufficient room is always left there.



Now we come to throats, where it has often been said that no salmon fly is perfect without a few blue fibres. Jay is a great favourite, and the professionals use feathers from both wings, but those having the colour on the left of the shaft they wind the reverse way. We work the right easier, they are not more expensive, and amateurs always prefer them. The older the bird the better for many reasons. I intended to give an illustration for stripping these feathers, as they have the reputation of being very troublesome. This I hope to do later on, with descriptive particulars.

The Vulturine guinea fowl is a good natural blue, and much longer in fibre. Unfortunately, it has no speckle; but for very large flies there is nothing so good, in my opinion, as our Gallina. It is true we have to come down to dye, but the double-speckled feather takes the stain very readily in any shade; the white spots, or rather speckles, are so white and otherwise suited that the brightest blue can be obtained, and depended upon perhaps for a longer time than with anything else. We cannot do better than make a note of this now that the season for collecting them is rapidly approaching.

It is scarcely necessary to enumerate the other natural blues, as they are so well known. However, it is well to bear in mind that when any of the large feathers are intended for hackling, they should previously be well soaked in water.

The tippet from the Amherst pheasant furnishes this part of the fly very prettily, and can be turned to good account here in different lengthed strands, which can be dyed any colour; it is not a good feather to roll on, be it remembered.

When any kind of fibres are put in at the throat, you can get them to point properly by winding the tying silk far enough, but not too far, against the butt of the former hackle; without a little attention to this they would rest too flat, and if overdone, too perpendicular.

Talking of pheasants, I am glad to have an opportunity of calling attention to an advertisement in another column from Hereford. All amateurs are well aware of the difficulty of procuring good feathers of this description.

I have had a specimen of the Amherst's sent on, and the fibres—perfect in "bend" and condition—measure no less than 3¾in. The rump feathers, too, would be invaluable in any river; and as to the toppings, they are far superior and similar in colour to those on the throat of the East Indian Argus. (For the sake of recording an extraordinary bird, I may here mention that the other day I saw a leading tail feather 4¼in. in fibre, and although a cross between a Golden and an Amherst pheasant, this bird singularly enough retained the original marking of the former. It is not for sale.)

The Elliots' are superb and very useful, and, I believe, the only specimens in this country. Reeves' is another excellent variety, producing many taking feathers; and the decided rifle green stripes in the Versicolors afford one other grand change for small flies.

What could be a more interesting undertaking for any angler than to imitate this example of crossing suitable birds, and keeping his friends constantly supplied with all sorts of fresh material which he would assuredly have at his disposal?

The tippets of the Amherst, white, not golden, show to great advantage in the wing of the "Evening Star."

This is a new pattern to me, but fishermen can generally tell where and when to use them; the name is suggestive as well as the extreme contrast. Still, such a complete change to the ordinary and old-fashioned stock would be worth trying at any time of day; indeed, in some rivers black and white command the most attention.

It requires a good deal of patience to set the Jungle Cock legs. They ought to close, as we know these feathers are not so very flexible, and they would probably skirt the water, unless the stream was rapid, if allowed to sprout from the body in a variety of shapes. The student will just as easily manage Jungle as any other feather after a little practice. "As easily?" Well, scarcely so. Still, we cannot expect to progress or benefit much without *some* effort. This "Star" can be described:

Tag: Silver twist and tippet-coloured silk (tippet written thus always refers to the golden pheasant).

Tail: Topping.

Butt: Black herl.

Body: In four equal sections of silver tinsel, the first three having two jungle above and below, as illustrated, and butted; the last of Blue Rock-coloured silk, and the only one ribbed with silver tinsel.

Throat: Two jungle as before (these feathers slightly increase in length from the opposite end of the body).

Wings: Four Amherst pheasant tippets, back to back, as shown.

Cheeks: Summer duck and two red crow, the former in advance; topping over.

Horns: Red macaw.

Head: Black herl.

## JOTTINGS REGARDING THE DEE, ABERDEENSHIRE.

We think proper to continue our notes by remarking at the outset that most anglers having had any lengthened experience of the Dee will agree with us in ranking it a first-class salmon river. Of late years, its value from an angling point of view, in the spring season especially, has been much enhanced by the efforts of an Improvements Association constituted at the instance of the riparian proprietors. Altogether, through the agency referred to, some twelve or fifteen nets have been removed from the river, for which a yearly rental, varying from £10 to £100, and amounting in all to about £800, is now paid. The result aimed at has proved satisfactory—advantageous, we should say—in a twofold manner. Firstly, it has slightly benefitted, in a monetary sense, the proprietors from whose waters the nets were removed; and secondly, those anglers leasing water between, say, Banchory and Braemar have experienced a material increase in sport, particularly during seasons when the river flowed pretty fully. Only two nets are now plied outside the tidal waters between the opening day (11th February) and the 26th of August—the close of the netting season.

Here, as elsewhere, anglers and river proprietors are much in favour of the greatly-agitated question, an extension of open time weekly, to allow fish to run. The Improvements Association are quite cognisant of the fact that by acquiring the two remaining nets referred to, the spring fishing could yet further be improved. It may be questioned, however, if, after all, the fishing is even yet, or will be, equal to what it was some fifteen or twenty years ago. Anglers on the lower sections of the Dee unhesitatingly declare that nigh poaching is becoming quite notorious, and so much so of late has this been the case, that scarcely a night has passed but the river has been netted in some place or other. Many think that the Fishery Board are somewhat remiss in their attention to this subject. Certain it is that the staff of watchers is ridiculously insufficient to prevent poaching. It is quite evident that the proprietors are keeping in expense with one hand, clutching at exorbitant rents with the other, and trusting to their tenants to protect themselves. Now, this is very unfair, and may, if no action is taken in the matter by the proprietors, have, as it certainly ought, the effect of bringing about the proper result in a sweeping reduction of rents.

Again, we notice that many of the proprietors who have sought to enhance the value of their fishings in the way we have indicated are unwittingly working, at the same time, in a direction clearly calculated to lessen sporting results. This remark brings us face to face with the subject of upland and surface drainage.

Than the effect produced by such drainage nothing in our opinion—not even an exceptionally dry summer like the past—is so calculated to lessen sport. 'Twere necessary that an extraordinary amount of ingenious reasoning should be given before we could dispel from our minds the conviction that, year by year, as these operations are extended, a corresponding decrease in river sport will be experienced.

On what ground, it may be asked, is this statement advanced? We answer —Simply because almost all the hills are now intersected by turf-deep ruts or narrow ditches varying from 12in. to 18in. in depth, and the natural result is that when rain falls in any quantity it soon finds its way into these channels, pours headlong down the hillsides into the feeding streams and the rivers, instead of rising gradually and falling slowly, come "foaming down with doubled speed" and speedily dwindle into an almost unfishable condition.

It is therefore apparent that a complete network of surface ruts, &c., on the hills has a very detrimental effect upon the fishings. Formerly, when the water oozed through the moss in a natural way, unless, indeed, a very extraordinary quantity of rain fell, the rivers never rose so high but that some casts were fishable, and, further, after a moderate rainfall, kept in good order for a lengthened period of time. To interested proprietors we would say, you cannot drain the hills and have proper river sport.

We hope to finish these notes next week. W. M.

Burton-on-Trent Sewage.—This matter had the Board's attention in 1879. In connection with the new sewage works, it must be explained, are other town improvements; but the Conservators are now in correspondence with the Town Clerk on the subject. It will not be allowed to drop.

George James Eaton, of Starkholmes, Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required, from gentlemen who can fish, to prove whether they may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—(Advt.)

### ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

H. G. R.—Many thanks—hope to use it.

J. James.—You should try a turn at Richmond. Write to C. Brown, fisherman, tell him to bait a swim and get all ready for you.

Laplander.—We advise you to use Le Page's cold liquid fish glue, which is sold by Messrs. S. Allcock and Co., Redditch, in 6d. bottles. It is always ready for use, and is used in building the American organs on account of its great strength. It withstands the effect of wet and damp in a wonderful manner, and is used by the Americans in the manufacture of their celebrated split-cane rods. It is wonderfully handy to have in the house to repair the numberless little breakages which take place.

# CORRESPONDENCE.

[*We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.*]

### THE SUPPLY OF LIVE COARSE FISH FOR STOCKING WATERS.

Sir,—In order to assist in developing the Fresh-Water Fisheries of this country, the Council of the National Fish Culture Association have determined to form an establishment for the culture of river fish of all descriptions, in addition to various species of trout, for the purpose of stocking public waters.

At the present time it is exceedingly difficult to obtain fish of this kind, and solicitations for carrying out such a project as that proposed have been so frequent that my Council have, after mature consideration, decided to take the matter in hand without delay. Much has been done to improve trout fishing, but this is the first attempt made to distribute on a large scale fresh-water fish generally, and more especially for the benefit of that enormous body, the coarse fish anglers of England.

It may be mentioned that many riparian owners, secretaries of clubs, and others, desirous of depleting their trout waters of pike, perch, dace, roach, &c., have already given permission to this Association to net and dispose of their fish, and doubtless further concessions will be obtained in due course.

The only expense to which those desirous of obtaining fish will be involved is for the carriage and labour, together with a nominal charge per hundred for the fish supplied, according to their size and species.

In order to participate in the advantages herein offered, the following rules and regulations must be observed :—

1. No club or private person can have from this Association supplies of fish for stocking purposes without first joining this Association, the annual subscription being limited to *One Guinea.*
2. The Council will require in every case a guarantee that the fish desired are for actual stocking purposes, and not for sale or disposal. Such guarantee must always accompany the order, otherwise it cannot be complied with.
3. Orders will be executed in rotation as speedily as circumstances will permit, but the Council will not be held responsible for any delay, loss, or damage accruing in the dispatch of fish.
4. To prevent miscarriage in the delivery, particular care should be taken to furnish the full address to which fish are to be sent ; and, if necessary, the nearest railway station adjoining the locality, so as to expedite transit.
5. Clubs may be represented on the Association by any gentleman delegated for that purpose.
6. Carriers for transmitting fish will be supplied free of charge, provided they are returned to the Association immediately. A fine of 5s. will be imposed in every case where they are not sent back on the day following their receipt.—I am, &c.,

W. Oldham Chambers, Secretary.

National Fish Culture Association, Exhibition Ground, South Kensington.

A prospectus of our Association can be had on application.

### GOOD GRAYLING FISHING.

Sir,—In reply to "Fluvius," I beg to say that perhaps the best grayling fishing in the British Isles is to be had at Tenbury, Worcestershire, in the river Teme. I know what I am talking about, as I have fished in rivers in many parts of the country, and after that think my native town (mentioned above) *facile princeps.*—I am, &c.,

Helwr.

### EYED-HOOKS : THEIR EARLY HISTORY.

Sir,—I think it is a pity Mr. Hall cannot discuss this subject without offensive personalities, covert sneers, and assertions that my statements are false, whilst *he does not offer a single proof in contradiction of my facts.* I do not wish to trouble you or your readers further with this dispute—anyone can see that the main facts of our two accounts agree generally ; but I cannot let the implied stigma in his last letter pass uncontradicted. I made no *such allusions* to *his* letter. I let the historical facts speak for themselves, and, as he does not and cannot refute them, I prefer to consider that our difference of opinion arises from different views of the same circumstances. I request space to reply briefly, *and finally*, to his remarks of September 20.

(1) His *Field* letters of 1880 is beside the question now—probably not one in a hundred readers of either Fishing Gazette or *Field* can remember what it contained, or will ever have a chance of again referring to it. I want to see it, but I cannot find a copy. It is useless referring people constantly for information to statements they cannot see.

(2) I pass as of no moment.

(3) Mr. Hall says I "*know* that he was in communication with Mr. Aldam as to eyed-hooks as early as April, 1877." What I *know* is that he told me so in *June last* for the *first* time ; but he admits that his recollection of what occurred is so vague that he does not know what took place.

I stated my *belief* that he took no part in the first year's efforts of Mr. Aldam and myself (between April, 1877, and May, 1878) ; and since my letter appeared in the Gazette I have received ample proof that I was right, and that Mr. Hall had nothing whatever to do with the first issue of the eyed-hooks till after he saw my samples at Rowsley in May, 1878.

(4) Turned-up Eyes.—I do not doubt Mr. Hall's assertion that he experimented in this matter in 1878 ; but, I ask again, If so—if they proved any success at all—how is it that he never mentioned this important point in our consultation about the first order for Hutchinson's sneck-bends, and that those, ordered by himself, were made with flat eyes ?

That question was ignored by him up to Easter, 1879, and the eye was not altered till after I proved the desirability of it at Abergavenny.

(5) As to 1880 patterns.—I bought *new* Hutchinson "Eyed-hooks" *in June last*, and they are identical with those approved by Mr. Hall in 1880. This is all I know about his "elaboration and refinement *since* 1880," except (as I have shown in another letter) that the alteration in bend he made on his own account, and *without consulting me*, utterly spoiled the shape of the hooks.

(6) Small sizes down to O and O O *were obtainable without any difficulty* in 1879, 1880, and 1881. It was only the O O O size that he experienced any difficulty with the makers about, and then only *temporarily in* 1882—as I understand his own version of it by letter.

(7 and 8) I pass as of no moment.

Finally, I do "plume myself on my historical facts," and on that statement I base all I have claimed, or wish to claim. Let Mr. Hall disprove any one of them if he can. I have re-read my letter of May 31, and I re-assert that I adhere to that statement now (with the exception of the one mistake I made, and corrected on June 21), and if any unbiassed person will *read* that letter *again by the light of my historical statement*, I think they will admit that there is nothing in it which Mr. Hall *ought* to have felt agrieved at, or to have raised such a "tempest in a teacup" about, *particularly after* my *earnest endeavours to explain* the matter to him *privately.*—I am, &c.,

George Bankart.

Sept. 20.

[It is only fair to Mr. Hall to say that he had sent us a very long letter, and on our strongly representing to him that everyone was getting tired of this personal dispute, he consented to make his letter very much shorter. Mr. Bankart considers he would have a grievance against us if we do not give him space, and we unwillingly do so, knowing, from several complaints, that our readers are exactly in the position of Mr. Hall himself, "sick of the subject."—Ed.]

### EYED-HOOKS AND THEIR FUTURE IMPROVEMENT.

Sir,—My remarks on this subject are not intended in the least as reflecting upon the makers of the present eyed-hooks, Messrs. P. Hutchinson and Son, whose courtesy and attention have always been all that anyone could desire ; but the *present shape* of the hooks is *not as good as it might be made*, and it would probably be to their advantage, as well as of the angling public, if they would carefully consider the following suggestions, as the alteration can be made without any additional cost or trouble, being simply a change in the bend of the wire :—

There is no better fish-hook made *for holding a fish when hooked* than the "Limerick" shape, its fault being that in the smaller sizes it is less certain to *take hold* than other kinds ; on the other hand, there is no better hook of small size *for taking hold* than the "sneck-bend," its fault being that from the angularity of the bend it is likely to break off if too highly, or to open out if too softly, tempered, a result I have too often experienced with sneckbend hooks, and also *the exceedingly ugly appearance* of flies of *large size* when dressed on these hooks.

It was with the desire of combining the advantages of the two styles that Mr. Hall and I considered the Limerick bend with sneck side twist would secure a neat-looking fly-hook with the holding power of the one shape, and the greater certainty of hooking a rising fish with the other, a result which may still be secured if properly carried out.

The finest Limerick hooks ever made were produced some thirty or forty years ago by a working manufacturer named O'Shaughnessy, of Limerick, and his pattern, taken as a guide with the sneck twist added from the *bottom of the bend*, would produce the best possible form of fly-hook which could be devised.

The chief feature in the O'Shaughnessy hooks (apart from their extremely careful make) was that the *direction* of the *point* was in a *true line with the shank* (if not even the *very slightest bit* tending outwards), and this quality gave them great certainty of hooking a fish and burying the barb, as when the point of a small fly-hook tends inwards towards the shank, it causes frequent misses in hooking fish to the rise, and the slight hold taken is more likely to tear out.

As an illustration I inclose two pattern hooks, and I select large ones as showing the principle more plainly. (A) a No. 7 eyed-hook as now made ; and (B) a slightly snecked Limerick (No. 5 Limerick scale) out of the first lot I had made to my own order in 1879—rather too heavy in size of wire, but otherwise a very well-shaped hook.

If you will hold the hook (A) by the eye, point downwards, with bend towards you, you will notice that where the bend *commences* (on the "rump" of the hook, if I may be pardoned the expression), *it is twisted sharply off to the right*, continued so to the bottom of the bend, and then turned back again, bringing the point nearly under the shank, and tending inwards towards it.

Now, what good reason can there possibly be for this side twist at the *top of the bend?* It utterly spoils the hook, and does away with the advantage proposed to be gained by the side twist.

The wire ought to run *perfectly straight from the eye to the bottom of the bend*, and then be snecked out only as much as is necessary to gain the improved hooking power (of which the old sneck-bend hook is a good illustration) ; but the direction of the point ought to be kept in a parallel line with the shank, as fairly shown in hook (B) ; and if the test of *pull from the gut* is tried on this hook, it will be seen how well the direction of the point falls on any soft substance for straight hooking.

The eyes are generally well and neatly made, but occasionally turned up a little too low down the shank, forming a sort of "neck" between the back of the hook and the eye. There should be no "neck" ; the eye should start directly upward from the shank. In other respects, of quality, sharpness, tempering, and colour, the hooks are excellent, and I consider that if an O'Shaughnessy hook is taken as a basis, the point snecked out *from the bottom of the bend*, the eye added to the existing length of shank, as now made, no better design of hook for fly fishing, large or small, could be devised.—I am, &c.,

George Bankart.

Leicester, Sept. 18th.

[Mr. Bankart's suggestions, if carried out carefully, will certainly improve the hook. It is absurd, as he points out, to make the side twist commence from the shank end of the bend. We have seen it commence slightly up the shank in some cases ; it should commence from the barb end of the bend. We hope some firm will take up Mr. Bankart's suggestion. If the shank and the whole of the bend (in fact, all but the barb and the short straight piece it is made on) is held flat between the tweezers and the barb, then gently pressed the least bit sideways, the side twist will be right ; it should not be rank. The action of this slight side twist is similar to that of a rail-end raised a little on one line in front of an advancing train—it forms an obstruction.—Ed.]

### THE LARGE WICKHAM'S FANCY FOR SEA TROUT.

Sir,—I duly received the large Wickham's fancy you sent me from Mr. Bankart ; before using it, I had half-a-dozen made to the pattern, as I knew that in the lochs and rivers I should fish there were plenty of weeds and other impedimenta by which flies are lost. I will begin by saying that the fly is an excellent one, and no one going in for sea trout fishing should be without it as a stock fly. I found it very killing with fresh-run sea trout up to a pound and a half, but I could not take any of the larger fish with it, or those which had been up in the fresh water a few days —all those, with one exception, I took with the Wickham had the sea louse upon them. I tried it well both as a stretcher and as a bob, and in all kinds of weather. I will give a few instances : In the Aline water, in one stream or run, I took seven fish—none over a pound—all with the sea louse ; in another run, deeper water, I could not raise a fish with the Wickham. I put on a larger fly—turkey wing with purple body, silver twist—and took nine fine sea trout besides losing three others ; some of these were from a pound and a half to two and a half pounds. In the Strontian I tried it on one favourite pool and could not get a rise—changed to the purple body and took five fish. On same day, on same river, higher up, I could not raise a fish with the purple body, but got three nice ones with the Wickham and lost three others—one of these I think was a very good one, as I had him on for a minute or two, and he ran out a lot of line ; and, in the evening, coming down, I got some nice fish in the streams with the Wickham. On the Carnac, the river rising, I got two nice fish with the Wickham, in the first pool both fresh run ; tried it over again, and then changed to the purple body, and took two more larger, one not quite fresh. Higher up I tried the Wickham again without effect. My friend, the other side, told me they were taking the purple body well. I changed to this, and took ten fine fresh-run sea trout in twenty minutes. In the evening, with lower water in the same pool, I got two good sea trout with the Wickham. In the lochs, the difficulty is to keep the small loch trout off this fly when fishing for sea trout. In one loch, where large flies are the rule, I could do nothing with the Wickham ; but with the large red palmer—a purple body fly—had grand sport. In Loch Doilate, I took the fresh-run sea trout with the Wickham, but all under a pound ; but the larger fish—and those which had been some little time in the fresh water—would not look at it; but with the purple body I had fine sport, taking fish from two to four pounds each. In this loch the blue phantom minnow will give good sport with the great loch trout, and they run large. During the whole time I was fishing in Scotland the weather was not in good order for fishing; there was much electricity about and the fish rose short—in fact, on the west coast, where I have been, it has been the worst fishing season for 20 years. To sum up, therefore, as regards the Wickham, as far as my experience goes it is particularly good for fresh-runners up to a certain size in bright, breezy weather, and in the evening after 5 or 6 o'clock. I should be also inclined to have this fly dressed a size larger, when I think it would kill better in lochs, and take larger fish. I tried in some low, clear streams the small Wickham's fancy, as used in the Test, and got with it some nice sea trout fresh-run, and lost others, as from the habit of these fish to continually jump out of the water, many get off, particularly from a small fly.—I am, &c.,

Silver Doctor.

## FISHING IN THE GRAND DUCHY OF BADEN.

Sir,—I take advantage of an hour's delay at this junction, after a fishing excursion, to give you one or two items of information about fishing in this neighbourhood. Any lover of angling who desires to fish about here should leave the main line at this station, Rastatt, take the single branch line to Gernsbach, and alight at the Hotels Pfeiffer, Stern, or Krone. On the spot every information will be given. Part of the fishing is in private hands, part belongs to the town of Gernsbach, but the greater portion belongs to the Baden-Baden Fishing Society. There is fair trout, grayling, samlet, and chub fishing, both in the river Murg and in the streamlets adjoining. The scenery is of a woodland, hilly character, very pleasing to the eye. The hotels are moderate in price, cooking excellent, and every attention. I have just been staying at an hotel (Zur Blume) at Obertsroth, above Gernsbach. Very comfortable, and closer to the best Baden fishing. The Grune Baum is still higher up at Weissenbach, a clean, respectable hotel. The fishing extends several miles up the valley beyond Forbach; the higher you go the more romantic the scenery. In the higher reaches and in the side brooks trout only are to be found.

Fish are very quick in these swift-running waters, and one has to be on the alert or a meagre basket will ensue. Wading is often absolutely necessary to success.

In the smaller brooks fly fishing becomes impossible; but grasshoppers on a longish, stiff bamboo rod are very killing.

The fishing has been a little spoilt of late years, from the establishment of paper manufactories, severe winters, inundations and drought. But to counteract this the Baden society has formed a fish-culture house through the munificence of a private gentleman, and several thousands of young trout are here hatched out annually for restocking.

Altogether, a fair angler may confidently look for tolerable sport, especially if he is not above taking one of the keepers with him, to show where the best runs are, and what is the best bait according to the weather. A keeper's fee for a day's outing is only 3s., and it is convenient to have someone to carry the baggage. I recommend Fischer Woerner, of Hilpertsau, who lives close to the Blume, at Obertsroth.—I am, &c.,

T. Archibald S. White, M.A.,
English Chaplain at Baden-Baden.

Rastatt Station, Grand Duchy of Baden, Sept. 18.

[On behalf of our readers we beg to thank Mr. White for this useful information.—Ed.]

## GRAYLING FLIES.

Sir,—What are the best killing flies for grayling? Although a decent fly dresser and a fair hand at trout, I cannot satisfy myself with regard to above. Have, of course, tried London-made flies, red tags, dotteril, &c., but no go. If I could but solve this, what sport I could have! Will any southern angler come to the rescue? I know where the grayling are, but cannot catch them. What a confession!—I am, &c.,

Bradford. Cinnamon.

[When we find the regular standard grayling flies will not kill we generally try brilliant fancy patterns, with gold and silver tinsel bodies. They will often take the "Artful Dodger" (made by Farlow and Co., 191, Strand), also green, yellow, and red caterpillars. These are made by using a long shank hook (No. 11 or 12) with green, yellow, or red wool body, over which a red or light-ginger hackle is run—not too many times, or the body will not show up well. Caterpillars of all kinds are in season now, and drop off the willows and other trees when a sharp breeze comes.—Ed.]

## SALMON FLIES ON EYED-HOOKS.

Sir,—I should be obliged if you, or any of your correspondents, could inform me whether there is any practical objection to the use of eyed-hooks for large-sized salmon flies, and, if not, where such hooks are to be obtained? Tackle makers seem only to keep the smaller sizes.—I am, &c., An Amateur.

[See our footnote to "Old Eyed-Hooks" last week, We think Messrs. Hutchinson, of Kendal, make salmon hooks with eyes.—Ed.]

## STICKLEBACKS AS LIVE-BAIT.

Sir,—I shall be obliged if any of your correspondents could inform me whether sticklebacks answer as a live-bait for perch, &c.? (We have plenty in this neighbourhood, and minnows are very scarce.) If not, what would be the most killing bait in the absence of the minnow? Some say the brandling, and others artificial baits. I, and, no doubt, others, would very much like to know the experience of some of our "Piscator Majors" on these points. Hoping you will kindly find a corner in the "F.G." for this subject.—I am, &c., Piscator Minor.

Westerham, Kent.

[We have heard of sticklebacks being used as bait with much success; three good, lively, well-scoured marshworms, on a fine paternoster, are the best bait to use next to minnows. But what is to hinder "Piscator Minor" trying the sticklebacks? One on a paternoster, with worms on the other hooks, would make it more attractive by moving the worms about. As a rule, the tackle sold for perch fishing is far too coarse.—Ed.]

## A SUGGESTION TO ALMANACK MAKERS.

Sir,—Your correspondent writing under the above heading complains of the scanty and, in some cases, incorrect "Fishing" information given in many general almanacks. As he specially mentions *Whitaker's Almanack* in his strictures, will he allow me to point out that the *Supplement* of the latter work contains some useful "Fishing" articles,—viz., at pages 401 to 403, p. 406, and also pp. 430-431?

Perhaps your correspondent consulted the shilling (paper cover) edition, which does not contain the *Supplement*, that mass of valuable information being given only in the two-shilling bound edition.—I am, &c., F. G.

Colebrooke Row, N., Sept. 23.

## THE ANGLERS' ASSOCIATION.

Sir,—With reference to your report of the last meeting of this association, kindly allow me to state for myself that the charge of wilful discourtesy and delay insinuated is destitute of foundation. Their secretary's letter inviting me to attend a meeting on the 12th is dated the 10th inst., and was not received until the 11th, so that how a reply could have reached him earlier than it did I am at a loss to know.

I am wearying of replying to assertions resting on no better basis than the one complained of, and for the future shall cease to notice them.—I am, &c.,

September 25. T. Crumplen.

## A NOTE FROM NOTTINGHAM.

Sir,—Angling this week has been extremely good; one gentleman at the beginning of the week caught 20lb. of chub and a trout 2½lb. in the Donnington Park water. Lower down, another caught six barbel and some dace weighing 30lb., the largest barbel about 6lb. Another friend of mine got six barbel and seven eels. One of the members of our club caught a barbel 7¼lb. while dace fishing at Colwick Weir with a maggot. I saw another nice fish at the station on Saturday night 6lb. 3oz. caught in the Shardlow length; my sport being a nice dish of dace.—I am, &c., A. W.

## A NOTE FROM KENT.

Sir,—The fishing for the past fortnight, I might say, has been very unsatisfactory, no doubt owing to the thickness of the water through the recent heavy rains and the N. and N.E. winds. However, on Wednesday, the 17th, the wind changed to a more favourable quarter, and, the water much clearer, made appearances more inviting. That evening I landed a carp, after 10 minutes' fight, weighing 3lb. 8oz.; and on Thursday morning, between the hours of 6 and 9 a.m., I made a nice basket of seven bream, weighing 9lb.; and on Saturday, during the same period of time, 20lb. weight of bream and carp, most of the latter weighing between 2½lb. and 3½lb. each. Two of the largest I sent on to Maidstone to be stuffed, both fish weighing 3lb. 8oz. each.—I am, &c.,

The Limes, Wateringbury, Kent. F. C. C.

## FINNOCK, YELLOW FIN, AND SEA TROUT—A QUERY FROM ABERDEEN

Sir,—I enclose a question which was the subject of dispute among several of us the other night, and which I would be glad if you would kindly answer.—I am, &c.

Old Aberdeen. Alex. P. Jameson.

[Query: What is the relation between the yellow fin, the finnock, and the sea trout?

We do not think we can refer our correspondent in this matter to a better authority than his countryman, the late Thomas Tod Stoddart. Mr. S. went fully into the question, and discusses it at length in his "Angler's Rambles." This is what he says:—"That the finnock and the orange-fin smolt are of one and the same species—in fact, identical, does not admit, in my judgment, of being questioned .... The observations made at Nairn on the orange-fin smolt, the finnock, and the Salmo *albus*, or whitling (sea trout), have satisfied me fully on several points, as to which differences of opinion still prevail. I am convinced, first of all, that the orange-fin smolt is the produce of the Salmo albus (white or sea trout), and that the finnock stage is the intermediate one to the acquisition of its adult or fully-developed conformation." Our correspondent should get the loan of Stoddart's book, and read what he says on this subject. The sea trout or whitling of Scotland is identical with the white trout of the Irish rivers. We have caught them in both countries, and there is no difference whatever.—Ed.]

## ON STRIKING A SALMON,

Sir,—There was a slight misprint in my letter in the "F. G." last week about striking.

Instead of "The line tightly grasped between hand and *reel*," read "The line tightly grasped between hand and *rod*." Will you kindly have this correction noticed in your next edition?—I am, &c., John P. Traherne.

## ROACH IN THE SURREY CANAL, THE LONDON DOCKS, &c.

Sir,—You can see a fine case of roach taken from the Surrey Canal on July 12, 1883, at Mr. Bates's, tobacconist, High-street, Peckham. I have seen these roach.

The case contains seven really handsome fish, the largest 1lb. 4oz., a perfect beauty. They are on the same lines as Wandle roach, and if ever you have looked upon a roach from that river 1¾lb. you will remember it.

He told me, on the impulse of the moment, he foolishly gave away *several* larger than those in the case. The total weight was 12lb. These were taken at Trafalgar Bridge. I know some good roach have been taken *this season* between Trafalgar-road and the ice wells.

Two things are very necessary—judicious and careful ground-baiting, and fishing very early and very late. You must ground-bait. Many years ago I have had some splendid *gudgeon*, roach, and bream out of this water. I have seen fine gudgeon spawning in the clear places close to the side, but I believe they are very few and far between now.

A barge of bone oil down Hatcham way capsized, and slaughtered the cream of the fish. Thousands were picked up dead. I have seen some fine eels taken with fresh-water mussels. But even the eels had to succumb to the oil. You may not be aware, Sir, these mussels are very good eaten raw, with vinegar and pepper.

I have *seen* two navvies sit down and eat a dozen for breakfast. They said they were "elephant." Why not? I have found gentles from bream or any fresh-water fish are best for the hook, with very inferior gentles for ground-bait; those from the tanneries are in great request. A little light mould or sand is generally thrown in with them. Why use these gentles? Because they are brighter, whiter, and shine more than liver gentles, and this is an advantage in a water which is sometimes *rather* clouded.

I have seen it literally *covered* with dust on a very still day. If possible, go when there is a gentle ripple. It may interest J. P. Wheeldon, Esq., to know that the reason why the Directors of the Surrey Commercial Dock Co. stopped the day tickets was this: A poor man used to go nearly every day, and he used a line with a great number of hooks on it (in fact, a huge *trot*), and he caught so many he made a living by it; but one day, meeting with an accident amongst the timber, sued the Company, won the day, and they had to pay to the tune of £50. This settled the day-ticket business.

I need not say the fishing in the docks now is far superior to that in the canal; but, strange to say, I have been told that ships laid up for any length of time give the fish a strong *coppery* flavour. If so, do you think it would be dangerous to eat them, Mr. Editor? Many fine perch *have been* taken with shrimps in the docks.—I am, &c., Mark Antony.

Pike taking Tench.—A correspondent in the *Field* of Sept. 20 describes how he caught a pike of 13lb., in which he found a ¾lb. tench, partly digested. An angling friend of ours has often taken pike with small tench used as live-bait.

The Worm Wedge.—Some time ago, says *Forest and Stream*, there was a great outcry that the English anti-pigeon shooting agitation was the entering wedge which should ultimately disrupt the interests of sport and the general well-being of this country. We have not heard much about this lately, but there is now ample material for further alarm. In the Chicago *Criterion* of Aug. 25 the following note occurs: "The English Government has passed a law forbidding the use of angle worms as fish bait, so that the angle worm paragraph will be seen no more in English comic papers." An esteemed Michigan correspondent sends us the clipping, and anxiously inquires what it means. It may imply one of two things, either the British are sick and tired of the reiteration of that angle-worm joke, and are determined to suppress the funny man even at the expense of their favourite sport; or else it means that they have taken pity on the worm, and propose in the future to protect him from impalement on the barbed hook. There is good reason then for regarding this as another direful "wedge" against sport, and we shall await with interest to hear the howl go up again that our national institutions are endangered.—[The "politicians" (!) who have begun the sickly sentimental crusade against cruelty in our sports, will certainly have a go at the "angle worm" sooner or later, but even a worm will turn, and the British sportsman objects to this grandmotherly legislation, and will not stand much more of it.—Ed.]

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Mr. Alfred Mackrill took 110lb. weight of Bream at Walton on Sept. 22nd and 25th, 1884. He says the river is "literally paved with fish."

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### WALWORTH PISCATORIALS.

The conditions of the competition that takes place on the 28th are as follows:—That all members go to Tunbridge, and fish a pegged down match, with one rod and tight line; no ledgering allowed. Fishing to commence at 11 o'clock, and leave off at 6 o'clock. Messrs. Bayley and Bedford will act as the advance to peg-out swims. Train leaves London-bridge at 8 o'clock on the 28th inst. Friends wishing to see this competition to be there by that time. Fish exhibited during the week:—Mr. A. Brodie, from Tring, 12lb. 8oz. of roach; among them was one weighing 1lb. 8oz.; Mr. Delehaye, sen., had jack, roach, and dace, weighing 9lb. 4¾oz.; and Mr. Gilbert, from Datchet, 3lb. of roach.—Pixie, Sept. 25th.

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# RIVER REPORTS.

### TIME OF HIGH WATER IN THE THAMES.

To find the time of high water in the Thames at any of the following places, to the time of high water at London Bridge (given below).

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Add | 30 minutes for | Chelsea. |
| | 40 „ | Putney. |
| | 45 „ | Hammersmith. |
| | 50 „ | Barnes. |
| | 55 „ | Kew. |
| | 75 „ | Richmond. |
| | 80 „ | Twickenham. |
| | 85 „ | Teddington. |

Example:—If it is high water at 2 o'clock at London Bridge, it will be high water at Teddington about 3.25, or eighty-five minutes later; but it must be remembered that a strong wind accelerates or retards the tide very much.

For Times of High Water at London Bridge.

| | | Morning. | Afternoon. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Saturday, September 27 | ... ... | 6.23 | 6.49 |
| Sunday, „ 28 | ... ... | 7.15 | 7.48 |
| Monday, „ 29 | (M'mas Day) | 8.25 | 9.8 |
| Tuesday, „ 30 | ... ... | 9.52 | 10.29 |
| Wednesday, October 1 | ... ... | 11.5 | 11.37 |
| Thursday, „ 2 | ... ... | 12.0 | 12.4 |
| Friday, „ 3 | ... ... | 12.28 | 12.49 |

## THE LOWER THAMES.

### General Remarks.

The river in the tidal waters is excessively low when the tide is out. There is very little water, and the banks are a mass of mud and filth. One of the oldest fishermen in Twickenham is very desponding about it, and he does not believe the river there will ever get to its normal condition again. The fishing, however, is exceptionally good, and, as a matter of course, when the river is low it is time to get at the barbel. One of the local reports says: "The barbel are well on the feed, and very plentiful at Twickenham, which seems now to be the centre for them. I believe there has been more barbel caught at Richmond and Twickenham this season than there has been up and down the river Thames, and they give good sport too. Mr. A. J. Little, yesterday, in landing his six-pounder, played it just 45 minutes." As regards the number of barbel exceeding the quantity taken above the locks there may be some doubts. Mr. M. H. Blamey writes: "Yesterday, I caught 11 barbel at Halliday's Hole, Shepperton, all good fish. The three largest were weighed by Mr. W. Harris, of the Lincoln Arms Hotel, and weighed 17lb. net—not guess weight—the largest nearly 7lb. The swim I fished for four days the previous week produced over 120lb. weight of barbel." In the returns of trout fishing this last season, George Rosewell, of Shepperton, reports that in 29 days his clients caught 32 fish, weighing altogether 170lb. 8½oz.; the smallest fish was 2½lb., and the largest 13lb. 8oz. It will be seen in the Angling returns at Twickenham one of the anglers got 45lb. weight of fish, including five small barbel. Mr. Wright, of the White Swan Inn, at the river side, says it is extraordinary to see the number of fish brought in to be weighed, the quantities are so great.

### Angling Results.

**Richmond.**—Christopher Brown, in five days, 85lb. of roach and dace and four barbel; F. Brown, in the same time, 45lb. and three barbel; Henry Wheeler, in six days, 100lb. and eight barbel; Job Brain, in four days, 40lb. and 13 barbel; H. Howard, in six days, 74lb.; and Henry Mansell, during the week, 70lb. and six barbel.

**Twickenham.**—C. Miles, in one day and a half, fifteen dozen of roach and dace. H. Spiers, in five days, fifty-one dozen and five barbel. Edward Finch, in four days, forty-eight dozen. W. Spong, in seven days, forty-two dozen. C. Hennessey, in half a day, five dozen and one barbel. Joseph Dobbin, in five days, fifty dozen and five barbel. George Coxen, in seven days, 110lb. and twenty barbel. John Coxen, in two part days, with Mr. A. J. Little, twelve barbel (the largest 5lb. 15½oz.), ten were put back again; and, in three other days, fifty-three dozen and two barbel. Richard Coxen, in five days, seventy-eight dozen and eight barbel. Samuel Cole, in seven days, 120lb. and seven barbel. George Chamberlain, in four days, 80lb. Mr. Nichols, of Kingston, in fly-fishing one day, five and a half dozen of dace. John Spong, in one day, with Mr. Grey, of Brixton, 45lb. of fish, including a fine barbel; and, in five other days, forty-seven dozen.

**Teddington.**—Benjamin Stevens, in three days, 20lb. of good dace and eighteen barbel. J. Stevens, in five days, 24lb. of good roach and dace. Joseph Baldwin, in four days, 20lb. and four barbel; and Charles Baldwin, in three days, 32lb. of good fish and a brace of perch weighing 3lb.

**Kingston.**—John Johnson, senr., in four days, eighteen dozen of roach and dace, two barbel, five bream (the best 4½lb.), and three brace of perch. John Johnson, jun., in six days, twenty-seven barbel (the largest 4½lb.), including one day with Captain Scrivener, when he got twenty fish, eighteen and a half dozen of roach and dace, one jack of 4lb., and eleven perch. J. Wilks, in five days, twenty-three dozen of gudgeon, twelve dozen of roach and dace, six brace of perch, and a jack of 3½lb. Luke Francis, in two days, eight dozen of gudgeon, and three dozen of roach and dace. The bank anglers have, during the week, taken about thirty barbel and twenty bream, and some of the daily takes of roach and dace have been six dozen.

**Long Ditton and Thames Ditton.**—H. Buttery, in a little over two hours, three dozen of gudgeon; and Edward Tagg, in one day, fifteen dozen of gudgeon. The bank anglers have done well amongst the roach, dace, and gudgeon.

**Hampton Court.**—C. Stone, in two half-days, fourteen dozen of roach and dace. At "Tagg's Island Fishery" eleven barbel have been taken during the week, the best fish weighing 3lb., and twelve dozen of roach and dace. J. Langshaw. jun., at Hampton, in three days, thirty barbel, the best 4½lb., and six dozen of roach and dace.

**Sunbury.**—H. Clarke, jun., in one day, fifteen dozen of gudgeon, and three brace of perch; and Edward Clarke, jun., six dozen of roach and dace.

**Walton.**—George Hone, one day, siz dozen of roach and dace, and one barbel; another day, with Mr. Mackrill, twenty-four bream weighing 50lb., the two largest scaling together 10lb., and two perch of 1lb. each; another day, seven dozen of roach; and another day, two bream of 2lb. each. John Hone, in one day, twelve dozen of gudgeon and three brace of perch. R. Watford, one day, a jack of 4lb., three bream, one chub, and four dozen of roach and dace; another day, a jack of 4lb., four bream, a perch of 1lb., and four dozen of roach and dace; another day, five dozen of roach and dace, three bream, a chub of 2lb., and one barbel; another day, with Mr. Key, two bream weighing 11lb., six bream weighing 14lb., and an eel of 1lb.; another day, nine bream weighing 22lb., two barbel, and one perch; and another day, with Mr. Luker, two barbel and one perch.

**Halliford.**—W. Rosewell, in one day, sixteen dozen of gudgeon and six dozen of roach and dace; and another day, seven bream, one barbel, and four dozen of roach and dace. E. D. Rosewell, one day, eight dozen of roach and dace, two bream, and one perch; and anothey day, seven dozen and one perch. T. Strudwick, one day, two barbel, one bream, and four dozen of roach and dace; another day, three chub, four perch, and six dozen of gudgeon; and another day, about three dozen of roach and dace.

**Shepperton.**—H. Purdue, one day, a jack of 5lb., and three dozen of roach and dace; and another day, fifteen dozen of gudgeon, three brace of perch, and two dozen of roach and dace. W. House, one day, twelve dozen of roach and dace; another day, four dozen, three dozen of gudgeon, and one perch. David Hackett, one day, three jack and one brace of perch; another day, five dozen of gudgeon and two dozen of roach and dace. F. Poulter, in one day, one barbel, three perch, and two eels. James Haslett, one day, with Mr. Waterhouse, two chub, one barbel, and one perch; another day, in four hours, three chub and two barbel; and another day, with Mr. Waterhouse, in three hours, three barbel, one perch, and three chub.

**Weybridge.**—Herbert Curr, one day, four dozen of roach and dace, and four bream; another day, nine dozen; and another day, with Mr. Donovan, eight dozen.

**Chertsey.**—Colonel Poole, in one day, with J. Poulter, eight dozen of gudgeon and a couple of barbel.

**Staines.**—Charles Hone, one day, sixteen barbel; another day, nine barbel and two jack; another day, ten barbel; and another day, with Mr. Johnson, one brace of jack. E. Keene, during the week, thirteen barbel, the largest 6½lb., and 22lb. of roach and dace. John Keene, jun., one day, seventeen barbel; another day, thirteen barbel; another day, twenty-two barbel; and another day, twenty barbel. G. Osman, one day, fourteen dozen of roach and dace and one barbel; another day, one dozen and a couple of barbel; another day, six dozen; and another day, eight dozen of dace and two barbel.

## UPPER THAMES.

It seems to be "the same old game" on the river! The water is bright and low, and the fishermen down are one and all complaining of poor sport. Thousands of Notts lobs, Sir, have I put into three likely swims during the past week, and what has been the result of such luxuries at 5s. per thousand? Why, sir, one barbel 2lb., two chub going 3lb. together, and a few unmentionable sized perch. This was mentioned to me only a few days since by a rattling good angler. Under the, to me well-known circumstances, I could only commiserate and shed a tear with him over his luck and the bad trim of Father Thames. At Maidenhead and Cookham a few hauls of roach have been had by those who can get up early and stay at river side late into the dewy eve. Marlow visitors have been busy, but little worthy of record has been done. At Harley, Messrs. Parry and King, of the South Hornsey Club, London, on the 21st, got, under very adverse condition of water, a miscellaneous bag of roach, perch, and chub, going 6lb. The Medmenham and Henley waters have been yielding up any quantities of gudgeon, not intentionally gone out for, but fallen back upon in despair of catching other sogdollagers. Thursday evening. No wind, no rain, river bright, leaves falling, the possible result I leave to the judgment of better anglers than—Marlow Buzz.

## Thames (Datchet).

The water is still very low and much in want of rain, but the cold atmosphere seems to liven the fish up, as I hear there have been some fine barbel taken at Windsor. A passer-by saw James Gray finely in among the barbel, catching half a dozen in a short time, weighing 7lb. and 8lb. each. Mr. Bambridge, Eton, caught four this morning. All of them were caught with greaves, worms being very hard to get this dry weather. Nobody has tried the barbel in this neighbourhood for some time now. I long to see some of them come to grief. Roach bite very freely at paste in the evening.—G. Lumsden.

## Thames (Goring).

Water low and clear. Best day two jack and two dozen of perch, next best day four dozen of gudgeon and one dozen of perch.—John Rush.

## Thames Oxford.

On Thursday, at the Angling Society's competition, Mr. Cooper won the prize for roach with a specimen weighing 1lb. 2oz. On September 21st, Mr. Barnum, at Bablock Hythe, had a splendid perch measuring 19 inches. What the fish would have gone, I am unable to state, for, with unparalleled vandalism, it was cooked. I should say, if in good condition, it should have turned the scale at nearly 4lb. On Monday, in the canal, Mr. Corbett, whipping with gentles, took 7lb. of chub and roach, the largest fish going 2lb. 2oz. At Medley Weir, on the same day, Mr. Craddock, jun., requisitioned his papa's trolling tackle without previously asking permission, and caught a jack of 7½lb. At Sandford, on Friday and Tuesday, Messrs. Mallett and Haithwaite had 130 roach, and to-day, Mr. Geo. Whiting at Hinksey, grassed a jack of 6¼lb. I forgot to mention that a fine chub of 4½lb. was taken on Monday week, by Mr. Griffiths in Ferrey Hinksey stream. Variable winds, unsettled weather, and exceedingly low water have militated against any chance of successful sport, and I am strongly of opinion that until we have a fresh, the returns will remain poor. The takes during this week have been small and unsatisfactory; but they have one redeeming feature in point of size: what there are of them are a little beyond the usual average. The poaching brigade still continue cheerfully on their nefarious work, with a persistency worthy of a better cause. Reports of netting are rife on every side.—Cherwell Otter.

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## Ancholme District.

Some hundreds of anglers were out fishing on Monday, but the presence of thunder in the air on the previous day, and a greatly falling temperature, have somewhat affected the sport. Despite these effects some nice fish have been caught, consisting mainly of bream and roach, with here and there a small pike. The trout-fishing season, which closes this month, has been one of the worst on record. Personally, I have fished very little during the year, being quite indisposed to face the blazing sun and dwindled waters. We have not had one good perch all through the season. The introduction of salmonidæ in the fine waters of Sudbrooke Park is a great success. The middle and upper ponds are literally alive with fish.—Thomas Ford.

## Bure (Wroxham.)

Although sport at most places has been bad, it seems that several anglers here during the past week have had what may be considered exceptional luck. In one instance between three and four stone were killed by two rods, and in several other attempts one and a half to two stone have been safely brought to "boat." Still, ever since the cold wind set in, the fish have apparently gone off feed or shifted their quarters. I have a fancy that the higher one goes up stream just now the better chance he has of luck. The pike are striking about this evening, and we ought very soon to be amongst them. Prospects indifferent.—Robert Moll.

## The Churnet (Leek).

The river has improved in condition since last week, but sport has not been over brisk. A few trout have been taken with wasp grub and maggots. The season for trout-fishing in this district ends on Sept. 30th —Churnet Otter.

## The Dove.

Great numbers of anglers have been out on the banks of this stream since my last; but although the condition of the water has been very favourable for good sport, still the takes have, generally speaking, been rather small. The cause of this is no doubt attributable to the thunder that has prevailed, while a heavy shower on Monday caused the river to be filled to overflowing. A few good catches have, however, been effected with the minnow, above Ashbourne, and some heavy barbel have been captured near Uttoxeter, and a few miles lower down; the latter fish most successfully lured with the lobworm; and, in a few days, capital sport may be anticipated if the weather keeps fine, and the stream runs down to its normal height. The cleach net clique have been, and are still, very busy, great quantities of fish being on view at the principal hostelries in the vicinity of The Dove. In all probability, an action will be taken to prevent netting licenses in the Trent fishery district. If this by-law can be brought into vogue it will be a useful one, and will give great satisfaction.—The Splodger.

## Eden (Carlisle).

Things begin, at last, to look more like salmon-fishing. In place of warm, sunny weather, we have cold showers, and a strong west wind. We want 2ft. more water, and shall then have plenty of fish up. Just before the last of the nets, those in the Solway were taken off. On September 10th there was a good take of splendid fish, grand thick fellows, from 20 to 30lb. weight. We are all looking out our best and strongest tackle, ready for the October and November campaign. A letter from Major Traherne to Mr. Kelson, published in your last issue, is so entirely in conformity with my views, that I must say a few words upon it. In the first place, as to double hooks. I have heard them praised up to the skies on the Tweed, and seen much written in their favour in your columns. But, after using them at intervals for the last 20 years, I have quite come to the conclusion that one loses more fish with them than with the single hook. They have certainly two advantages over the single hook—namely, that they sink deeper, and present the fly to the fish in a more upright position, and I don't object to them for the smaller-sized flies; but for a full-sized fly give me a single hook. As to striking a salmon under ordinary circumstances, Major Traherne is right, "one hundred pounds to a cherry-stone." I have seen scores of fish lost from nothing but jerking the hook from between their lips; but if a man will only do as the Major says, "keep the rod in the same position as before the fish rose, without any jerk or strike, he will soon let you know if he is hooked, and need only tighten the line." The large majority of Eden anglers believe firmly in this plan; but there are about four that I know of, who persist in striking the moment they see or feel anything, and the fish they bag can be much more easily counted than those they lose, or rather those they miss. It is no uncommon thing to hear of one of them losing four four or five in a day, and not bringing one to bank. The cruel rejoinder of their mates is often, "It is a wonder you ever catch a fish at all. You won't let them have it, however keen they are." What grand patterns of salmon-flies the Major has given us in the Gazette!—Silver Grey.

## Ilfracombe.

Sea fishing.—This week all hands busy preparing for the herring fishing, which will commence in a week or two. There have been a few good catches of conger, whiting pout, &c., and this week has seen a new departure in the way of fishing here—a small steam yacht having been trawling the harbour and bays around the coast with a small trawl, and with good results, as they have had some nice hauls of soles, plaice, and skate from the rocks and jetty. A few fish have been taken with rod and hair lines. Weather fine.—E. Comer.

## Lodden.

Sport during the past week has been first rate, although I have been too unwell to enjoy much of it myself. At any rate, I have managed to get an hour among the large ones, which I thought would have stopped my writing you, as our post leaves so very early; but as they were well on the feed I left off fishing, so that you might get this in time for the Gazette. Perch and chub to any amount, averaging 1lb. each, creels full, and plenty to spare, fishing with worms and new bread. Strange to say, we have not hooked a trout, because, as a rule, we generally return several during the day when fishing with the worm. The weather is exceedingly warm, and the water bright and low.—Frank Gosden.

## Leicester.

The weather remains of a very open character and favourable for angling pursuits. That interest in this class of sport is on the increase is shown by the large number of anglers who still continue to visit the waters in the neighbourhood daily. The best fishing this week has been had among the roach; good baskets and large fish being the rule at the Aylestone preserves, which have provided abundant sport for anglers throughout the summer. Winter fishing prospects are exceedingly bright, and at the last-mentioned preserves there are great quantities of fine chub in the waters. Lately pike fishing has been more indulged in than has been the case for some time past, and several good sized fish have been landed trolling. Subscribers at Narborough continue to obtain satisfactory sport at this spot, and a few Leicester anglers have been out bream fishing to distant resorts; but with what results I have not yet heard. The weather on Thursday was fine, but cold, and waters clear.—Alert.

## Lugg and Arrow (Leominster).

There is but little alteration in the state of either of these streams, they both remaining in splendid order for either the fly or bottom fishing. They have been visited freely by the anglers this week, and good sport has been had with the green insect, blue dun, and pale blue. Some good grayling have been taken with the wasp grub. On Friday a gentleman took a splendid lot of fine trout from the Arrow with the fly. In the Eardisland waters some nice trout were taken with the blue dun, averaging 10oz. each. The Lugg was tried the same day and a capital lot of fine grayling were landed by a gent with the green insect and pale blue. In the Kingsland waters some fine trout have been taken with the wasp grub, and good sized grayling have been landed with the fly. A gentleman on Saturday tried the water near Ivington with the blue dun and took a nice dish of fine grayling and trout. A few good trout were taken in the Bodenham waters with the wasp grub. Capital sport was had in the Lugg near to Aymestry on Monday; a gentleman fishing with the pale blue and blue dun took a dish of 6lb. of fine grayling and trout. At Ford's Bridge some good grayling were landed with the wasp grub. In the Arrow near Stanton some fine fish were taken with the pale blue and green insect. On Tuesday a good basket of fine grayling were taken from the Arrow by a gent who was fishing with the wasp grub. A nice dish of trout were caught in the Lugg with the blue dun the same day. Some very good fish have been taken in the Monkland waters this week. The Pinsley is in capital fishing order, the fish are sporting; a nice dish of trout was taken on Monday with the wasp grub.—Gwynne.

## Medway (Tunbridge).

The water has cleared down nicely, and, during the week there have been some good takes amongst the bream and roach, but the weather has hardly been cold enough for the pike to bite nicely. On Tuesday Mr. E. Greenwood and a friend, fishing below the town, took no less than 194 roach, none of them under 5oz., while less bags have been made all over the fishery. The river was never in better condition for fishing than at the present time.—Ye Medway Water Rat.

## Nene (Northampton).

During the past week lovers of sport have been well rewarded. F. Wright, a member of the Nene Angling Club, killed two brace of pike on Saturday, and on

Monday landed five brace more in good condition, the largest scaling 8lb. On Saturday about thirty members of the Northampton Working Angling Club competed for their first series of prizes this season; but the water selected proved almost blank, the mills not being at work, G. Dunkley taking highest honours; T. Love, second; A. Warries, third; W. Brown, fourth; Bill Singlehurst, fifth. Large numbers have been fishing the canals in this district, and some nice bags have been taken by F. Loe and G. Johnson, A. Harmer, C. Tomlin, A. Adams, some splendid roach being shown at the club house, W. Rigby, Half Moon, Bridge-street.—T. F.

### The Ouse (Huntingdon).

Fishing has been very quiet; nothing of great importance has been done among the roach. On the 22nd 5lb. 3oz. was taken by one gentleman, but nothing more concerning the roach has come to my notice. On the 21st two anglers were out bream-fishing, and took 41lb., the largest going 2lb. 11¼oz. I was out on the 24th trying the jack, but they are not on; but I have no doubt but they will be very shortly, for the weather has changed for the better. One about 3lb. was taken by John Goodliff, who, as well as I, was searching all we could to find them; but the wind was very rough: it was a great difficulty to place the boat, so we had to give it up; but should the weather continue a little longer and a little colder it will be a better chance than now.—H. Rout.

### Pickering.

Angling has been uncommonly bad lately about here; many streams are simply a chain of water holes with a dribble between. A few light showers have fallen, but never sufficient to cleanse out or colour the streams. The best basket we have heard of for some time was fifteen grayling and three trout, taken in a private water; and also another of four grayling, weighing 6lb. 5oz. The Yorkshire Esk is in the same plight—viz., a chain of water holes. The trout fishing on this river has been rather better than usual, especially so at the lower end. A good many grilse and sea trout got up while the 12th of August flood lasted; but so far only some eight or nine have been taken by the rod. There seems to be a pretty general feeling amongst the rod licensees that the rod season should be extended till the 15th November, as in the Yorkshire fishery district, and we cannot but think it would be of advantage to the river to get a few more of the bull trout killed each year, as they are a late-running fish, and at present the bulk come after the 1st November.—North-East.

### Severn and Stour (Kidderminster).

Since my last report, there have been several spates both in the Severn and Stour. Some of ours (United Brothers) have taken the advantage offered to them, and some good takes have been the result. F. Millington (the winner of the cup in our last contest) has taken 22lb. of roach from the Stour. John Goode, though failing in taking a prize in our last contest, took 18lb. of roach and dace from the Severn. I myself have had some good dishes of fish from the Stour; other members have done fairly well this week, baits being maggots and paste, it being too early for the worm generally, though the tail end of half-grown lob-worm will be successful when there is a flush on the river. This is my opinion, though other anglers may differ from my views. I have been very successful with tail end of lob-worm, when you could see the bait to the depth of a foot or foot and a half; fish under the bank as it were, and hold back in any place where the water reverts from the bank and forms an eddy; depth about 3ft. to 4ft., but the angler must be guided by the season. A sandy bottom preferred; ground baited sparingly with crumbs of bread if fishing for roach. Our annual dinner comes off this evening. I shall report progress accordingly.—E. Earp, hon. sec.

### The Shannon (Castleconnel).

The following fish were landed during the week:—Mr. Henry Hodges, on his Doonass Fishery, on the 20th inst., two peal, 4lb. and 6lb., and on the 22nd inst. he got a fine salmon weighing 44lb. 9oz.; Major Beadnell, R.A., on Mr. E. T. Ingham's fishery, on the 22nd inst., one peal, 6lb.; Captain Newbigging, on the 23rd inst., got on some waters a peal, 6lb.; Mr. Norris Russell, Plassey, on Hermitage, on the 22nd inst., got two peal, 5lb. and 6lb.; Sir T. C. Troubridge, Bart., and Mr. E. S. St. Aubyn, both of the King's Royal Rifles, who have been engaged on prospect and landscape during the week, hooked upwards of a dozen fish, but did not succeed in landing. Trout fishing has been fairly good, and some nice baskets have been made. The river is yet very low, and as long as it remains so sport will not be the best.—John Enright and Son.

### The Suir and its Tributaries.

The largest salmon taken this season in this district fell to a rod in the upper waters, where, at Ardmayle, Michael Mahir killed one 40lb. in March. The next in size was taken by the nets at Ballydine, 38lb., a week after. A great many large fish up to 28lb. were taken during the first three months of the season by both rods and nets; but the greatest number of big ones fell to the rods, for the water was so high during the first month (February) that the nets could hardly work, and the most of the first run, which contains the largest fish, escaped to the upper waters. The season up to the middle of April promised to be an exceptionally good one; but it proved the very reverse, for with April the season practically ended. Since then the water was so extremely low that fishing by either rod or net was impossible, and there was only an odd one taken now and then, perhaps a dozen or two in all; in fact, it was the worst season we have had for a great many years, and the same may be said with regard to all Ireland. The trout fishing was somewhat similar to the salmon; the only difference was that during the hot summer and up to three or four weeks ago, there was a good rise in the evening, and at present there is fishing all day in both river and stream. The best way to fish the river is out of a cot, for near the banks it is all weeds and slime, and it is very hard to land a trout, evening if you succeeded in hooking one. The spring flies are on again, and any angler at a loss to know what to fish with has only to remember those that were taking in March and April last, and he will be all right. The only thing we want to know now is a flood to make a good wind up to a season, which closes on the Suir the 16th October.—Dora, Clonmel, September 24th.

### The Tay and its Tributaries.

The weather during the past month has been greatly in favour of anglers, and several good baskets of trout have been obtained. In the Tay, the water is running very low, and while fish are reported to be very plentiful in the lower waters, in the upper part of the river they are scarcely so numerous. There are a large number of anglers in the district, and the following are a few of the captures:—Fishing on the Stobhall water, on the 6th inst., Mr. Field and party killed three grilse and two salmon, all in good condition. The Lower Cargill water yielded two grilse to Mr. Alsopp, on the 8th inst., while he lost several beautiful fish. On the 9th inst., Mr. Powell, Eastwood Dunkeld, had a salmon and a grilse on the Upper Cargill water; and on the same day, Mr. Field and Mr. Alsopp captured three grilse and three nice salmon on the Stobhall. On the 13th inst., Mr. Field and Captain Morris had a salmon and three grilse on Upper Cargill water; and on the 15th inst., Mr. Glanvill had a salmon and a grilse on Lower Cargill. On the 22nd inst., Mr. Naylor, Leeds, who has been fishing the Stanley water for some time along with Colonel Stewart Sandeman, of Stanley House, killed a salmon weighing 20lb., casting at "Lucknow." Average sport has been obtained in this part of the river since the nets have been taken off. The Honourable Mr. Liddle had two fish on Taymount water on Monday, and on the following day Mr. Murray had a beauty of 35lb. Thistle Bridge water yielded four nice fish to Mr. Kilsall on Tuesday. Fishing in the river below Perth on Saturday, Captain Morris had a nice fish of 10½lb. On the Lower waters on Monday Mr. W. G. Ramsay had a beautiful grilse of 11lb., Mr. Campbell had one of 10lb., while three other beauties were procured by Mr. Gilbraith from the bank. Loch Rannoch is in good ply for fishing, and large takes are being procured by anglers staying at the Bun Rannoch Hotel. The average catch of each angler is about 10lb. daily. Mr. G. Shaw, London, and Mr. P. St. Quintin, London, are procuring large baskets daily. A ferox of 6lb. was captured on Friday by Miss Adell Hay.

### Teme (Ludlow).

The streams are again showing signs of getting low, especially the tributaries. The Onibury waters show signs of being the first to go down. Notwithstanding this, the fishing in the district has been good, and good baskets have been made. In a meadow opposite the Clive Almshouses, near the new bridge, a fisherman named Smith was trolling in the Teme on Saturday night, when he, with difficulty, landed a fine pike, which weighed 9½lb. This clearly shows that pike are to be found in this district. A couple of fine pike have been seen daily between the new bridge and "Dodd's" orchard. The Leintwardine portion of the Teme has come in for a small portion of the angler's attention this season. In the Steventon quarter average catches have fallen to the lot of the angler, nothing especial having occurred in the piscatorial line in this particular quarter. In the Oakley Park quarter of the Teme some fine trout and grayling have been landed daily both with the fly and the wasp grub. The best flies this week have been the blue dun, pale blue, and silver grey. We saw about a dozen grand grayling caught with the silver grey in the Park district on Monday evening. They were about ¾lb. each. Going along by the Onibury waters as far as Whettleton we found the stream very low, in some parts barely covering the bottom of the river, yet in the deep portions of the stream good fish have been caught during the week with the gentle. The fish have bitten pretty freely in the Corve, and fishermen have been lucky. The wasp grub has secured a number of fish in the Felton waters. There has not been much going on in the River Clun; a few rods have been at work with fair success. There has not been anything worth mentioning going on in the Ledwyche.—S. Ludlow.

### Teme (Tenbury).

This stream is still in good fishing order, the heavy downpour of rain which has been had in this district at the beginning of the week has slightly coloured the water, which has slowly begun to rise again. The fish are sporting freely at the fly, and are biting well at the maggot; and some good dishes have been taken with the blue dun, hare's-ear dun, and silver grey, which are the best flies on at present. Several good lots of eels have been taken with the worm. Some very good fish have been taken in the association waters this week with the fly. In the water near the town, on Friday, some very good fish were taken by a gentleman who was fishing with the blue dun. A gentleman tried the Eastham district with the green insect, and took four trout and three grayling, all in good condition. Good fishing has been had in the waters near to Easton Court. A gentleman who was visiting this part, with the silver grey and hare's-ear dun, landed a dish of fine trout and greyling, averaging 8oz. each. On Saturday a good lot of grayling were taken by a gentleman in the water near Berington Court, with the blue dun. A few very nice fish have been taken in the water near Burford with the fly. Some capital sport was had in the Rochford waters on Monday. A gentleman, fishing with the willow and blue dun, caught a splendid basket of fine trout and grayling, weighing 7lb. the lot. The water was tried near Corn Brook on Tuesday, and some fine grayling were taken with the fly. A nice lot of trout were taken in the water below the bridge, with the hare's-ear dun. The Kyre, Ledwyche, and Rea are all in good fishing order; but low. The fish are rising well at the fly. Fishing has been very slow in the Ledwyche. Good trout have been taken from the Kyre and Rea this week with the fly—Worcester.

### Torcross Ley (Kingsbridge, S. Devon).

Water here in rare condition and fish taking well. Mr. Ash had 32 runs in three days, landing 23 pike "spinning," the two largest weighing 8½lb. and 12½lb.; Mr. Goodfellow caught 365 perch in two days, one over 1lb. 10oz. Arrangements have been made to meet the 9 a.m. train from Paddington and Waterloo every day at Dartmouth. I can strongly advise anyone in search of health and good sport to have a look in at this Ley Railway journey, somewhat long, but the charming scenery, mildness of "the air and hotel charges," amply repay one for all trouble. —Joseph Balking.

### Trent (Alrewas).

River still keeps in fine condition for all sorts of fishing. During the past week some fine grayling have been landed, one member of the association taking four weighing 3¾lb. Several very fine specimens of roach have been exhibited at the Paul Pry Inn, many of them over 1lb. each. A brace of nice trout have been landed during the past week, but were carefully returned to the water. The millon fly and the bumble are, at the present time, the most killing for grayling.

### Trent (Newark).

We had a very remarkable hailstorm here last Sunday morning, the hailstones in this particular instance were lumps of ice as big as large hazel nuts, and some of them, indeed, were as big as small walnuts, and the way they peppered down at Winthorp was something to remember. The river rose on Tuesday a couple of feet, with a nice colour on it. To-day it has gone down a lot, and is not in bad condition for all sorts of bottom fishing with gentles and worms. A nice lot or two of dace have been killed this last day or two, and a few roach and bream have fallen victims to the tail end of lob. Sport should be a litte better now since the alteration in the water.—The Trent Otter.

### The Trent (Nottingham).

On Monday there was a rise of nearly 18in. in this district, but the water being thickly charged with colour, very few fish were caught. On Tuesday, the colour had improved, and some very nice bream and roach were taken at Sawley with the worm. On the following day, your contributor visited one of the celebrated upper reaches, and took with the worm upwards of 30lb. of chub, dace, roach, and perch. The largest chub weighed 4lb. 2oz., and the biggest dace 9¾oz. Barbel fishing is rapidly drawing to a close for the present season, which undoubtedly has been one of the worst on record, the reason of the failure being due to the low state of the river, combined with the vast accumulations of flannel weed. Some heavy bream were killed in the Weston length with the cockspur worm on Thursday, and one of the subscribers got with the maggot three or four prime chub.—The Man at the Clubs.

### Weldon Bridge.

River in good trim for fly, fair baskets have been caught this week with the oak and yellow body. Mr. Oliver 6lb. basket, best trout 1¼lb., on Monday; other good baskets yesterday; not many salmon up yet.—F. Brown.

### Wye and Derwent.

There was a very great quantity of heavy thunder-rain fell the beginning of the week, up in the woodlands, which was the cause of the Derwent having a beautiful porter coloured water on it the whole of the past week. Both trout and grayling and coarse fish have been feeding nicely at the bottom at wasp grubs, gentles, and small brandling worms, and baskets from four to 10 brace per angler have been made on various parts of the Derwent. There have also been several nice light trout killed by trolling with the artificial Derby trout killer. The fly-fishers, both on the Wye and Derwent, have done much better since the rain has fallen, and baskets up to nine and a-half brace per angler have been made. The killing flies have been bumbles, ash dun, red, and lean flies. Fly-fishing prospects are looking well for next week.—Geo. Jas. Eaton.

### The Yare (Norwich).

I am sorry to say that nothing of any importance has been done at any of the stations on this stream. Since the cold wind, ill luck has attended all efforts to tempt the fish; I cannot meet with anyone who can explain the cause of the sudden change from good catches to bad, but I have an idea that the fish are up stream, and would advise those who are bent on trying to go to Surlingham, or even higher reaches, where they will now find the fish. Jack fishing ought now to be commenced in earnest on this stream; they are feeding at certain hours, as can be witnessed, The weather is beautifully fine, but the last few days' experience does not say much for the prospects.—ROBERT MOLL.

### Yorė (Hawes).

We had a fresh on Wednesday last, when I managed to take a couple of brace of trout. I was much disappointed at their condition; they were badly fed and very backward, in my opinion, towards spawning. Owing to the long drought, hundreds of runners have been totally depopulated through the drying-up of the springs. In some of the small becks the fish are in a fearfully emaciated condition, being something like a finger in shape, and awfully blue in colour. I hear of thirty-eight having been taken out of one hole in Snaizeholme Beck. The season is nearly at a close, and it is generally spoken of as the worst experienced for many years. Grayling appear to be pretty numerous. I noticed several grayling a few weeks ago fearfully spotted with the fungoid disease. One was a fine fellow of over 2lb. and his back was a mass of white scabs. I have also heard of several having been picked up dead in different parts of the river, but I have no doubt, as the fish come into season they will recover. Change of feed and the necessary floods will, in my opinion, tend greatly to their recovery.—JOS. CORRY.

## ROACH FISHING.

IN many works on angling excellent instructions in roach fishing are given, and in Mr. Greville Fennell's "Book of the Roach," this favourite fish has a work all to himself, and an invaluable little work it is, too.[*] In the present instance we propose to give our roach angling friends some extracts from a little book published thirty years ago, and now scarce, entitled, "The Angler's Guide," written by an enthusiastic and skilful Lea angler, the Rev. James Martin :—

### THE ROD.

It certainly requires a good deal of adaptation, care, and skill to be a good roach angler. To fish for roach well, you should have a rod that is made expressly for the purpose, and it should be kept for roach and other light fishing only. It should be made of cane, or very light bamboo, length about 14ft., the whole not weighing many ounces. When put together it should be nearly as straight as one joint, and so constructed that it shall be very stiff, and yet very pliable. The superiority of such a rod over one of another kind will be seen in many respects. First, it will be very light in the hand, and with it you will be able to strike your fish with the greatest quickness and precision; secondly, when you strike it will not break your hair line, as a heavy one would be likely to do; and, thirdly, when you have hooked your fish it will so give to his pulling that your line will not break, though it should be a roach of the greatest weight they run.

### THE LINE.

Your line should always be single hair, of sorrel or white colour (we prefer the former), and should be very fine at the bottom, especially the piece on which the hook is tied, which should be also perfectly straight, round, and transparent, so that the water shall not bead on it, for if it does the fish will not touch it. The top length, on which is your float, should be the coarsest and strongest, so that if you break you may not lose your float, and also to give your line a proper throw and play on the water. Upon the top of your line should be looped about 8 inches of double thread, with which to loop it to your rod. By adopting this plan you will be able to throw your line out and to strike your fish much better than you would if your hair were looped to your rod. Let the shots on your line be small and close together, about 18 inches from the hook, with only one about 6 inches from the hook, which will make it hang in proper trim. Gut is now made expressly for roach fishing, as fine and as round as hair; but we still give the preference to hair, notwithstanding. Still, you might use such gut for very heavy roach.[†]

### THE HOOK.

You must never use the common Kirby hooks for roach fishing, for you may be sure you will not catch many with them; they are too thick and clumsy, and have too much show about them. It must be the hook made expressly for roach, which is of very fine wire, and lays hold more quickly and surely, and if tied on neatly is scarcely seen at all. And be sure they are not too long in the shank, for if they are it is a great objection; yet they must not be too short, for in that case they will not hold the fish after you have hooked it. Never use, even of this kind of hook, too large a size, in particular if the water be fine, for we have always found they take the small one more freely. No. 11 is, in our opinion, the best, unless they happen to be very strong on the feed, or it is almost dark. If you just prick your fish and lose them, you may be sure that your hook is blunt, in which case you should have a small piece of black stone always with you, and with it the point of your hook should be sharpened, or a fresh one put on. Sometimes you will find that your hook gets turned on the hair and hangs very improperly, the hair being on the outside of the shank, or on the side of it, instead of being inside. When it is so always put on a fresh one, or you will lose above half the fish you hook before you bring them to hand, for a hook hanging thus will not hold the fish securely.

### THE FLOAT.

The best floats for roach fishing are those made of swan's quills, which are now manufactured in great perfection (the London patent taper quill). The size of your float should vary according to the depth of the water in which you are fishing. If the water be 10 or 12ft. deep you will require a float that takes a good number of shots, or your bait will be too long in sinking to the bottom; and, besides this, the longer your line is the more shots are necessary to keep it in proper trim, and the water being deep, a large float will not be objectionable on the top of the water. But never use a large float and a large number of shots in 4 or 5ft. of water, for if you do you will be sure not to take many roach. I have seen scores of instances of it. I always use a float as small as I can conveniently, and I always find that it answers best; and it will be seen at a glance that it must be so, because the appearances in the water are the finer. Let your float be so shotted that, when it is in the water, only about a ¼in. is seen, for if there be much of it out of the water you will not be able to see the bite so well. I always use a float that is rather thick at the top, and have my cap to fit ⅜ths of an inch from the tip, so that when it is in the water the cap just catches the water. I always bind a little waxed silk on my cap also, to make it thick, which causes it to rest on the water more steadily. By adopting these methods you will be able to see the finest bite possible, which is very important in roach fishing.

### THE BAIT.

Roach at different seasons of the year, and in different waters, will take various kinds of baits—worms, gentles, grubs, blood-worms,[*] may all be used, if anglers feel disposed to use them; but for our own part we never use anything but paste. In the Lea, in the spring, sometimes blood-worms may be used with advantage, and in the summer, gentles; but even then we always prefer paste. We should not, indeed, consider we were roach fishing if we were not using paste. To make it really good, the bread must be the best, about one day old, not more nor less; be particular in that respect, for if it be too new your paste will be too sticky, and not white, and if it be too stale it will be too loose to hold on the hook. When at the waterside—and not till then, for it spoils in a short time—take a piece out of the middle of the loaf in a square shape, about as big as a large walnut, dip it into the water, and take it out again as quickly as possible, and as quickly squeeze all the water out of it, or it will become too wet and never mix well. Having done that, put it into the palm of your left hand, and work it up with the thumb and finger of your right until it is quite solid, smooth, and white. It will then be fit for the hook, and should be kept from the action of the air, for that turns its colour,[†] and to prevent that put it into a small piece of clean white rag, and put it into the left-hand waistcoat pocket, from whence we take it piece by piece as we want it. If you fish some hours, and you find that it has become discoloured, make a fresh piece by all means, or your finny company will fall out with you. Be sure that your hands are perfectly clean when you make it, or it will all be spoiled. The piece you put on the hook should be about the size of a white pea, and as round, and should be so placed on the hook that the point should be just at the outside of the round. Be particular in that, or you will run a chance of not hooking your fish, especially if your paste be too stiff.

*(To be continued.)*

## UNITED BROTHERS, DEPTFORD.

Our members were out on the 21st, and had some fine sport. Mr. W. Tyler, 33lb. 7½oz. of bream from the Medway; J. Payne, 4lb. 7½oz. of bream from the Medway; G. Belton, 3lb. 13¾oz. of roach from the Medway; J. Currant, some roach from the Medway. The members of the above society fished a pegged down match on the 7th, but rather poor sport. Mr. J. Divers, first prize; Mr. H. Muggeridge, second prize; Mr. R. Lawes, third prize; Mr. T. Beak, fourth prize; Mr. G. Belton, fifth prize; Mr. J. Currant, sixth prize. Other members also had fish. Our members will fish a jack and perch fishing match on the 5th of October in the Medway.—H. T., Sept. 23.

## USK FISHING.

SANGUINE of spirit, light of heart.
The sportsman goes to try his art;
As Phœbus rose, the gaudy fly
Soon attracted a salmon's eye;
It moved its tail, went quickly on,
To seize the lure, so gently thrown;
Nearer it came, and on its rise,
Felt a sharp prick, "what a surprise."
Up went the rod; off went the fish,
That day it ne'er would go on dish.
The angler's heart was beating hard,
The loss, though great, must be endured.
Good luck next time may be his fate,
But work he must, and ne'er abate;
More sportsmen fish, eager as he,
Some are as good, some better be.
To get a "pool" 'tis often hard,
To fish ere eight you are debarred.
Two at a catch cry "head or tail,"
One wins, the other gives "leg bail";
"Rods" are many, he must be quick,
If fish he would, or "cut his stick."
Try he can behind another
A few yards, but 'tis a bother;
Though law it is, none do so here,
Who will from Usk had best keep clear.
Anglers come from other places,
Affect airs, and make grimaces;
"Would not start" early, "do not mind,"
Some "other rods" to fish behind.
Ere long however, like the rest,
They follow suit, and try their best;
Finding, if they do not do so,
They're left alone, like poor Crusoe.
Off rushes one, to "whip the Rock,"
He's right, of fish there is a stock;
Next starts one, to try "the Binding,"
But "bolts," another there finding;
The General likes "Coed-y-Prior,"
There staunch is, as Holy Friar;
Colonel Rocke goes out rather late,
But catches fish, at any rate;
Major Traherne, as good as he,
Takes fish each day, one, two, or three;
The gallant General Mignon,
Ties good flies in my opinion;
Colonel Marsland was seldom seen—
Good sportsman he, and very keen;
His brother John, for some reason,
Was little here in the season;
Pride was elate, after a "spate,"
Six fish he caught, of heavy weight;
Ridley, who one day fished "the Crows,"
Caught seven, everybody knows;
G——n one day did a wonder,
Further south he made a blunder;
Parson A. D., a little lame,
Toiled away nearly all the same;
A good "rod," the Rev. Mogg,
Did well unless there was a fog;
The Rev. Steward, good and stout
Was seldom here, but pulled fish out;
The oldest sportsman of the lot,
A. Williams, lives upon the spot;
Wrightson, who throws a very long line,
Took fish at the "Store Pot" and "Sign"
Kekewich, Q. C., to Newbridge went,
And there some pleasant days he spent;
Mr. C——y, of "ring" renown,
To the same neighbourhood ran down;
Old Doctor Pugh, who many know,
Tried his best fly, but it would'nt do;
Poor Mr. Wood, blind in both eyes,
To catch fish with energy tries;
The one-armed Major good fish took
With his short stump and iron hook;
One day casting for a peel,
With "Jock o' Scot" he caught an eel.
Brief time had some, to fish so hard,
Amongst them is Stafford Gustard;
Cole, Seymour, Browne, who fished here,
Will come, I hope, another year.
More men there were, I did not see,
Good fellows, too, as all agree;
All their names I can't remember,
As some left before September.
The "Three Salmons" I recommend,
An inn where much you need not spend.
Be not annoyed, my angling friend,
Or an apology I'll send.
And now, kind reader, I conclude,
On going to partake of food;
But ere I do so, I must say,
"May we all meet another day."
—"SQUIB" (a member of the
Usk Fishing Association).

REPORT OF THE TRENT FISHERY DISTRICT FOR THE YEAR 1884.—The Conservators of the Trent are arranging to supply their Annual Report in such a manner that anglers, on taking out their trout licenses in February, 1885, can buy copies for 3d. each at the local distributors of Trout Licenses of the 1884 Report. It is believed that this will meet with the approval of the public interested. Hitherto it has been found impossible, without incurring great expense, to distribute the reports in any quantity. As the Conservators issue printed forms of inquiry as to the season, pollution, poaching, &c., the last week in September to all their license agents, anglers will greatly oblige them if they will give their local agent for trout licenses the benefit of their season's experience as to quality and stock of fish.

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[*] The "Book of the Roach" is published by Sampson Low, Marston, and Co., 188, Fleet-street, London, who will send it, post-free, on receipt of 2s. in stamps.

[†] We have often tried hair against drawn gut, but could never find any advantage if the gut is good and very fine. It is an immense advantage to use gut if there are tench, bream, or carp in the water, as they often take the roach bait. A correspondent some little time back described an excellent plan for fishing with a tight line, and yet with a winch line—you simply tie a bit of match on the line, and then wind up to it so that it rests against the top ring. You fix it at the proper length for the strike, of course.—ED.

[*] The blood-worm is the larva of a fly of the Daddy-Long-Legs species. It can be bought at most of the bird and fish shops in Seven Dials, which get their supplies from the Regent's Canal or the Thames. Three or four tied together with a bit of red silk, and the hook passed through the silk make a deadly bait for roach.—ED.

[†] "King's Natural Bait for Roach" makes a beautifully white tenacious paste. We always prefer to use it with plain bread paste in equal proportions, and have had capital sport with it, especially in the Colne.—ED.

# CLUB REPORTS.

### ANCHOR AND HOPE ANGLING SOCIETY.

About thirty members of the above Society competed for five prizes on the 21st inst., roving in a distance (in the Medway), the following being the successful competitors :—Mr. Gardner, first ; Messrs. H. Scott and Dipple, dead heat for second and third ; Mr. Powell, fourth ; and Mr. West, fifth. The following members also had fish :—Messrs. J. Bowling, T. Bowling, H. Klein, Shortcliffe, D. Davis, and Roker.—D. Davis, sec.

### BROMPTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The shows during the last fortnight have not been very grand. The principal contributors were Mr. E. Saunders, with some fine carp (weighing 6lb. and 7lb. each) ; Mr. C. Brown, roach and jack ; Mr. Schlothauer, some good roach ; Messrs. Ducker and Roach, chub ; and Messrs. Burbidge, C. Saunders, Dutton, and Stembridge bream and roach.—W. Dutton, sec.

### CAMBRIDGE FRIENDLY ANGLING SOCIETY.

On the 24th inst. Mr. Edwards had a very nice show of fish, consisting of chub, roach, dace, perch, rudd, and tench, weighing 25lb. 7¼oz. ; one dace, 11¼oz. ; one chub, 2lb. 4½oz. ; one tench, 1lb. 13oz. ; one rudd, 1lb. 13½oz. ; and one perch, 1lb. Mr. Colson also had some nice chub, roach, and dace—one chub, 3lb. ¼oz.—W. S.

### THE CAVENDISH ANGLING SOCIETY.

*To the Editor of the* Fishing Gazette.

Sir,—Your correspondents' (Messrs. Reaves and Blackman's) letter, which appeared in your issue of the 13th inst., is, in several particulars, correct. Respecting the general meeting mentioned therein, it was called by a resolution unanimously carried (in the presence of Messrs. R. and B.), which dispensed with the necessity of a requisition signed by five members ; had Mr. Reaves then stated that the time was insufficient for him to obtain his witnesses, further time would undoubtedly have been given him, therefore his frivolous protest on the 14th August was not accepted, neither would they have liked it to have been, considering that three members of the Queen's A. S. were in waiting as witnesses. With reference to our refusing to hear the evidence of a witness that fished with Mr. Blackman on the 13th July, I only need say that no charge was preferred against him for that date ; it could not therefore have prejudiced his case.

Mr. Reaves stated that he took home all fish which he caught on the 20th July. If such was the case, surely he could have brought someone from his household to vouch for it. Mr. Pearce, and also Mr. Hodges, however their friendship might have prompted them, were powerless to render any service. Mr. Hodges only gave proof that Messrs. R. and B. were at Wimbledon fishing some 50 or 60 yards away from him, and that Mr. Pratt left there at mid-day, which was confirmed by Mr. Pearce, who was not at Wimbledon on that day, but met Mr. Pratt in London, which account the members believed ; but, beyond this, those two witnesses could say nothing to materially assist us in clearing up the matter. Mr. Pratt's evidence, I may say, was the only evidence adduced in their favour : he stated that Blackman caught 3 fish before 12 o'clock, the first fish being a bream of nearly the size of one he (Mr. Pratt) had previously taken, which scaled over 2lb., after which he was prepared to admit it might have been 1¼lb. I do not wish for a moment to infer that Mr. Pratt came to the C.A.S. actuated with the desire of giving evidence which was untruthful, but that he was mistaken in the size of the fish, and did not know that the *first fish* was returned, being undersized, which return was admitted by both parties. The unjust verdict which we are accused of returning *was* given upon the evidence of the so-termed "spy," whose account of the affair only differed in respect to the size of the fish and Mr. Pratt's leaving. I used every effort in my humble ability in endeavouring to upset his evidence, but without avail, which Messrs. R. and B. will, I think, admit. As regards their names being mentioned as being expelled, *they*, at least, should know that I bear no malice in the matter. I certainly thought, Mr. Editor, that it was usual, and beg to call your attention to reports of the two societies whose names I inclose. If I have used your columns in error, to you I apologise.

Whatever the Queen's A. S. choose to do about admitting expelled members has nothing whatever to do with the Cavendish A. S. I am also sorry with you, Sir, to see betting introduced into an angling society ; but, in defence of the C. A. S., I should like to add that these bets were made at a non-fishing society, where several of the members occasionally meet. It is to be hoped that it will not occur again.—I am, &c.,

E. Chambers.

### CENTRAL ASSOCIATION OF LONDON ANGLING SOCIETIES.

The next delegate meeting will take place on Friday, Oct. 3, at nine o'clock.—J. A. Fitch, sec.

### CITY OF LONDON ANGLING SOCIETY.

Our shows of fish have not improved, two members only weighing in on the 21st—Mr. Chambers, roach, dace, and bream from Amberley, 2lb. 6½oz. ; and Mr. Castell, roach, chub, dace, perch, and gudgeon, from the Stort, 2lb. 5¼oz. Several others out. A general meeting of members will take place on Thursday next, October 2, to settle time and place for prize meeting.—Cas.

### CLAPHAM JUNCTION ANGLING SOCIETY.

A most successful evening was spent on Thursday, the 18th inst., when we presented our worthy chairman and late secretary (Mr. Wilson) with the testimonial that has been some time in hand. Mr. R. A. Banfield made a most efficient chairman, and was most ably faced by Mr. W. Maslin in the vice. Mr. Banfield's remarks were most *à propos* as regards the testimonial. He stated that, wishing the presentation could have been placed in more able hands, there still was a certain fitness in his making the presentation, considering that he and Mr. Wilson were old schoolfellows, and, although they had lost sight of one another during a few years, they had again come together, and it was his (Mr. Banfield's) hope they would remain for many years members of the same society. Mr. Banfield's remarks to the meeting were wonderfully well received, and the finish to his speech deserves to be quoted in full :—"Mr. Wilson, in handing you the key of this timepiece, let me impress upon you the necessity of seeing that it is properly wound up—do not let it run down. In business may the hands always be as regularly employed as the two we see before us ; see that the works are kept in good repair, and you will find that all will go with the swing and regularity of the pendulum, the ticking of which, I trust for many years you may be spared to listen to."—W. Maslin, sec.

### CLAPTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The ordinary weekly general meeting was held at the Swan Hotel, Upper Clapton, on Monday, the 15th inst., Mr. Parry in the chair, but on account of the secretary being suddenly called away from town to attend the funeral of a relative, a report of the meeting was not sent to the newspapers last week. The catches reported on that occasion were : Mr. Kiff, about 6lb of good roach, from the Sewardstone waters ; Mr. H. Howse, a handsome barbel from Sewardstone, weighing 3lb. 14oz. ; Mr. G. Colls, 17lb. 14oz. barbel, heaviest 3lb. 6½oz., a chub of 1lb. 13½oz., and a small jack from Staines. A vote of thanks was accorded to the chairman. The ordinary weekly general meeting was held as above on the following Monday, the 22nd inst., Mr. H. J. Tibbatts in the chair. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. A handsome lot of fish were shown, notably bream, one scaling 3lb. 13oz. and one 1lb. 14oz., taken respectively by D. Binks and H. Howse, together with barbel from the Thames at Penton Hook. Mr. G. Colls and Mr. G. Perrett, a fine show of barbel and a handsome jack of 6lb. 2oz., also from Penton Hook ; the two first gentlemen were fishing with G. Harris, the latter with E. Harris, of Saleham. Mr. H. J. Tibbatts, six roach weighing 5lb., from Day's water ; Mr. Tidbury, perch, from the same place. On Monday next, being the musical evening, it is hoped that a goodly number of members and friends will attend. Members of other societies will be welcome.—Henry Howse, hon. sec.

### EASTERN COUNTIES' ANGLING SOCIETY, GREAT YARMOUTH.

The special meeting of this society (which was well attended, between 30 and 40 members being present, called for the evening of Monday, the 22nd inst., to make arrangements for the next fishing contest) met at Mr. Seaman's, Duke's Head Hotel, Quay, at 9 p.m. The president, Dr. Mitchell, presided as chairman. After considerable discussion, it was decided that on this occasion the angling tournament should be fished on that most beautiful sheet of water known as Fritton Decoy, on Thursday, the 25th inst., between the hours of 10.30 a.m. and 5 p.m. Through the generosity of the members the officers are again enabled to offer no less than eight prizes for competition, and it is expected that over thirty competitors will take part in it. Eighteen gentlemen, having been duly proposed and seconded, were balloted for ; no black balls being shown, they were therefore elected unanimously. As a proof that the want of such a society as this, properly conducted, was felt in this district, although but about three months in existence, the society now numbers something like ninety members, and doubtless will, in a very few weeks, number over a hundred. Although the entrance-fee to angling members was fixed at 2s. 6d. for the first year, and afterwards an annual subscription of 2s. 6d., gentlemen desirous of becoming members must remember that next year the entrance fee will probably be 10s. 6d., and should therefore have their names enrolled early, otherwise they will come under the 10s. 6d. scale. Many good takes have been weighed in during the week, the following being some of the largest :—Messrs. Mitchell, Smith, and Freeman, 38lb., amongst this take being a very fine perch, which scaled over 2½lb.—it was landed by the president, bait used being lob-worm. Freeman and Smith, 45lb. bream ; Crowther, 25lb. bream and roach ; Bonfellow and Lee, 21lb. roach and bream ; Freeman, 32lb. bream ; Hayward, 13½lb. bream and roach ; Hannant, 18lb. roach. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, the 29th inst., when the prizes will be presented to their respective winners. All members are earnestly requested to attend.—A. M.

### GLOBE ANGLING SOCIETY.

The trays of the above society were well patronised on the 20th inst., Mr. S. Howell again heading the list with 11lb. 3oz. of excellent roach and dace ; Mr. W. Whatcott. 5lb. 6oz. capital roach and perch ; Mr. H. Lake, 4lb. 10oz. of very nice roach and dace, one small chub, 12oz. ; Mr. H. Jeffries, 3lb. 1oz. of roach and dace ; Mr. G. Jeffries, 2lb. 10oz. of roach and perch ; Mr. W. Brown, 1lb. 10oz. roach and dace ; Messrs. J. Harman, J. J. Holmes, J. Brown, G. Brown, and L. Harrington also contributing with roach, dace, perch, and gudgeon. The first concert of the season was held on the 23rd inst., at the club-house, in aid of the Anglers' Benevolent Society, upon which occasion the Alexandra Variety Club paid us a visit. The chair was very ably filled by Mr. W. Brown, and the vice-chair likewise by Mr. H. Woolner, who were well supported by a host of talent, both vocal and instrumental. In the course of the evening the chairman, in a very able speech, explained to the meeting what a very great deal of good the Anglers' Benevolent Society had done to a large number of anglers in the time of need, and hoped that every member would become a subscriber to such an excellent institution. The vice-chairman, on rising, said he, as well as the members present of the A.V.C., would willingly subscribe to the box of such an excellent society, and at the same time wished it every success. He also thanked the Globe Angling Society for the very friendly reception they had given them that evening, and hoped the time was not far distant when they would meet again, after which harmony reigned till 12.15 a.m. A vote of thanks to the chairman and vice-chairman terminated a very enjoyable evening, and, I sincerely hope, a beneficial one.—J. J. Holmes, sec.

### GOLDEN BARBEL.

The members had a competition at Taplow on the 21st. The result was as follows :—1st, Mr. Henrie ; 2nd, Mr. T. Bigsby ; 3rd, Mr. Endersby ; 4th, Mr. Chapman ; 5th, Mr. Lawford ; 6th, Messrs. Harper and Hall. The fish taken consisted of barbel, roach, dace, and gudgeon. Mr. J. Green had a nice show of roach from another part of the Thames. The next competition will take place at Windsor on the last Saturday in October. Mr. J. Lancaster, of 2, Jeffries-place, Jeffries-street, Kentish Town, has returned the 10lb. 2oz. carp that he had to preserve for this society, and the style in which it is mounted gives great satisfaction to all parties that have seen it.—Pixie.

### GOOD INTENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

Mr. G. Bates had a good show of bream at the club on the 21st. Mr. Snook, roach ; Mr. Maybury, roach and carp ; Mr. Murphy, roach ; Mr. Gadbury, perch. Our distribution of prizes took place on the 23rd inst., the most successful winners being Messrs. G. Bates, Fortiscue, Bell, Hellens, Maybury, Haines, Devon, Richards, Holmes, Murphy, Ormes, G. Hughes, Sampson, J. Pluckrose, D. Sims, Tavener, Lassiter, Christie, Guntrip, Gadbury, Huggett, Winter, Wheeler, Nelson, Kemp, Rollison, Hadfield, G. Green, Phillpott, J. Robinson, Lord, and E. H. Mead. The number of prizes given up was 150. After the distribution, the prizes came in for this season, the first being Mr. W. Wright, artist, of Bethnal Green-road, his annual £5 5s. portrait of the winner, Mr. A. Salmon his annual fat lamb, followed by Mr. H. J. Tibbatts, and in twenty minutes there was £50 worth of prizes booked. So we have a good start for this season. Harmony was kept up till a late hour, and a most happy evening was spent.—R. Murphy.

### GREAT NORTHERN BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

The following members weighed on the 21st inst. some fair samples of roach, dace, and bream from Amberley :—Mr. G. Watling, 3lb. 8oz. ; Mr. Hambridge, 2lb. 7oz. ; Mr. J. Watling, 11lb. 3oz. (one roach 1lb. 6oz.) ; W. Theobald, 3lb. 11oz. ; S. Baker, 6lb. 6oz. (one roach 1lb. ½oz.) ; Graves, 2lb. 4oz. ; C. Watling, 3lb. 5oz. ; J. K. Fitch, 7lb. 9oz. We pay a complimentary visit to the Little Independent Angling Society on Wednesday next, Oct. 1, and shall be pleased to meet any of our brother anglers on this occasion.—J. Fitch, sec.

### GREAT YARMOUTH PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The usual weekly meeting of this society took place under rather more favourable circumstances than it has previously done for a few months. The first part of the business was that Mr. Lovewell Blake had received the necessary vouchers, &c., from the late president, so at last there is some hope of getting a little way out of the difficulty the society has been under. The next business was the question of a contest which will take place on Thursday week for prizes presented by Messrs. Turner, Pretty, Lawrence, and Lark. Fish weighed in during the week : 20th, bream, Ormesby, Mr. Lamb and Mr. Brown, a visiting angler ; 18th, bream and perch, Mr. Pretty, Fritton. The secretary reported that through the courtesy of Captain Blake he had, in company with him and F. Blake, Esq., spent three days on the captain's pleasure-wherry, the *Triumph*, which was moored to the island in the centre of Barton Broad, having paid two visits to Irsted Shoals, so noted for perch fishing. Having carefully sounded the deep holes, where splendid fish abound, he would leave it until the captain arrived home, as he had gone on to St. Benedick's Abbey, and being vice-president, he had taken very great interest in the cruise, and no doubt would give an interesting description at one of our meetings, which, I am glad to say, are devoted to free conversation and practical experiences of the members in the science or art of pisciculture.—J. Lark.

### GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

The ordinary weekly meeting of the above society was held at the Masons' Hall Tavern, Mason's-avenue, Basinghall-street, on Tuesday evening ; Mr. Chambers in the chair. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The chairman reported on his recent visit to a piece of water in Buckinghamshire recommended by

Mr. Bentley. Mr. Harding read a highly interesting paper entitled, "Ringwood Fishery, Hampshire—a Sketch." A fine specimen of the salmon-bass, weighing 7lb. 8oz., was exhibited by Mr. Parker, and a couple of very nice trout (2lb. 2oz. and 2lb. 8oz.) weighed in by Dr. Brunton. On the motion of the Rev. J. Walker, seconded by Mr. Crumplen, a vote of thanks was unanimously passed to Mr. Harding for his paper, and Dr. Brunton and Mr. Parker for their shows of fish. Dr. Lloyd has a paper in preparation which he has promised to read at an early date next month. The meeting, which was very well attended, and altogether a highly agreeable one, was brought to a conclusion with the usual vote of thanks to the chairman. Among the visitors may be mentioned Mr. Gray, Librarian of the Piscatorial Society; Mr. Tibbatts, Mr. W. S. Harding, and Mr. Hill.—H.

## HIGHBURY ANGLING SOCIETY.

The following members weighed in on the 21st inst.: Mr. Frank Temple, roach, dace, and gudgeon; Mr. C. Lewis, dace and gudgeon, and Mr. Edwards chub, Several other members were out, but did not arrive at the club in time to weigh in. —J. E. Wheatley, sec.

## IZAAK WALTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

There has been some very good shows of bream this week, Mr. W. H. Mecham having good takes on the 21st and 24th inst.; Mr. J. K. Charters had 23lb. of bream on the 23rd inst.; and Mr. G. P. Rolt had a nice take of the same kind on the 24th inst. The Doctor had a very enjoyable day amongst the flounders on the 21st inst. off Southend; although the sea was a little lumpy, he has come to the conclusion that it was better than the banks of the Lea: his fish were in prime condition. The two special prizes (given by Messrs. T. Goodwin and H. Butt) will be fished for on Oct. 12, between Burnt Mill and Harlow. Mr. W. H. Mecham won Mr. T. Dennison, sen.'s. prize of half a guinea for the heaviest fish of any kind on the Wednesdays during September.—H. B.

## LINCOLN ANGLING SOCIETY.

Our members went out on the 21st inst. for a match at Great Marlow for several prizes; but only one prize was taken, the successful winner being Mr. H. Blyth. Other very good shows of fish were brought in by the following members:—Mr. Sheen, a show of barbel; Mr. Blenham, a fine show of roach, dace, and gudgeon; Mr. Bingle, roach and gudgeon; Mr. Porter, roach and dace; Mr. Holmes, ditto: Mr, Pearce, roach, dace, and gudgeon. Other prizes would have been won had it not been of limited weights. We are going out again very shortly, as there are so many prizes to be fished for.—H. Bingle, sec.

## LIVERPOOL ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

The Competition in the Vyrnwy, at Llanymynech, came off on the 17th inst., and was a complete success in every way. Twenty-five members journeyed overnight in a saloon carriage of the L. and N.W. and arrived at the above village to sit down to, and enjoy, one of Mr. Baugh's carefully prepared and digestible suppers; after which, strolling and smoking were the order of the evening until bedtime. Some few did indulge in "nap" and "whist," but were not to be envied. It was quite a task to get some of them to bed, but perseverance and persuasion at last prevailed over all, and "silence reigned supreme." An early hour, 6 a.m., had been fixed for the commencement of the angling conflict; but before that hour most of the competitors were astir, some of them musically hailing the "smiling morn." Host Baugh had thoughtfully prepared a most tempting and appetising breakfast, to which the early risers did ample justice; after which, they made their way to their favourite swims, and were soon conspicuous by their absence. The river was in fairly good trim, and the weather turned out all that could be desired—a trifle hot perhaps, but you cannot have everything; and besides, the great majority had "flasks" and could rest, whenever they felt inclined, under the cool shade of the sprouting trees, smoke the pipe of peace and comfort, and quietly and calmly luxuriate in the charming scenery surrounding them on every side. But pleasant. as well as unpleasant, days must have and end, and so had this one. Seven o'clock sharp was the hour to weigh in at the "Cross Keys"; and, as it approached, the tired, but not weary, picators, began to converge towards the appointed place, and were all present when the clock struck. Messrs. Sergeneson and Bloomfield carefully weighed in the various takes, and the scales showed the following result:—Fly-fishing, Mr. R. Woolfall, 1; Mr. R. Ellinger, 2; Mr. E. A. Boulding, 3—winner of the silver challenge cup for 1884, Mr. R. Ellinger. Bait fishing, Mr. C. Higson, 1; Mr. W. Jones, 2; Mr. E. Chandler, 3; Mr. J. Rawsthorne, 4. Weighing in over, it was most entertaining to hear the tales that were told of how this "big" fish came, was hooked, but broke away; how this "two-pounder" rose, but came short, and how this one, and that one, and almost every one had lost fish under the most tantalising conditions—fish that would have brought their takes decisively to the front. But suddenly a change comes over the scene. Dinner is announced, every tongue is hushed, and every foot is turned dining-roomwards. And here was a sight to gladden the eyes of the hungry fishermen, and make every one eager for the fray. And "now the 'biting' began in terrible earnest, the fish being madly on the feed," not a bite was missed, and a full creel was soon accomplished. In short, every one of the twenty-five who sat round the table confessed that they had partaken of such a dinner as it was worth while coming so far to see, and, indeed, in sober truth, Mr. and Mrs. Baugh had excelled themselves, and had provided, for the very modest sum of one shilling and ninepence, a repast fit for a king or angler. And now, after a social glass or two, it was time to turn homewards, and after bidding our kind and courteous entertainers good-bye till next year, we departed in our saloon well pleased with the outing and with each other.—R. Woolfall, hon. sec.

## MARLBOROUGH ANGLING SOCIETY.

Mr. John M. Davis took a 6lb. jack in the Ouse at Bedford, on Wednesday, the 17th inst.; and on Thursday, the 18th, Mr. George Williamson, and Mr. Edward Boorman, took 24lb. and 23lb. respectively of roach, at the Tring Reservoirs. Among Mr. Williamson's take was one weighing 1lb. 9½oz., which is to be preserved.

## MARLOW THAMES ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

This association was founded in 1850, with the following objects:—To prevent the destruction of fish by nets and other illegal methods. To discourage angling during the fence months. A considerable extent of river is strictly preserved, and large numbers of trout, perch, and other fish are frequently turned in. The water at present held by the association, reaches from Temple Mills to the "Shrubbery." Every angler who has been to Marlow knows that the efforts of the association have not been without result; but what was so much wanted to support Thames angling was some action on the part of the Legislature in its behalf, and this has been given us by the Thames Conservators. Official by-laws regulating the fence months, rights of netting, and the size under which it is not lawful to kill fish when caught, have been passed. In consequence of this, our own association is, of course, greatly strengthened and placed on an altogether firmer basis. Aided by these by-laws, the officers and committee of the Marlow Association are doing their utmost to promote the efficiency of the society, and earnestly solicit the co-operation and assistance of the angling public. The by-laws of the Conservators (strictly enforced by the committee) are framed and hung up, together with the Rules of the Association, in the coffee-room of the Anglers, and other hotels. The annual subscription is one guinea. —J. Simpson Carson, Chas. M. Foottit, hon. secs.

## PHŒNIX ANGLING SOCIETY.

On the 21st inst. about 30lb. of bream, barbel, roach, and dace were weighed in by Messrs. Grist, Slater, Bentley, Keen, Reed, Bartrip, and F. Ashley.—W. Elbourn, sec.

## PECKHAM BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

Mr. W. H. Page was the only member who showed fish in the above club on the 21st, those members who fished at Kingston not showing up. Usual quarterly meeting for the election of officers on Tuesday next. A match on the 28th from Staines Bridge round Penton Hook; a club match on the 5th October. All members wishing to take part must clear the books.—Gadfly.

## THE PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

On Monday last the ordinary meeting of this society took place at Ashley's Hotel, Covent-garden, and some considerable interest was attached to the meeting, as it was the annual roach competition. Amongst those present during the evening were Messrs. Gray, Sachs, Booker, Goodger, Crumplen, Wheeldon, Blundell, Godwin, Foreman, Bennett, C. C. Blundell, Jesse, Lemann, Attwell, Dr. Brunton, Rev. G. Sumner, Messrs. Harden, Robinson, Huggett, Walker, Pattison, Lander, hon. sec., &c. Visitors, Messrs. Vigo, Anstiss, Atwell, Sykes, &c. Mr. R. E. Booker was voted to the chair. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. Dr. Brunton presented to this society a very nice copy of "The Modern Angler," by J. Richardson, which was very gratefully accepted. Mr. Goodger proposed, and the Chairman seconded, a vote of thanks, which was carried unanimously, to Dr. Brunton for his kindness in presenting same. The next business of the society was a long and animated discussion respecting the riparian rights on the Thames. The following members took part in the discussion:—Messrs. Wheeldon, Rev. G. Sumner, Crumplen, Godwin, Pattisson, and Dr. Brunton. The subject was thoroughly discussed in its various phases, but no motion taken thereon. The hour was now growing late, and still no fish appeared upon the tables, but as several of the members were known to be out in the South of England, the company did not despair. At last, about 11.15, Messrs. Walker, Robinson, and Huggett appeared, each with a show of fish. Upon being carefully weighed, the result of the competition was announced as follows:—Mr. Walker took first prize with 27lb. 10oz. of roach, and also had 1lb. 8oz. of dace. Mr. Robinson took second prize with 20lb. 5oz. of roach, and also had 2lb. 13oz. of dace. Mr. Huggett took 3rd prize with 10lb. of roach, and also had 7lb. 10oz. dace. Mr. Fennings (not present), 6lb. 4oz. of roach. Mr. Robinson also showed 5lb. 3oz. of perch. All the above fish were taken from the Avon, and caught in the one day, total weight 81lb. 6oz., no roach under 6oz. being allowed to weigh. Those gentlemen who remained sufficiently late were well rewarded by the sight of such fish as are rarely seen on any club tables. The two largest of Mr. Walker's fish weighed 4lb. After the show of fish and declaration of the prize winners, the business of the meeting was brought to a close.—T. H.

## RODNEY PISCATORIALS.

Several of the members visited Amberley on the 21st to compete for prizes given by Mr. W. Cotton, Mr. Ball, and Mr. H. W. Flower:—1st, Mr. Hotham had bream and roach; 2nd, C. Grant, bream and roach. Messrs. Smith, Chantry, Flower, and Co. did good business among the "Shoestrings." At the meeting held on the 24th it was decided that the prizes not taken on the 21st be given for the first and second gross weight taken between the 28th September and the 19th October, both days inclusive, open to all members. This evening Mr. Chantry exhibited his patent rod-rester, and in the general opinion of the gentlemen present it was superior to any yet brought out. It can be had in three sizes, either in iron or brass, and I shall have much pleasure in showing a sample to the members of any society within a reasonable distance of Charing-cross, or will forward circulars to any part.—Pixie.

## ROYAL GEORGE ANGLING SOCIETY.

Messrs. Longland and Hughes weighed in 2lb. and 2¼lb. respectively from Bourne-end, the latter catch including a perch of 1¼lb. Mr. Palmer showed up with 4lb. of bream from Amberley. Mr. Healey, fishing for dace with a single hair tight line and paste, was successful in landing a barbel of 3lb. at Kingston. At Richmond, Mr. Trotter took 5lb., Mr. Hewitt 6lb. 10oz., and Mr. Sinclair 9½lb., including a barbel and a fine eel. Mr. Guynan produced an exceedingly pretty show of rudd from the Ouse, which unfortunately could not be booked, as some of them had been taken on the previous evening.—C. W. W. Bernhardt, sec.

## SOUTH LONDON UNITED.

This society was formed about three years ago for the purpose of bringing together the members of the societies in the South of London, by means of return visits and friendly competitions. One of the former took place on the 22nd to the Wellington, at the Prince George, Hill-street, Walworth. About 100 or more were present, during the evening, which was passed in a very pleasant manner, with singing, reciting, and conversation. Among those societies which responded to the roll were the following: Bermondsey Brothers, Second Surrey, Rodney, South London, Peckham Brothers, United Brothers, Deptford, the Anglers' Pride, Excelsior, the Crown Anglers, Deptford; Busy Bees, Original Anglers' Pride, and the Wellington. In addition to those above named, but did not attend, are: The Anchor and Hope, South Eastern, Battersea Friendly, the Grange, the Marlborough, and the Peckham Perseverance. To those societies who have not received the new list of societies, I beg to call their attention to the following rules it has been found necessary to carry out: 1st. That the visits take place every three weeks in rotation down the list. 2nd. It must be distinctly understood to entitle a society to a visit they must be represented (or good cause shown why not) at the preceding one, otherwise the visit will go to the next on the list in rotation. The new list can be obtained by applying to the hon. sec., Mr. W. Allen, 16, Trothy-road, Bermondsey. The next friendly competition will take place at Amberley, on the 12th day of October. Tickets are now ready, and secretaries who have not yet received them and wish to have them can do so by applying at the above address. In consequence of the South-Eastern not being represented, the next visit will go to the United Brothers, the Druid's Head, Deptford Broadway. Tramcars and rail within five minutes of the house.—Pixie.

## SOUTH-EASTERN ANGLING SOCIETY.

On the 21st inst., a very moderate show in, owing to several members missing their train and arriving too late, and one or two veterans being laid up. Tuesday last was our quarterly night, when not quite so many appeared as I wished for; but I trust the members generally will take it for granted that their presence is required next meeting, to decide as to our day's outing on October 5th, some demurring about Pangbourne, as there is not, according to accounts, much fishing in that locality. I must request all our members that can to be kind enough to attend our next meeting, on September 30th, and decide as to place, &c.—T. H. W. Weston, secretary.

## WELLINGTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

On the 21st inst. Mr. Newbury weighed in roach and gudgeon, 4lb. 1oz.; Mr. Phillips, roach and gudgeon, 1lb. 10oz.; Mr. Hall, bream and chub, 4lb. 2oz.; Mr. Palmer, dace, 8oz. On Monday we had an overflowing visit from the South London United, Mr. George Mayo in the chair, Mr. Charles Wright vice. Thirteen clubs on the list were represented, as well as the City of London and St. Albans. We have to return our sincere thanks to those gentlemen who honoured us with their company, and are sorry if some of them were put to any inconvenience in consequence of so liberal a response to our invitation. Plenty of good songs and recitations enlivened the evening, especially those rendered by Mr. Wright and Mr. George, of the Second Surrey; Mr. Page and Mr. White, of the Peckham Brothers; Mr. Bovill of the Busy B's, and Mr. Heron and Mr. Rawlings of the St. Albans. On Wednesday Mr. Brand was elected a member, and Messrs. Archibald, Alexander, and Hall offered additional prizes.—W. W. Alexander, sec.

## NOTICES OF BOOKS, &c.

Camping and Cruising in Florida. By James A. Henshall, M.D., author of "Book of the Black Bass." Illustrated. Cincinnati: R. Clarke and Co. London: Sampson Low and Co.

This work furnishes an entertaining and amusing account of two winters spent in Southern Florida, "as viewed from the standpoint of an angler, a sportsman, a yachtsman, a naturalist, and a physician," and it may fairly be regarded also as a guide to future tourists in the regions it describes. The good doctor seems to have had amongst his patients a number of young men whose graves "were being dug, slowly but surely, by the frying pan." They had been indulging in a too generous and imprudent mode of living, which, it appears, is very common in Central Kentucky (and is not very uncommon elsewhere), and it became his duty, both as friend and physician, to take them into voluntary exile for a brief season. Knowing that plain diet, pure air, bright sunshine, and varied exercise would work wonders, he induced four of them to accompany him on what proved to be a thoroughly rough but most enjoyable trip to the genial climate of Southern Florida. How they sailed down the rivers and lakes, and occasionally outside on the open sea on the Eastern Coast in a "Skip Jack" yacht, called *Blue Wing;* how they fished and hunted, and what varied and amusing adventures they met with in their encounters with alligators, rattlesnakes, and panthers; what monstrous fishes they caught, and what hair-breadth escapes they had, would take up too much of our space to describe. We must content ourselves with saying that the book is a very readable one from beginning to end, and although fun and jollity are its prevailing characteristics, it contains much matter that will be found to be useful and valuable to naturalists, and it also supplies information about a new health resort, which will be of use not only to young Kentuckians, but to all who are suffering from *ennui*, a slothful existence, and a too indulgent use of the *frying pan.*

Practical Taxidermy: A Manual of Instruction to the Amateur in Collecting, Preserving, and Setting up Natural History Specimens of all Kinds. To which is added a chapter upon the Pictorial Arrangement of Museums. Illustrated. By Montagu Browne, F.Z.S., &c., Curator, Town Museum, Leicester. Second edition. Revised and much enlarged. London: L. Upcott Gill, 170, Strand, W.C. 1884.

We are very glad indeed to see a new and much enlarged edition of Mr. Montagu Browne's most valuable little work, the first edition of which has been out of print for some time. Inquiries are often directed to us by our readers as to what work we can recommend as giving clear instructions in setting up fish, and also making casts from them in plaster, &c., and we have always much pleasure in referring them to Mr. Browne's book. The first chapter gives a very clear and most interesting account of the rise and progress of taxidermy from the times of the Pharaohs, when people had their dead relatives embalmed and then set up in their dwellings like eight day clocks. The second chapter describes how to decoy and trap animals, and all the best snares; nets, &c., are explained and illustrated. Chapters III. and IV. describes the necessary tools, preservative, soaps, powders, liquids, &c., with full recipes for making them, and we are glad to see Mr. Browne is strongly against the use of arsenical soap, and describes a non-poisonous preservative and stiffener which is better in every way. This chapter will be most valuable to the amateur and professional taxidermist. The next chapters refer to the practical work of skinning, preserving, mounting, and modelling birds, mammals, and fish. Our author recommends the beginner to experiment on the perch, which is "one of the best subjects for the purpose," and yet how few even of our best professional taxidermists can set up a perch properly. This chapter on fish and how to preserve them and make casts from them will probably be of most interest to our readers, and the instructions are so clear that failure can only be the result of inattention to them; moreover, Mr. Browne, in his preface, kindly volunteers to answer my questions, from amateurs, when difficulties are experienced, his only stipulation being that a stamped addressed envelope be forwarded with the query. After that devoted to fish come chapters on the colouring of fish skins, bird's beaks, legs, &c.; drying and colouring ferns, grasses, sea-weeds, &c.; collecting and preserving insects, arranging collections, and many other matters. Even apart from its chief object—that of teaching taxidermy, anyone taking the least interest in natural history will find a mass of valuable information in this work, which we have the greatest pleasure in recommending, and congratulate the author on the great success he has achieved. The general get-up reflects much credit on the publisher.

## NOTICES OF FISHING TACKLE, &c.

Hardy's Hooks with the "Slice" added.—Messrs. Hardy Bros., Fishing Tackle Makers, of Fenkle-street, Alnwick, write: "We have pleasure to hand you samples of our well-known 'Round-Bend' and 'Needle-Point' hooks, to which we have had your patent 'slice' added. They are tied on 14in. drawn gut. Messrs. Milward and Sons say that they had to *specially* temper these fine wires, and they are well tempered. We could tie on any thickness of gut. We have some splendid selected gut, from 15 to 16in. 'fine,' that these fine wires would do well on."

The samples sent by Messrs. Hardy are numbers 6 to 9 of the "Round-Bend," and 6 to 9 of the "Needle-Point." No. 9 in either sort will answer splendidly for roach and dace fishing; Nos. 8 and 7 in each sort for bream and tench, or for trout and grayling fishing with gentles or ant's eggs; and No. 6, either in the "Round-Bend" or "Needle-Point," is perfection for fishing of any kind where the smaller worms are used, especially in up-stream worm fishing for trout, and in "swimming the worm" for grayling, as practised in Yorkshire.

We have the greatest confidence in recommending our readers to try these hooks; the "slice" to keep the bait up has been most carefully added, and even in the wee round roach size (No. 9) will be found to keep a gentle up on the shank well. Nothing could be neater than the way the hooks are tied on to the gut, and with red whipping—a distinct advantage, as, if gentles are used, the red shows like a red chrysalis, which is often so attractive to roach and grayling. The gut is beautifully fine and long. These hooks, although of such fine wire, are wonderfully strong, and tempered to perfection. Their penetrative powers are like that of a fine rapier as compared with a broadsword.

The "Halcyon" Pike Bait.—Messrs. Hardy Bros., of Fenkle-street Alnwick, have had a wonderful sale for their "Halcyon" spinner for trout and perch. When we tell our readers that this bait is practically a "Spinning Alexandra" they will know how deadly it must be. Casting it overhand like a fly, and fishing up stream in a blazing hot sun and crystal clear water, we have had good sport with it when the fish would look at nothing else. As a curious incident, we may note that a grayling followed it 3 or 4 yards down stream, and then took it boldly and was caught. At our suggestion, Messrs. Hardy have made this bait in larger sizes, large enough for pike, and we find it answers admirably. It should be fished on a stained single salmon gut trace, with about 6in. of stained gimp just above the bait.

Artificial Sand Eel.—The other day a correspondent sent us a dead sand eel, and asked if we knew where he could get an artificial bait like it. We knew one or two so-called imitations of it, but they are about as much unlike the real thing as it is possible for a copy to be. We sent on the real fish to Miss Campbell, of 2, Cecil-terrace, Maynard-crescent, Walthamstow, and asked if she could copy it in soleskin and add the automatic-action fins and tail. This she has done, and sends us a sample, which is simply perfect in shape and colouring. Those who use the sand eel as bait should certainly have this artificial at hand when they, as often happens, cannot get the real thing.

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1 yard gut cast, 1s. 3d. per dozen; two yards gut cast, 2s. 5d. per dozen; 3 yards gut cast, 3s. 4d. per dozen.

Finest drawn gut manufactured, 15 inch, 4s. per 100; 2s. per 50; and 7d. per dozen.

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Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only, and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith. Unless this rule be adhered to, no notice will be taken of such communications.
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The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4, 1884.

## NATIONAL FISH CULTURE ASSOCIATION.

WE learn that Mr. John S. Charles, of 9, Lower Grosvenor-place, S.W., has volunteered to supply gratuitously to the National Fish Culture Association specimens of marine fishes for preservation in spirits, in order to aid the Council to acquire a museum for the exhibition of a complete collection of British fishes for the use of the public. In addition to this generous offer of assistance, Mr. Charles has given a substantial sum towards the necessary outlay for shelves, bottles, &c. A gift of this nature will be appreciated by the large number of people who throng the Aquarium at South Kensington throughout the summer and autumn. We trust that Mr. W. Oldham Chambers will be able to complete the necessary arrangements prior to the opening of the Inventor's Exhibition next year.

The Piscatorial Society joined the National Fish Culture Association some time ago, and we are glad to see from the report of the Gresham Society this week that they have also done so.

## ODDS AND ENDS IN SALMON FISHING.

By Geo. M. Kelson.—No. 2.

How frequently have we read and heard hypercritical tittle-tattle touching the subject of varnish. Is it fancy, or is there really a salmon fisherman in existence who can conscientiously declare his ill-luck to be attributed to a glistening rod?

Although we like to see our tackle ship-shape, still, we are not molly-coddles, so to speak, and we do not spend Sunday afternoons in polishing up. What should we gain? Anything? Or would there be any disadvantage by so doing? For my part, in the absence of this coat of waterproof, which at least affords a protection and preserves the wood, I have never seen the greenheart rod that is not more or less affected in wet weather. Indeed, there are some old stagers who go so far as to assert that there is some necromantic spell in varnish. "Give us," they say, "a rod that glitters all over the pool." A metaphorical request presumably, but after all not one utterly beyond our comprehension, especially if there be any truth in stirring these fish into activity by reflecting the sun from looking-glass. I dare say there are many who have heard of "the man with the mirror." I happen to have witnessed the performance, and I think it a perfectly fair way of "working salmon up." You rouse and aggravate them; you get them "on the look-out"; and it is then they are—to use a fisherman's phrase—nobbled.

Under such conditions and circumstances we must know the catch to a nicety, and present a very small fly, well up to them, and scarcely worked at all; this, too, upon an extra fine cast, after allowing a good twenty minutes to settle down, and by keeping well out of sight.

We may well assume that salmon would become suspicious from such a ferreting, and although they will "snap close," they seldom or never make a long rush at the fly then, or follow it across and take it in the usual spot, which is generally on the edge of the stream. It is advisable to fish the fly deep, so hold the point of the rod down to the water, or get farther back and use a longer line, and if necessary put on three or four, or even more, split shot a good yard from the hook.

No, no; salmon are not so easily scared. Fancy stoning them down a flat into a catch a hundred yards below; beating them down the deep side of the stream with the rod; hussling them out of bushes, and in less than half an hour finding your fly well hold of one and yourself engaged in sharp conflict with long odds on you, snags and dead trees barred, having hit hard off a proper winch, without holding the line, and your fly dressed upon one of Milward's superb double hooks.

It is not all of us who care to experimentalise in this hunting expedition. Many may not believe in it, even if they have ever heard about it, and the majority are quietly contented with the usual surroundings, coming now and again upon a fish just up from the salt water which will readily take any fly offered.

However, unless we work, the true pleasure of salmon fishing can never be known or understood. But then, again, there are anglers to whom Nature has given the trick of becoming quick-sighted—to them no pains, no trouble is a consideration; such workers, seeing things at a glance that in one season they are voted tip-top, and ever after universally regarded as experts, their former doubtful reputation dropping into oblivion, and buried then and there by that sure palliator of all error—Success.

I think "Odds and Ends" rather a convenient subject, as we can jump from Rods to Reels and back again. Perhaps just now the "Eyed-hook" question might engage us for a few minutes. I tried eyed-hooks years ago, and found them rather a nuisance in one respect, for the gut cast had to be re-looped or re-knotted at such frequent intervals that I—like others in the same neighbourhood—gave them up. But modern minds militant in their favour have, I am told, provided for this contingency, and offer us hooks with their loops smooth and rounding. Still, I cannot see how they can get rid of the friction, which seems to me must take place, and canker the gut, whether it be tied or even looped on. This only suggests itself to me; my opinion, so far, if adverse, is not based upon practical experience, and therefore I am not set against them. But rather the contrary, and on the other hand, it is obvious there is a saving of time, trouble, and expense, as the best of gut has to be carefully prepared in making and attaching the ordinary loop. Then, again, most Irish flies cannot well be too thin in the body, and on these hooks the body as well as the head should only be little more than half the usual size; and to this I may observe that the gut loop, however good it may be, lasts but a very few days in constant use, and as soon as that becomes weak the fly is done for.

Anglers would find an extra reel with a fine line and a 2½ yard plaited trace married to it very useful, and should never go out without one. In salmon fishing extra fine tackle is not often wanted, but there are times and pools when and where a little punctual attention to common sense—and fishermen always have a goodly share of that—would be very beneficial.

By marrying we get rid of cumbersome loops and ugly knots, which are impediments both in and out of the water. We always carry a stiletto and waxed silk, so that in the event of getting foul and smashing the treble we easily replace it. It takes a very little while to fray out the end of the line about ⅜ths of an inch by laying it on a piece of wood and using the point of this stiletto. Then dividing the part you have made fluffy equally, you twirl it into three legs, projecting after the fashion of a milking stool, and the strands of the plaited gut—after keeping the ends in the mouth and arranging the "stool legs" in a somewhat similar way—are to be intersected and pushed in between each other as far up as they will go, so that the fluffy part which I speak of may curtain round and overlap beyond where the gut was unplaited, and the strands of the gut lay along over and beyond the frayed-out part of the silk.

To be very neat, the fringe that you have picked out on the line might be combed down with the point of the stiletto, so as to surround the gut evenly, and the points of the gut should be bevelled and made into different lengths.

In binding this splice use single Gossamer silk, well waxed; never varnish it, or there will be a knuckle at either end very soon, but paint it about once a week with cobbler's wax dissolved in spirits. Half an inch is quite long enough for the graft, but it would be better to allow a little more at first; and if you have taken pains, the enlargement when you run it through your hands should be scarcely perceptible.

Our single gut length is often changed, being frequently damaged, so it is advisable to *loop* the other end of the treble, not knotted, but merely bound, which may be varnished, though I prefer the paint brush as before; however, either way it must be watched, for without attention the binding is apt to come undone.

In making up these single lengths there is no whipping required, and even if the strands stand a test of 8 or 9lb. the cast is valueless unless properly knotted. Soak the gut for a day in cold rainwater, then take a couple of pieces, and after determining how much to allow for waste place the ends of either side by side, lapping each other. Do not make the common knot known by bending them both down and bringing them round up towards you, over, and through the loop you have made below for the single, or even by putting them through the loop again, for the double knot, as both are bad.

But bend back the point of the left strand (which is now to the right of you if held horizontally), and place it between the forefinger and thumb of the left hand also, leaving the necessary loop above; then bring the point up from under, and push it through twice, when that one can be drawn fairly close, *but not at all tight*. Turn the work round, and serve the end of the other the same, and pull it all at once into a solid knot, without touching the points again except to trim them.

To do this correctly is next to an impossibility, unless the gut is thoroughly soaked; besides, it is getting almost too late now to make up many lengths, and gut keeps so much better in hanks, wrapped up tightly in a new piece of wash-leather. So late, indeed, that it will be all up with the season of '84 if we are much longer without a good downpour.

What a number of fishermen look forward annually to this season of the year—and well they may, for there is an infinite charm just now when the fish are generally more numerous, although the summer bloom is gone, and the wild flowers faded. The scene in autumn, ever silent and sad; the tranquil trees, with foliage so rich and ripe, fulfilling their annual destiny, awaiting the useful slumber of coming winter; the hill-sides thrilled with the whisper of a thousand legends; and the valleys clothed in all the warm glow of a setting year.

Ah, well; a contrast indeed to the merry month of May! when the fields in their springtide gaiety are starred all over with big white daisies, and the fish that do ascend are so sound and so silvery.

## JOTTINGS REGARDING THE DEE, ABERDEENSHIRE.

SEVERAL of our most successful gentlemen anglers have of late been directing their attention to the subject of jetties, and considering whether or not these artificial auxiliaries have enabled them to realise to the full the object for which they were constructed. The all but unanimous opinion is that in many cases they have proved very detrimental to sport. It is said that generally they alter the course of the river, render the lie of the fish still farther off, and sometimes utterly spoil the pool. We know some once famous casts that are now practically useless, except in very heavy waters, in consequence of these artificial aids to the angler. When the water flows strongly fish invariably lie at the deep side, and it is there that on such occasions they are got.

Now, were jetties not formed, the run of the water would be more natural, and as a result more easily fished. The stream, too, in a small water would also incline to the deep side, and flowing with a more perfect current, could be fished far better. We note that jetties extending into shallow water congest a pool and render it too swift and strong for fish to lie in. We have always found that wading in shallow water is the best way to fish a pool thoroughly when the water is of an average size.

On the other hand, when the water is large we always prefer to fish pools from the deepest side, and there can be no doubt that jetties are then more of an obstacle to sport than otherwise. Many proprietors are now having them removed, and this we are very glad indeed to learn.

In "A Complaint from Aberdeen" that appeared in the GAZETTE the other week, we noticed a very sensible suggestion, and one that cannot be too strongly urged on the Fishery Boards. We refer to the protection of fish in the small streams during the early part of the spawning season. There can be no doubt whatever that a great deal of leistering and "water burning" takes place at night in the Glen streams, whence small fish have ascended to spawn.

We have heard of no less than fifteen fish being killed in a single evening. To prevent this wholesale havoc, if the aid of the farmers cannot be secured in discouraging their servants (and organised bands of farm servants scour the waters at night) from these practices, we think the Fishery Boards ought certainly to take the matter in hand, and have adequate protection given.

If to these boards more proprietors who angle themselves were elected, we feel assured more drastic measures would be taken to cope with poaching.

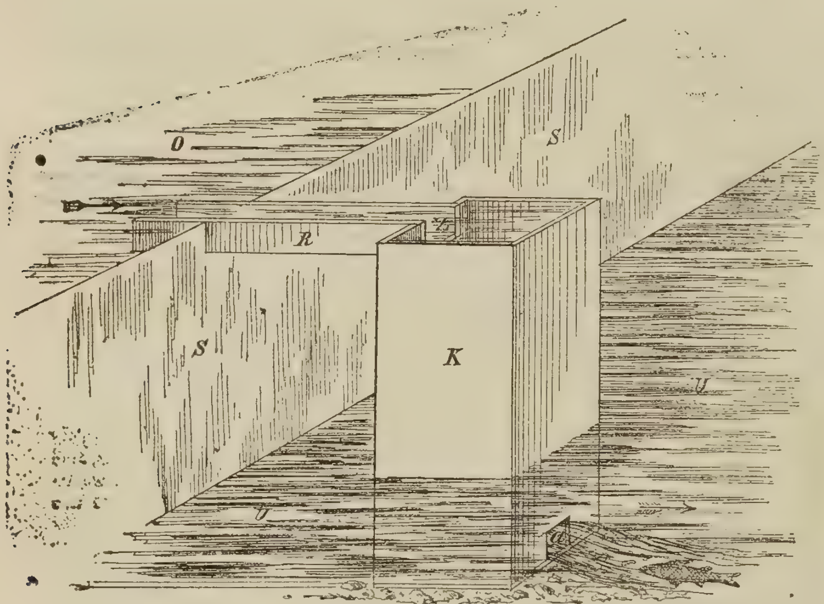
In the interest of the angler it is practically useless to have representatives who either own net fishings, or pocket large sums yearly from sportsmen, and have no further interest in the matter. Such, we regret to say, is the preponderating constitution of many of our fishery boards. A little agitation by anglers might have a very beneficial effect. It is quite evident that, unless this is done, matters cannot improve.

We now turn our attention to the subject of flies.

Those we invariably find most successful in the autumn (according to the state of the water) are the Gordon, Gardener, Rintoul, Blue Charm, Childers, Silver Doctor, and teal and magenta hackled Thunder and Lightning. For night fishing Eagles (yellow and grey) are good. The Gordon is, undoubtedly, the premier Dee fly; nothing approaches it for fishing in heavy water, and at night it is equally as good as an Eagle. A large Childers is a very good killer in a brownish water. The Gardener pattern, dressed by W. Milne, Aberdeen, has a good repute on several reaches. The Rintoul is an excellent killer. The Blue Charm and Silver Doctor are indispensable on a clear day, and the Thunder and Lightning in a fairish water, if the day is anywise cloudy. The sizes, of course, to be regulated to the state and depth of the water. Than these there is no need for any other, excepting, perhaps, a Peacock, which always comes in handy.

## ANOTHER CHEAP FISH PASS.

Some little time back we gave our readers a sketch and account by Dr. Nowicki of an extremely simple and cheap fish pass which we translated from the *Deutsche Fischerei Zeitung*. We have again to thank our German contemporary for lending us an illustration of another and even more simple fish pass, which is described by Mr. Dallmer, Fishery Superintendent. We understand Mr. D. to say that this pass has not been actually tried yet, but we agree with him in thinking it most certainly deserves a good trial, and we hope secretaries of fishery boards, and other gentlemen interested in the improvement of our salmon fisheries, will give it their attention. It is the business of the press to make improvements known and to urge their adoption.



A CHEAP FISH PASS.

Description of the illustration:—K is a box made of planks nailed together, about 4ft. square; the height depends upon circumstances. The box is closed at its lower end, which rests on the bed of the river; the top is on a level with the level of the water above the dam, A. At the foot of the box is an outflow opening, and at the top of the opposite side of the box is the inflow, Z, *which must be larger than the outflow*, A, so that the box must always be full up to the top. The outflow A must, of course, be large enough to admit the heaviest fish which ascend the river. The wooden trough, R, leads from the inflow opening, Z, to the water above the dam, and must be placed so that its sides are just submerged to the water-level and no more. Where the water-level fluctuates, this trough must be made so that it can be raised or lowered at either end as may be necessary. Thus it will be seen the pressure of the dam water is excluded from the box, and the only pressure at the outflow, A, is that of the water in the box, which is further lessened by the pressure of the outside water below the dam. The fish which are below the dam and endeavouring to get up will soon become aware of the stream flowing through the outflow, A, and will enter the box. Here they will feel the water coming down on them, and will ascend to the trough, and through it into the water above the dam. It is advisable to cover the top of the box and the trough with wire netting, so that the fish cannot jump out, and the surplus water can flow off. If the bottom of the trough, or part of it, is painted white, if the night is not too dark, the fish passing can be seen and counted. Where the dam is vertical, a very short trough will suffice, and a longer one will be required when the dam, as is usual, has a slope. Ten pounds will cover the entire cost of making and fixing this fish pass, and when it is considered that the cheapest of the fish passes in common use cost hundreds of pounds, and are even then often almost useless, it certainly seems advisable to give this one a fair trial.

The fact that the outflow opening, A, is smaller than the inflow necessitates that, however great the quantity of water flowing in, the pressure at A must always be the same, as the surplus water flows over the top. We should much like to hear the opinion of some of our scientific readers on this fish pass. Will Mr. Alan Bagot and Mr. W. Oldham Chambers, for instance, give us theirs?

## ROACH FISHING.

(*Continued from page* 161.)

### GROUND-BAIT.

The best ground-bait for roach is bread and bran. Take about 1lb. of bread of any kind, and soak it in water till it is quite soft, then put it into a bag and squeeze all the water from it, then put into the bag with it about a quart of bran, and work it together till it comes to a stiff paste. This you may do at home if you please, and take it all ready with you to the water. When baiting the ground with it, throw in pieces about the size of a walnut, one now and then.[*] If the water be deep, press each piece into the form of a cup, or put into it a small stone, so that it may sink quickly into the place where you wish it to fall, always bearing in mind that ground-bait, falling into an improper place, is very detrimental to your sport, seeing that it may coax the fish away from you. Many anglers are not half particular enough in this respect. Your baited hook should always be exactly in the place where the ground-bait is. If the water is still and shallow, the smaller your pieces are the better. If the fish are feeding well do not throw in any bait, but, as you would in more important circumstances, "leave well alone." I have sometimes found that in still waters a little bread, chewed very fine and thrown in, is a very enticing ground-bait.

### THE DEPTH.

The general rule is to let the bait just touch the ground; but we have frequently found that they will take it, at certain times, much better two or three inches above it, though at others they will not touch it unless it be on the ground. You must, therefore, use your own judgment according to the feeding of the fish, for they do not feed in all waters, places, and times alike. Generally, however, you take the largest fish with the bait on the bottom.

It is a good plan in still waters, especially when they are very fine on the feed, *to raise your float now and then four or five inches out of the water several times, and then let it settle*, for if anything will tempt them to take the bait it is that manœuvre. We have frequently been fishing for them when we could not get a fish in any other way. They see the bait moving and are excited to take it.

### THE PLACES FOR ROACH.

Roach are fond of a harbour, both in the water, or out of it, or over it. An overhanging tree, piles of an old bridge,[†] or a corner where there are a good many sedges and rushes, are all good places, if the water be still and deep. In all subscription waters such places are well known and visited, but in any other they are the places to fish for roach. Always give the preference to a place where the ground is sandy, as they are generally found in such places. A place near a very deep hole is always very likely, as they frequently rise from the hole to feed in the more shallow water. A place of this kind is always the best for winter fishing. A lowering day, with a gentle breeze and a little soft rain, is always the best for roach fishing.

### THE WAY TO KILL ROACH.

Supposing that you have obtained the tackle I have described, and have made the bait, you go to the place where you intend to fish. Don't stand over it and look into it to see if you can see any fish, neither let any other person do so if you can help it, for very often, by acting thus imprudently—especially if the bank be high and the water clear—you will drive all the roach out of the swim, and it may be a considerable time before you entice them back again. Having pitched upon your place, go to it cautiously and quietly, and immediately take your seat, and if the ground be damp take care to have a piece of cork or board to sit on. Being seated, put your rod together, beginning with the top joints; then loop on your line, and hook on your plummet and try the depth, and be sure you do it as gently as possible. Your line must be just so long as to allow about 15 inches between the top of the rod and the float. If, therefore, you find it too long you must shorten it, and if too short you must lengthen it, and in no case fish with it in any other form and think it will do, because it will not. Having your line the exact depth, and your float in the exact place, keep your plummet on and let your line soak in the water while you make your bait as before directed; this is a good plan, because a hair line unsoaked is very tender. Your bait being well made, take off your plummet, bait your hook, cast in, and take particular notice which way your float rides on the water, and then throw in your ground-bait according to your best judgment. Some will throw a lot of ground-bait in at first, and then when they begin to fish find they cannot keep the float for a second in the place where it is. Let all your movements be gentle, neat, and clever, bearing in mind that making no disturbance in the water, or about the water, and very fine tackle are the most essential things. In fact, neatness is everything, especially in roach fishing. The means employed must be of a gentle, and the tackle of an almost unperceived nature, and then you will catch them, but not under other circumstances. A clumsy angler, with a heavy rod, a coarse line and hook, a large float, a good parcel of large shots, and a bait nearly as large as the top of your finger, will drive all the roach away from him, just as a large dog drives a flock of sheep, notwithstanding the very great desire he may have to catch some of them! If the fish are on the feed, and your tackle is rightly adjusted, you will have a bite very soon after you begin to fish. Strike the moment you see your float affected, letting the movement be made with the hand only, from the wrist, not from the arm, and turning the point of your rod upwards. Don't wait until you think the fish has swallowed the bait, because as soon as he finds it is attached to something he will blow it out, unless he is very hungry, which is not often the case; and remember that your float cannot be affected by him, unless he has your bait between his lips. Do not forget, also, that the largest fish generally bite in the most cautious manner. As soon as you have hooked a fish, little or big, keep a tight line on him, your rod being raised directly over him. If he be large and pull well don't be afraid of him, for if you keep your rod up over him he must pull tremendously to break you, though your tackle be of such a delicate order. Your hair when well soaked is elastic, and your rod top is very pliable, and if your judgment be good all his endeavours to get away will be unavailing. The grand thing, especially in a young angler, is not to be in too great a hurry. Hundreds of good fish have been lost for want of a little time and patience. Keep your rod over him until he is quite still, and if you do not use a landing-net, lift him out of the water as soon as you possibly can, with the rod in your right hand, letting him hang his whole weight. Then very cautiously swing him to your left, and as cautiously get him within your grasp, and hold him so fast that he shall not stir while you take the hook out of his mouth. All this care is really necessary, for if a fish of only 4 or 5 ounces, and you pull him out quickly and let him flounder about, it is ten to one that your hair gets broken long before you get the hook out. We have seen it done many, many times. If your fish is above 4 or 5 ounces it is always best to use your landing-net. Never at any time attempt to lay hold of a fish while it is in the water, neither suffer any person to do so for you, for in that case you will be pretty sure to lose your fish, and have your line broken into the bargain.

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[*] A deadly way to take big roach is to imbed the paste-bait in one of these ground-bait balls of the size of a pigeon's egg, and fish on the bottom. The fish nose it about, and finding the delicate morsel inside, take it when they will not look at it fished in the ordinary way. You must not strike until you get a decided bite.—Ed.

[†] In such spots as these the house fly on a small hook on which a single shot has been pinched will kill well at this time of year. Use a longish rod without float, sink the fly to the bottom steadily, then draw it up gently to the top and repeat the process. You will, if there is any store of roach in the water, see perhaps two or three rise and follow it. Let it stop at the surface, and one of them will dash at it, and give you fine sport.—Ed.

Always keep your seat while you are killing and landing a fish, unless it be upon an intricate occasion, and you are obliged to get up, for rising up suddenly and moving about your swim, if the water be clear, will drive all the fish clean out of it, and you may have to wait no little time until they come back again. We have often felt surprised and vexed at the way in which some anglers act with their fish after they have caught them. Frequently we have seen a number of them scattered here and there on the grass, drying in the wind and sun, until they are curled up like so many chips, and are good for nothing. The grand point is to keep them cold and damp in a damp, coarse linen bag. By adopting this method your fish will look as handsome eight or ten hours after they are caught as when they first came out of the water.

(In our next we shall give the Rev. Mr. Martin's recipe for cooking and eating roach.)

## THE TROUT STREAMS OF NORTH DEVON.—V.

By Helwr.

According to the determination expressed in my last, a few days ago I visited the Association water of the Barle. My success was scanty, for I only creeled 16 trout, with not a good fish among the lot. It was a tolerably favourable day—the weather was dull, with a slight drizzle, and a puff of wind blowing up stream. I commenced operations just above the town bridge, and fished to where Dean's Brook comes into the Barle. The water was fine and not high, but it was considerably above the recent summer's level. For more than a mile I never moved a fin, though I kept low down, and threw right before me up-stream. Again and again I tried some likely-looking spots—deep pits, and the edges of rolling currents—with still the same unsatisfactory results. At last I landed a fish on the stretcher (red hackle, with gilt twist), but it was only a smolt. This youthful salmon was larger than I usually take them, being fully 6in. long. I am given to understand that these little creatures are wondrous pretty eating; nevertheless, I flung him in again. Soon after this I took my first trout on a blue upright; he was not three ounces.

From ten o'clock until two I only killed about a dozen trout, and am quite at a loss to account for such poor sport. I did not miss a single fish; every rise I had resulted in a capture (many smolts being taken). At two o'clock the drizzle blew away, and the sun came out very bright and glaring. Accordingly I hove-to for an hour or more, and sat down in a beautiful spot, under some trees, facing a noisy Welsh-like cascade. In front, but slightly to the left, rose a tree-clad height, crowned by Mr. Lock's rustic summer-house. The time passed quickly and pleasantly; I lunched, and smoked, and, lulled by the plashing of the descending waters, almost dreamed. When the sun became again obscured, and began to sink behind the lofty moors to the westward, I moved onwards. Fishing carefully and patiently until dusk, I creeled four more, making a total of sixteen *small* trout. The length of water fished could not have been less than three miles, though in places it was unapproachable for bushes and trees. Had I worn waders I could have fished every yard of it, but I do not think the result would have been more satisfactory, for I was most careful to keep behind, below, and out of sight.

The cascade where I took my contemplative rest deserves some notice. It is about two miles above Dulverton, as the river winds. Upon reaching it, on the right side (going up stream) there will be found a gate, leading into a large wood. Several massive boulders in mid-stream stand high above the water, creating very deep pools, in which the waters go swirling round. When the stream has recovered the steady onward flow, temporarily interrupted by these rocks (which interruption it sonorously protests against), it rolls onwards for some distance in a channel some yards deep. For a furlong below these falls is some of the likeliest trout water that could possibly present itself to a fly-fisher's eye. And yet this length only yielded me two small troutlets. I cannot account for it otherwise than by quoting the familiar remark—"they were not sporting." Whilst hunting with the Devon and Somerset stag-hounds one day last week, I came upon a Dulverton fisherman, well known for his skill and assiduity. The stag was at bay in the Exe, just below Bridgetown, and, in the field where we watched the closing scene was a man armed with rod and creel, looking rather out of place among the booted, spurred, and mounted ones. This disciple of honest Father Izaak is the angler I commenced to tell you about. He told me that just as he was engaged in the peaceful joy of playing a trout, our stag leaped into the water close to him. Then what a change came over the scene! Instead of the clear, quiet river, with one calm, happy angler pursuing his gentle art upon its banks, suddenly a mob of horsemen, a baying pack, the huntsman's cheering cry and sounding horn form a scene truly sporting—but how widely different in character. The gallant stag, with "brow, bay, and tray, and three 'pon top," plunges backwards and forwards in the river, now and again leaping right out of 5ft. of water, and clearing easily the overhanging boughs, and the hounds savagely, yet warily, follow him noisily up and down, some on shore, and some swimming in his wake, whilst the field, with glowing, smiling faces, eagerly await the end. The water has become foul and of pea-soup colour, and our angler, whose sport is thus rudely interrupted, is much troubled to keep the long and vibrating fly-rod out of harm's way. I should have gone much farther up the Barle the day I had such poor sport in the water preserved by the Rev. Mr. Jellicoe, and when I paused by the cascade, had I found that the fish were at all inclined to be caught; this not being their humour, I spent the time doing the *dolce far niente* that would have carried me up to Withypool. Had I gone upwards as far as Withypool I should have passed the "strictly preserved" water of the Rev. R. Newman, alluded to by the Editor in the Fishing Gazette of September 20. Mr. Newman's preserved water is bounded by three fields—that is, the whole length of it—and the other side the river (the right side going upwards) is not under the reverend gentleman's control. Practically, by paying a small fee at The Lion, The Lamb, or the Post Office, Dulverton, one may fish all the way to Withypool, a distance by water of nine miles.

There is a nice inn at Withypool, where one can get fairly comfortable quarters at a moderate charge; but, as the accommodation is limited, it will be desirable to write before going there.

Twice a year, generally about July and August, Mr. Collier visits the Barle and Exe, giving a day to each river. The evening of the first day is always spent at the inn at Dulverton, Mr. Collier, his party, his whip, and his hounds, completely engrossing all the accommodation and attention. Though "ottering" is a very pretty sport, it would not be well for the man bent on angling to drop in at this inn at dusk, promiscuously, at a time when Mr. Collier, M. O. H., has "put up" there for the night. From Withypool Mr. Knight's portion of the Barle could be worked (three miles' walk before commencing operations), and also the Sherdon Brook, which will be found on the left, some distance above Landacre Bridge; the Exe is also not more than three miles off, viz., at Exford. The latter is a much better centre than Withypool, and the quarters are very superior in every way. As I have said before, Exford is a particularly good fishing centre, because the real moorland streams are accessible therefrom. About five miles below Exford, following the winding course of the Exe, we come to the pretty village of Winsford. Here there is an inn that I can particularly recommend—The Royal Oak (Mr. Evans). The inn is fairly large, very quiet, prettily situated, cooking good, terms moderate, beer first-rate.

The Exe is close at hand. I think it would be a good plan for an angling stranger to fish from Dulverton to Exford, making two days' work of it, and stopping the night at Winsford; then *vice versâ*. The stretch of water from Hele Bridge, near Dulverton, to Winsford would be fully seven miles, and one fishing it would, soon after commencing, arrive at the Rock Inn, Bridgetown, where the stag had his throat cut the other day. The day's walk upwards from Winsford could be made as long as the veriest glutton would choose by going on past Exford, and continuing *ad lib.* till dusk. Above Exford the stream is very small; but, when the springs have been broken by continuous rains, good sport is to be looked for. The head of the River Exe is six miles above Exford, and there are trout all the way. It is a very noticeable feature of Devon and Somerset trout that they are to be found in the very smallest *trickles* of water. Upon the moors there are numerous "leats," not more than a foot wide sometimes, that run into brooks tributary to the rivers. In these "leats" I have frequently seen trout ½lb. weight caught by the worm, "groping," and other methods adopted by the artful native of the wilds. These trout are exceedingly plump, shapely, and of beautiful colour.

I am grateful to "S. B. C." for the information contained in his letter to the Fishing Gazette of September 13th, when he says, "The fishing on the Mole below South Molton to its junction with the Bray is not free. It is true that, owing to the courtesy of the riparian owners, gentlemen well known in the neighbourhood are permitted to fish; but, sir, your readers must understand that permission is required."

Whilst I do not doubt that "S. B. C." is perfectly correct in saying the fishing is not free, yet, in justice to myself, I must add that South Molton anglers treat this water as free fishing—and in no small number. And, morever, I am informed by those who, like "S. B. C.," have lived in South Molton all their life, that such has been the case during that period.

Should "S. B. C." feel inclined to meet me at The George some Saturday, and stand "a little bottle," I shall be charmed with his munificence, and to discuss the question and my share of the diluent.

As the trouting season is now over, a few days ago (when it was on its last legs) I visited the Yeo river for a few hours in the afternoon, being somewhat weary of writing this and other contributions to current literature.

I was guilty of thoughtlessness, carelessness, culpability, clumsiness—call it what you will—unworthy of any angler. What words shall express, then, the guilt of a "piscatorial preacher"?

I started for a few hours' sport, to catch a brace for breakfast, with the fixed opinion that they would not sport, &c.; and so took neither creel, fly-book, or spare cast, but had simply rod and line and a cast of flies on my hat.

At the first throw I hooked a good fish on the topmost bob—a plain, smoky hackle—and at once lost both, the gut parting just where the fly is tied. Of course, having no spare flies, I could not renew what appeared likely to prove a favourite. I went on with two flies, devoutly hoping that no accident would happen to my remaining tackle. These two flies were a "red spinner" and a "little pale blue dun." The weather was dull and close after a drizzly day, and the wind blew lightly and almost up stream. The next cast I made hung me up to an alder bush, overhanging a favourite pit. My feelings were indescribable. I gave a savage pull, and got free without mishap. "This looks like luck," thought I. I found the fish in places different from where they used to lie in the spring and early summer; they lay against the banks in the still places beside the current. After killing a leash, I was down to the likely spots, and between three o'clock and half-past six so loaded the pockets of a light, thin overcoat I was wearing, that I sadly thought of my absent creel. The result of this short, but pleasant, spell was seventeen fish: seven 2oz., three 3oz., five ¼lb. fish, and two weighing exactly ½lb. each. (Fact, not *rosiness*, though unusually good, I admit.)

This was a wonderful afternoon's sport, and quite unexpected. Had I began earlier in the day, I believe I should have had the best day I have ever had in this stream out of the scores of days I have fished it. The water was rather low and not a bit coloured.

The next day I resolved to have a day; so I was on the water at 9 o'clock, fished until dark, traversed about seven miles of water, killing only eleven trout, only one of which was a fish, and that was a real beauty of 10oz. And yet wind, weather, and climatic influences were just the same as they were—or appeared to be—the day before.

## BARBEL FISHING IN THE TIDEWAY.

A Thames angler, writing by name to Mr. Spreckley, says:—"I know you will be pleased to hear of my good sport, as it shows there are plenty of fish in the river. I have been having a good try last week—two half-days with a friend on the Wednesday, and another friend on Friday by invitation; the other days by myself. On the Monday I caught a 6-pounder; he was hooked just outside the jaw, and it took me forty-five minutes to land. Tuesday I had ten barbel and some flounders. Wednesday we took twenty-one barbel, two good dace, some flounders, and a fine eel. Thursday, twelve barbel and some flounders. Friday, twenty-five barbel and some dace—we caught fourteen before eleven o'clock; and on Saturday eleven barbel, one 4lb. 2oz., some 3lb., and smaller. All these fish were caught ledgering with the exception of one or two. I am surprised at the numerous applications I have received for the fish, the poorer classes seemingly being fond of them, but, with the exception of a few, they were all returned. From all I can learn, few anglers return their barbel, which is a great pity." Mr. Spreckley guarantees the accuracy of the above very interesting report.

B.

## ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

W. G. Harris (Tunbridge Wells).—The sea fishing is good at Ilfracombe. You can get salmon fishing in the neighbourhood of Barnstaple. Call on Mr. Rowe, fishing-tackle maker, and he will set you up with tackle and information. He has a very good rule—"No tackle, no information." Giving gratuitous advice to a party who gets his tackle at another shop won't keep a business going.

R. C. D.—The "Angler's Diary" does not give the names of the fishermen at Great Marlow; Little's "Angler's Annual" says, "The Shores, Whites, and Rockwells are the fishermen at Great Marlow," but it does not say how many there are in each family, or what their Christian names are. It would hardly do for us to recommend one before another.

E. W., Bunhill-row.—We advise you to get "Little's Angler's Annual" (15, Fetter-lane, price 1s.), and consult its pages for fishing spots on the Lea and Colne and other streams near London. There is a fine stock of fish at Godfrey's water, near West Drayton, on G.W.R.; but they are hard fished, and you must be a good hand to get on terms with them—in fact, all the public or private water near London, which one can get by paying so much per day for, is hard fished, and only those who know how to fish ever do much.

F. Ford.—We cannot tell you the weight of the heaviest roach "ever taken in any water in England." We have one of 2lb. 4oz. now being set up; but heavier fish than this have been taken.

# CORRESPONDENCE.

[*We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.*]

## IMPROVEMENT OF EYED-HOOKS.

Sir,—With some of the ideas mentioned by Mr. Bankart I cordially agree. There is no doubt that the present twist in the bend of eyed-hooks is very senseless; but Mr. Bankart is mistaken if he supposes that I have had any hand in introducing it. On the contrary, the very improvement he now suggests was advocated by me in the spring of 1881. But the makers declined to carry out my wishes, and the only course open to me was to get the hooks sent in the soft state perfectly flat, so that I could give the side-twist myself before they were tempered.

This I did in April, 1881, with one gross of May-fly hooks and one gross of No. 2. Later in the same season I had a second lot of May-fly hooks, which were twisted in the same way, but less sharply. This last batch are the best eyed-hooks I have ever seen, and I have plenty of them left. I also had, in April, 1881, some other May-fly hooks a trifle smaller, and which I did not doctor at all. For the sake of distinction these may be referred to as the "faulty bend." I gave Major Turle and Mr. Marryat their choice out of the two kinds I had in 1881, and Major Turle chose the improved bend, and Mr. Marryat the others. Another season I supplied Mr. F. Francis with some of the "faulty bend," which he asked me to get for him. All these three anglers expressed themselves satisfied, and I mention this to show that it is impossible to please everyone with the same pattern.

Now, in support of my statement that I have already advocated what is now proposed by Mr. Bankart, I inclose three packets of flies and hooks.

1. Contains a grey drake tied by myself, two loch flies tied by Mr. Bankart himself, and a third loch fly on faulty pattern—the first three being on the improved hook, and tied some time between April, 1881, when I twisted the hooks, and the following June, when I was fishing in Scotland, as Mr. Bankart will remember. If you like to send him the two flies (large March brown, and grouse wing and purple body) he will probably recognise his own handiwork. I had sent him the hooks and he tied me these two flies as patterns, and as such I have kept them, though both have been imitated since. Of the improved hooks in this packet, it will be noticed that all are bronze-coloured, and all twisted rather sharply in the direction contrary to that usually adopted, and this peculiarity Mr. Bankart will probably remember. I fancied at the time that when the hook was in the fly-vice, the reversal of twist would make fly-tying easier.

2. Contains 5 blue hooks with the approved side-twist, some more, some less. Also divers shapes of eye will be found. There is one brown hook with the faulty bend put in this packet for comparison. This lot of blue hooks I twisted in the autumn of 1881, with the exception of about two dozen which Mr. Aldam manipulated, as we had been in correspondence about this desirable improvement some months before.

3. Contains a few No. 2 hooks, which I twisted with the first lot of brown May-fly hooks in April, 1881.

I am quite sure of my dates, because I am in the habit of dating each packet of hooks as I receive them. I have friends who remember all the circumstances, and who saw me engaged in the twisting process, and I have never twisted any myself since 1881.

Theoretically, there can be no doubt that it is best to have the hook perfectly flat, and in one plane down to the *second bend*, and then a slight side-twist; but does it amount to much in practice? Some of the best and most skilled anglers in Hampshire begged me to give up theorising, and said the hooks were good enough; so, as I could not get my own ideas carried out, and had not time to twist the hooks myself, I abandoned what I felt to be a desirable improvement—at all events, in theory. I have the best part of two gross of my own twisting still left, and I think they would be very difficult to beat for any class of fly fishing. The Old Limerick, however, is not a good shape for floating flies, and it was deliberately abandoned for the "Snecky Limerick" after much consultation with those best qualified to judge of the requirements of chalk-stream fishing with tiny flies. Mr. Bankart will readily admit that his experience of this kind is extremely slight, and as I wanted practical, not theoretical advice, I did not consult him. What was wanted was a hook in which the whole of the shank should be utilised for the body of the fly, so that the hook should not only be well covered, but should have as little as possible of superfluous wire, to add weight to the fly. Mr. Bankart's *ipse dixit* that I utterly spoilt the shape of the hooks must, I think, be taken with some reservation. The "Snecky Limerick" in itself is not an objectionable shape for any sort of fly fishing, if the side-twist is properly made, and there are many who consider this bend the best for all small floating flies; so much so that this shape has recently been largely used for flies by those who don't use eyed-hooks. Even the most fastidious admirer of the Old Limerick could hardly find fault with some of the blue hooks in packet 2. Be good enough to give your opinion, Mr. Editor. In any case, I think it hardly possible that, with this letter before them, the readers of the Gazette will endorse Mr. Bankart's view that I have done nothing in the way of "elaboration and refinement" since 1880, and that in changing the shape of the hooks without consulting him I utterly spoilt them. This is one of the most unfounded and cruelly unjust assertions that ever was uttered, and so it will be regarded by all those who have helped me with advice and suggestions during the last four years. If the hooks have been utterly spoilt, how is it that Mr. Bankart did not set us right before now—when I sent him the improved patterns in 1881, for instance? If Mr. Bankart had experienced one-tenth of the trouble I have had over the business (and which I do not exaggerate, though he affects to ignore it), he would be a little more tolerant in his opinions of the work of one who has spent time, labour, and money, however unsuccessfully, in the endeavour to interest and help his brother anglers, and with no other object.

However, I am still trying once more with a new firm of hook makers, whose first samples of 000, 00, and 0 proved excellent on the Test a month ago. Fish of 2lb. and upwards came to the net on a 00 hook again and again, and we never found a faulty barb in a week's fishing. The improved side-twist has been fully explained, and patterns supplied to the makers; whether they can carry out my wishes remains to be seen. If they succeed, I shall not be slow to publish the result: if they fail, I shall give up catering for the public as a thankless task.—I am, &c.,

H. S. Hall.

P.S.—As the Editorial footnote to Mr. Bankart's first letter of Sept. 27th is a little misleading, I hope I may be allowed a word of explanation. On Sept. 8th I wrote a full reply to Mr. Bankart's letter of the previous week. It was a long letter (13 pages of foolscap), and in it I met Mr. Bankart at all points, though I was away from home and had no access to letters or other memoranda. When I sent this up to the Gazette the Editor begged me not to pursue a personal dispute any further in his columns. I acceded to his wish, and as I was asked to confine my remarks within the space of half a column, I wrote an entirely new letter on a different basis altogether, and on the understanding that it would close the dispute. It was impossible in the space allotted me to attempt to refute three columns of Mr. Bankart's, and so I contented myself with the letter of Sept. 20th, and it must have been evident to all readers that in every line of that letter there was a studied brevity and terseness of expression. Had I known that Mr. Bankart would be allowed to re-open the controversy, I should have written very differently. To Mr. Bankart's triumphant assertion that I have no proofs to offer, I can certainly give the most emphatic contradiction possible; but he has contradicted himself often enough in all conscience. On May 31st we have an account (utterly unintelligible to me even now) emphasising points the importance of which no one ever heard of before. On June 21st we learn that "Mr. Hall got the hooks perfected." On Aug. 9th Mr. Bankart says, "I wrote hurriedly, and I intended to give him the lion's share of credit." In the letter of Sept. 6th it is stated that I did nothing at all at first, and that there was no partnership after 1879, while further on in the same letter we are both represented as having been "equally active" up to that date, and everything is asserted to have been *in statu quo* since 1880. Lastly, on Sept. 27th, there appears the assertion that the hooks were utterly spoilt by me in 1880, and this is followed by suggestions for future improvements, which the present letter shows I advocated and acted upon three years ago.

[If this most unfortunate controversy leads to the improvement of the eyed, hook, it will not have been useless. Several of the samples sent us by Mr. Hall, including the sample flies dressed by Mr. Bankart, fulfil exactly the requirements mentioned by Mr. B. in his letter last week, and it seems to have been nothing but the refusal of Messrs. Hutchinson to make the hooks as desired by Mr. Hall which prevented the suggestion being carried out in 1881. We have every reason to believe that the firm which is now experimenting for Mr. Hall will carry out his wishes. It is abundantly clear that Mr. Hall not only did not spoil the shape, but that he did all he could to get the hooks made in the way he, Mr. Bankart, Major Turle, and others, including ourselves, think is the best. We know what it is to get a firm to carry out all one's suggestions! In face of the great reputation for killing powers which the eyed-hook, in its present shape, has attained, we think that Mr. Bankart will admit his expression "utterly spoilt" was uncalled for; indeed, it is still a question whether the new shape will hold, or take hold, better than the present one—we think it will; but a hook which Mr. Marryat, who probably fishes more, and more successfully, than any other trout angler, is satisfied with cannot have much the matter with it!

We must just mention that our reason for inserting Mr. Bankart's letter after we had stated the correspondence was closed was that Mr. B. considered he had the right to the "last word," as Mr. Hall had commenced the attack. Mr. Hall's contention is that Mr. B. commenced the controversy, and that he (Mr. Hall) ought to have the last word. The consequence is that we are in the very awkward position of being considered unjust by that one of our correspondents who does not get this "last word." We have it from Mr. Bankart himself that he is quite ready to shake hands with his old friend and forget this unpleasant episode; it would give us the greatest pleasure to learn that Mr. Hall was ready to do the same. Neither need fear the least loss of dignity in the matter, for if both these gentlemen went on for ever scratching themselves with this eyed-hook, not much damage would be done on either side, for the fact remains that Mr. Hall has acknowledged the help he received at the outset from Mr. Bankart; and Mr. Bankart acknowledges that the "lion's share" in the matter belongs to Mr. Hall. We should be extremely pleased to be able to state next week that these two good and true anglers have adopted our suggestion, and instead of tearing each other to tatters, or attempting to do so, were again amicably endeavouring to "improve the eyed-hook."—Ed.]

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Sir,—We inclose you, for your inspection, a few eyed-hooks (altered) to suggestions made in the Fishing Gazette, which we think is just what the angling public want. Will you also open lot marked for Mr. Bankart, and examine large size, and forward them to Mr. Bankart? We shall be pleased to alter them in any way to suggestions made by yourself, or the angling public, either privately or through the medium of your paper. We ask you, as a favour, not to publish our names, for reasons best known to ourselves, but permit us to sign ourselves—Yours, &c.,

Redditch, Sept. 29. Waltonians.

[This firm has quickly carried out the "improved" idea as regards the slight side-twist of the point. We have sent the samples to Mr. Bankart, and asked the firm to send some to Mr. Hall.—Ed.]

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Sir,—I shall be glad if you will allow me to say a few words in reference to the improvements suggested in Mr. Bankart's letter of Sept. 27. I inclose four flies, which were tied by Mr. Hall, and given to me by him at Loch Laggan in Aug., 1881. If you will examine these you will find that the hooks are twisted exactly as Mr. Bankart recommends, the only peculiarity being that the direction of the twist is reversed. If you hold the hook with the bend towards you, the twist is to the right in these hooks, and to the left in those ordinarily sold.

The flies inclosed are upon hooks which Mr. Hall twisted with his own hands. I have known Mr. Hall for many years, and for the last ten have been in almost daily communication with him. I have fished with him scores of times, and, probably, no man living has had as good an opportunity of discussing with him his hooks and flies. Knowing what I do of Mr. Hall's recent work in the improvement of eyed-hooks, Mr. Bankart's statement that Mr. Hall "utterly spoilt the hooks" seems to me most unjust. I beg that you will give this letter a place in your next issue, to let your readers know that the improvements now suggested by Mr. Bankart are by no means new, but were advocated by Mr. Hall fully three years ago.—I am, &c.,

Sept. 29. H. P. Luckman.

[As we have stated in our footnote to Mr. Hall's letter, in these hooks made by him (or rather shaped by him) in 1881, the slight side-twist of the point commences from the bend next the point, and not from the bend next the shank. In fact, it is just what Mr. Bankart wants, or we have quite mistaken his letters and samples. We have since received another letter on this subject, also enclosing similar "correct" patterns of hooks made by Mr. Hall in 1881, and given to our correspondent, who signs himself "*Sic Vos Non Vobis*."—Ed.]

## THE SURREY CANAL, THE SERPENTINE, &c.

Sir,—I have an angling ticket for the Grand Surrey Docks and Canal Company—charge, 1s. It is dated 1840. I have been there since, and in the Timber Docks have caught fine perch.

The Directors only can give permission. My last ticket for the Serpentine *River* is dated 1846. It was a river then, as the Westbournes from Harrow, &c., went direct through the Serpentine, and through the Vauxhall Bridge-road to the Thames, the sewers in Bayswater-road and Knightsbridge now taking the in and outflow.—I am, &c., T. R. Sachs.

22, Hyde Park-place, Sept. 27.

## TACKLE FOR PERCH FISHING WITH STICKLEBACKS.

Sir,—Your correspondent, "Piscator Minor," will find the tackle we use for bream fishing in the Trent just the thing for perch fishing with sticklebacks. They are about 3ft. long, and would comfortably kill a perch up to 2lb., if not more.

The *red throater* sticklebacks, I think, are the most attractive. You may not be aware perch are very partial to *gay* colours.

If you know a place where there are a number of perch, put a bunch of gay flowers in a clear glass bottle and mark the result. Just the same with pike: they will often take a *gold* fish when they will take *nothing* else. Change, I suppose, and, like a good many others, very often suffer for their fancy.

You say, very truly, the tackle sold for perch fishing is very often far too coarse. I have seen it strong enough for jack fishing. As a rule, there is nothing so very formidable about these Zebra-marked gentlemen to warrant the use of a *gimp bottom* with a No. 5 hook in a water where there is not a single jack. Depend upon it, the finer the tackle the greater the sport. All I know is, when a boy I have taken perch up to nearly 2lb., with similar tackle, on a *dace* line. "P. M." should cut off the spines with a very sharp pair of scissors. It is an improvement.—I am, &c., Mark Antony.

## "SHAWFORD BROOK"—THE GREEN INSECT.

Sir,—In reply to your query at foot of my short article on "Shawford Brook," in last week's Gazette, I beg to inform you that I am not a member of the newly-formed angling society at Stafford. If you inquired with any intention of visiting the locality when you may next find yourself at Stafford, it is easily reached from thence by train to Norton Bridge, a run of about ten minutes, and Walton's house is about half a mile or so from the station.

If the natives of Shallowford do not know anyone of the name of Walton living there, as one of them informed me when I asked which was Walton's house, they will no doubt be able to tell you which are the "Corporation Cottages," which is the name the building seems to have acquired now, no doubt in consequence of its division into two, and ownership by the Corporation of Stafford.—I am, &c.,

W. T. S.

P.S.—Could you give me the dressing of the fly called the "green insect," used on the Teme? If not, perhaps some of your correspondents in that neighbourhood would kindly do so.

[We do not know the dressing, but should like to.—Ed.]

## WHERE TO BANK FISH IN THE THAMES.

Sir,—Would you kindly inform me if I can get any *bank* fishing near Teddington, or where up the Thames is the nearest spot from London where I might expect to fish from the bank with some prospects of success?—I am, &c.,

Chancery-lane, London. H. M.

[We have asked Mr. W. H. Brougham, Secretary of the Thames Angling Preservation Society, kindly to answer this question. Good fish are often taken both just below the Weir and just above it, and in the Lock Cut at Teddington, *all* on the Surrey side. The rise and fall of the tide makes bank fishing uncomfortable work below Teddington, the banks are so wet and muddy, and the number of pleasure boats is much greater than above Teddington.—Ed.]

My Dear Sir,—Please inform me, from your experience up and down the river, what are the best spots for *bank* fishing between Twickenham and Kingston?—Yours very truly, R. B. Marston.

W. H. Brougham, Esq.

*Answer.*—There is, and always has been good bank fishing all the way from Twickenham to Kingston, but the nearer you get to Kingston Bridge the closer you find yourself to the rough element of anglers. Some distance lower down than the bridge I have known plenty of good fish taken near to Stevens's eyot, and then again at the One Mile Tree. In the immediate vicinity of Teddington Lock, the bank anglers get some good fish. The neighbourhood of Twickenham affords excellent sport in fly fishing for dace.

## THE RIGHT TO A THAMES SWIM.

Sir,—May I ask for your advice upon the following:—Myself and friends started with Samuel Cole, of Twickenham, to fish a swim opposite Pope's Villa, on Saturday, Sept. 20, and, on arrival, found a pole fixed, placed there by a person of the name of Johnston, butler to Lady Manners, or by his orders.

I advised Cole to fix in the swim, but he had some compunction in doing so. About 10.30 Mr. Johnston came down. I gave him my opinion, which, I am bound to say, did not agree with his—in fact, he was very impertinent. I understand it is prohibited to the fishermen to secure a swim in this way, and cannot see why a private individual should have any priority over them.

May I ask the insertion of this, and your reply in the Fishing Gazette, with apologies for thus troubling you?—I am, &c.,

Waverley Lodge, Lower Richmond-road, Putney. W. H. Britton.

[We think our correspondent should give his apologies to Mr. Johnston and not to us. It is well understood on the river that when an angler, or his fisherman for him, has put a pole into a swim, the swim is taken for the day, and no one thinks of interfering. There is no legal right to the swim, but there is a strong moral right, and Thames anglers and fishermen will do well to uphold it strenuously. It is quite possible Mr. Johnston had had the swim in question baited; but even if that was not the case, he should have been allowed to fish in the spot he had, according to the laws of angling, secured by his pole. Of course, if Mr. J. had not come down by 10.30 (quite soon enough for the feed at this time of the year), or in a reasonable time, he would doubtless have had the pole removed to show the swim was at liberty.—Ed.]

## A NOTE FROM NOTTINGHAM.

Sir,—There has been very little doing the early part of this week, the water being so discoloured, but is now fining down rapidly. Sport has been very bad in the upper parts of the river, with the exception of Mr. H. Coxen's nice basket of fish. There have been a few bream taken in the Weston water. Mr. J. Jackson caught five pike in the Shardlow length; at Coldwick there have been some good bream and barbel taken. Mr. Baker, fishing in the same water, caught a pike under rather peculiar circumstances: he was bream fishing, and had laid his rod down while getting some refreshment, when, taking it up, there was a pike on, having taken his worm, and, lucky for him, his tackle caught between two of the pike's teeth, and with the assistance of some friends landed him, weighing 6½lb. Another gentleman, fishing the same water last week, had a very remarkable bite: having left his mackintosh on the bank, a cow came up, and had got three-parts of it down her before he found it out, and, with a lot of pulling and tugging, managed to get it back again, *not much the worse.* Another fisherman got 17lb. of roach and bream at Ratcliff Ferry, on Friday.—I am, &c., A. W.

Nottingham.

## FISHING IN THE BOLLIN.

Sir,—Sam Brooks having been out of town, I could not reply to "Bollin's" letter sooner, in which he says his friend has taken larger baskets of fish "than Sam Brooks and Mr. C. Cartwright."

What I said was "that Sam caught them whilst fishing with Mr. Cartwright" (not the combined catch of the two, as "Bollin" infers). Sam requests me to state that he caught his fish in five hours—not in a freshet, but with the water low and clear. He also wishes me to say he took another basket of 25 fish, roach and dace, on the 18th inst., running (not averaging) from 7½oz. up to 1lb., one of the dace weighing 10oz., this catch occupying 4½ hours to effect.

It is probable that "Bollin's" friend has taken the large baskets of fish he mentions; but not having heard of them, I do not see how I can be over the mark in saying Sam's was the largest.—I am, &c., John Thomas.

74, Oldham-road, Manchester, Sept. 29.

## MAJOR TRAHERNE'S LETTER ON STRIKING A SALMON.

Sir,—Major Traherne's letter, published in your issue of the 20th ult., opens up such a very important question to salmon anglers, that I have no hesitation in addressing you, in hopes of gaining more information upon this subject.

When such well-known and accomplished salmon anglers as Major Traherne and Mr. Kelson differ in opinion in matters of this kind, less experienced men may be excused for desiring further knowledge of what to do at the most critical moment in a salmon angler's experience—viz., when a salmon rises to the fly: Shall he strike his fish, or allow the salmon to hook itself?

Major Traherne states that he has lost more fish with double hooks than he ever did with single hooks; but, he adds, *he did not strike from the winch.*

Now, Sir, this appears to me to be the very point of Mr. Kelson's argument. The Major omits to perform the one act necessary to success.

Mr. Kelson tells us he has fished all his life with single hooks, but finds that if the double hooks are understood and properly used, they are far better. The pith of his argument *is* to strike from the winch with flies up to a certain size, and he gave us instances when the line ought to be held instead. "The winch should be so constructed," says Mr. Kelson, "that in hitting a fish the hooks penetrate before the reel-plate revolves; but that it *will* revolve before the flesh is torn."

By following Mr. Kelson's instructions, I find it absolutely impossible to break the gut or line, or strike too hard,

The strike should be a *long, firm, but steady pull,* not a jerk. Major Traherne states, "when a salmon rises to a fly no jerk or strike should be made, and the rod should be kept in the same position as before."

Are salmon, then, the only fish that cannot discern between an artificial fly and a real bait when in the mouth? Trout, grilse, sewin, and other species of the salmonidæ will instantly reject an artificial fly unless struck, and my impression is salmon will do the same.

The only instance in which a salmon need not be struck is in a strong rapid stream, as it is likely to hook itself, but even then a steady strike from the winch is better.

The only point Major Traherne is most anxious to effect is to fix the barb: this is much more effectively done by a long, steady strike than leaving the matter to the fish. In fact, the Major has to admit this in the following statement: "But when fishing with large flies a strong pull or two may be necessary, but no jerk or strike."

This strong pull I consider to be the strike. I should never think of striking any kind of fish by a jerk; it invariably ends in the loss of tackle, fish, and temper.

Personally, I am decidedly in favour of striking from a properly adjusted ordinary check winch, but should be delighted to hear the views of other salmon anglers on a question of so much interest.—I am, &c., Wm. Thomas.

103, Talbot-road, W., Oct. 2.

## ANGLERS' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

Sir,—The next meeting of this society will take place on Friday evening next, Oct. 10, at nine o'clock, when the committee will decide as to the disposal of the surplus prizes left over from the late Angling Tournament.—I am, &c.,

R. Ghurney, sec.

New Foresters' Hall, Clerkenwell-road, Clerkenwell, E.C.

N.B.—Secretaries of societies will oblige by a settlement for Tournament tickets.

## THE LARGE WICKHAM FANCY.

Sir,—On seeing Mr. Bankart's letter of Aug. 23, I tried some large Wickhams, and have done better with them than any other flies. For the wing I used a pale brown feather from the wing covert of an Egyptian goose—at least, the man who gave them to me said they were from that bird. He has promised to get me some more, and if he does I will send Mr. Bankart one or two to try.

A friend wants to know the following:—In a river which is not in a salmon district, may he fish with rod and line for salmon, peal, or sea trout, until the 1st of November? I say yes, but he wishes for your opinion; kindly give it in your next.—I am, &c.,

Budleigh Salterton, Sept. 28. E. Gosling.

[He can fish with rod and line up to November 1; but we strongly advise him to make sure that the river is *not* under a Fisheries Board, as they have the power, within certain limits, to alter the beginning and the end of the close time.—Ed.]

## WHARFE GRAYLING FISHING.

Sir,—In answer to "Cinnamon," let him stick to Wharfe flies; fancy patterns are no use. From now till the middle of November is the best time for fly, and as he dresses flies, let him try Orange Partridge and Smoke, or W. Brumfitt, Otley, will supply him. I can vouch for the above being killers, and both are well known favourites. Red tag is also a capital fly; I have killed grayling up to 1lb. 8oz. in Wharfe with it.—I am, &c,, Orange Partridge.

Chester.

["Cinnamon" said he had tried the Standard flies. If he has not tried the regular Wharfe patterns, why does he not do so? "Orange Partridge" says fancy patterns are no use, and then recommends the red tag. The orange, mulberry, and other bumbles, the "Francis," the silver and gold Wickham, are all "fancy" flies, and will kill grayling as well as any other patterns. Mr. Pratt, of Otley, makes capital Wharfe patterns. As soon as frosty weather sets in, the "gardenia" kills grayling best in Wharfe.—Ed.]

## SUBSTITUTE FOR LANDING NET.

Sir,—In the Gazette of Aug. 9, "Fly Fisher" asks for information as to an instrument for landing fish. Last summer Mr. T. Thorman, fishing-tackle maker, 17, Bridge-street, Carnarvon, told me he had invented something to take the place of landing net or gaff for salmon. I have not seen it, but no doubt if "Fly Fisher" writes to Mr. Horman, he will give him all necessary information.—I am, &c.,

Budleigh Salterton, Sept. 28. E. Gosling.

[If the invention referred to is the steel spring claw with teeth, then we advise our readers to stick to the gaff or landing net; if they happen to sit down on the "claw" when set, they will not be able to sit down again for a long time; or, in getting over a hedge, when the landing net handle would be a support, this claw would indeed be a delusion and a snare. Did Mr. Gosling get our letter about his articles?—Ed.]

## THE CENTRAL ASSOCIATION.

Sir,—At the last meeting of the above, in a speech by Mr. Crumplen, it was observed that the terms offered by the Anglers' Association of so many representatives for each hundred tickets taken was unfair, inasmuch as many had joined the Anglers' Association in preference to the Central, believing they could not get the S.W.R. privilege tickets from the Central. It is only fair that anglers should know the truth of the matter. Before Mr. Crumplen made his speech, the Anglers' Association had offered the Central to let things remain as formerly up to the end of the present season—viz., 24 committee men from the Anglers, and 12 from the Central. This would be allowing a third of the representation to a body that only contributes a sixth of the funds.—I am, &c., X.

GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY.

RIVER THAMES.—The Great Western Railway, having Stations on the Banks of the River at Brentford, Windsor, Taplow, Maidenhead, Cookham, Bourne-end, Great Marlow, Henley, Reading, Pangbourne, Goring, Moulsford, Wallingford, &c., affords unequalled facilities to those desirous of visiting it for Fishing and Other Purposes.

ANGELRS' TICKETS.—Cheap Third-class Return Tickets, available for three days, are issued at Paddington, Weatbourne-park, and Kensington (Addison-road), to Stations within 50 miles of London to members of "The Angler's Association," and "The Central Association of London Angling Clubs," who present their Cards of Membership at the time of taking their tickets.

CHEAP DAY EXCURSIONS.—Cheap Day Excursion Tickets are issued daily by certain specified trains until October 31st, from Paddington, Westbourne-park, Hammersmith, Kensington (Addison-road), and Uxbridge-road, and certain Stations on the Metropolitan and District Raiilways to

| | s. d. | | s. d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Windsor | 2 6 | Coodham<br>Bourne-end<br>Great Marlow<br>Henley | 3 6 |
| Taplow<br>Maidenhead | 3 0 | | |

For Further Particulars see Company's Time Bills.

J. GRIERSON, General Manager.

FISHING & BOATING.

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WALTON-ON-THAMES.

On the Banks of the River in the Centre of the best Fishing on the Thames.

This Hotel has been newly-decorated throughout. Splendid accommodation for Fishing Gentlemen and Boating Parties—parties for whom the Hotel is specially adapted, with every convenience; good Stabling and Coach-houses, Fishing Punts, Boats, and Men provided at the shortest notice. Conveyance sent to meet any train.

Mr. Alfred Mackrill took 110lb. weight of Bream at Walton on Sept. 22nd and 25th, 1884. He says the river is "literally paved with fish."

Address, PROPRIETOR, SWAN HOTEL, WALTON-ON-THAMES.

TO FLY MAKERS AND OTHERS.
Gold, Amherst, Reeves' Versicolor, and other Foreign Pheasants for Sale.

Also SKINS and FEATHERS of the same, specially selected for Flies.

Apply to Mr. HORNE, Hampton Park, Hereford.

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# RIVER REPORTS.

## TIME OF HIGH WATER IN THE THAMES.

To find the time of high water in the Thames at any of the following places, to the time of high water at London Bridge (given below).

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Add | 30 | minutes for | Chelsea. |
| | 40 | " | Putney. |
| | 45 | " | Hammersmith. |
| | 50 | " | Barnes. |
| | 55 | " | Kew. |
| | 75 | " | Richmond. |
| | 80 | " | Twickenham. |
| | 85 | " | Teddington. |

Example:—If it is high water at 2 o'clock at London Bridge, it will be high water at Teddington about 3.25, or eighty-five minutes later; but it must be remembered that a strong wind accelerates or retards the tide very much.

FOR TIMES OF HIGH WATER AT LONDON BRIDGE.

| | | | Morning. | Afternoon. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Saturday, | October | 4* | 1.9 | 1.30 |
| Sunday, | " | 5 | 1.49 | 2.6 |
| Monday, | " | 6 | 2.25 | 2.46 |
| Tuesday, | " | 7 | 3.5 | 3.24 |
| Wednesday, | " | 8 | 3.46 | 4.7 |
| Thursday, | " | 9 | 4.29 | 4.51 |
| Friday, | " | 10 | 5.15 | 5.39 |

NOTE.—High Tide October 6, 7, and 8.

* Total Eclipse of the Moon, commencing 8.15 p.m., visible at Greenwich.

## THE LOWER THAMES.

### GENERAL REMARKS.

The present period of the year is subject to a great demand for the white, or coarse fish, and it requires all the vigilance and energy of the riverkeepers to prevent the river from being poached to meet the requirements. For the last two or three years the arrangements have been so perfect by the united action of the keepers employed by the T.A.P.S., and those by the Thames Conservancy, that the Tideway, once so favourable for the poachers, has been considered free from their visits. Some of the old offenders have died out, and others are now disabled. Besides this, there is a better feeling in existence, and that has been brought about by the kindly, and no less practical, visits of Mr. Thomas Spreckley, whose judicious and excellent treatment is beginning to bear good fruit. In the report of the Tideway as regards angling, it is said, "The water is the same as last week in colour and height, and the fish appear to be taken in the same quantities." Mr. G. H. Wright. of the White Swan, Twickenham Ferry, reports some very considerable takes of barbel near to his hostelry, one of the anglers in the week getting no fewer than eighty-one barbel—only two of them exceeding over 4lb.; but there were a great number very near that weight, and he has had himself some excellent sport in fly fishing for dace. Above the locks the presence of anglers has not been so numerous, and the fishermen have expressed themselves as disappointed when the fish are so plentiful the anglers are few. There has been one notable take of barbel at Chertsey, and this should act as a stimulus in that neighbourhood for others to go and do likewise. There is a probability of the members of the Guildford Angling Society visiting this neigbbourhood for a fishing competition, as Mr. Cook, who now belongs to the Abbey river, which runs into the Thames at Chertsey and Penton Hook, has been liberally placed at their disposal.

### ANGLING RESULTS.

**Richmond.**—Christopher Brown, in five days, 80lb. of roach and dace and three barbel; F. Brown, in four days, 60lb. and seven barbel; Henry Wheeler, in five days, 80lb. and four barbel; Henry Mansell, during the week, 80lb. and seven barbel; Job Brain, in six days, 90lb. and 8 barbel; and Henry Howard, in five days, 80lb. and eight barbel.

**Twickenham.**—Richard Coxen, in three days, Mr. A. J. Little and Mr. Stone forty-eight barbel; and C. Miles, in one day, with Mr. A. J. Little and Mr. G. Wright, twenty-one barbel, nearly all the fish being put back. Richard Coxen, in two other days, twelve dozen of roach and dace and seven barbel; James Coxen, in three days, forty-two dozen and eleven barbel; George Coxen, in seven days, fifty-six dozen and seven barbel; Joseph Dobbin, in four days, thirty-eight dozen and five barbel; W. Spong, in five days, forty dozen; Pert Hammerton, in four days, 80lb., including six barbel; Charles Hennessey, in four days, thirty-two dozen and three barbel; Samuel Mesley, in four days, twenty-four dozen and four barbel; Samuel Cole, in six days, 80lb. and four barbel; Edward Finch, in two days, with Mr. Norton and friend, 60lb. of fish, and in five other days 60lb; John Spong, in six days, 148lb. weight of roach and dace, including eight barbel; Henry Spiers, in five days, fifty-two dozen five barbel and a brace of perch, the latter weighing 2½lb.

**Teddington.**—Charles Baldwin, in four days, twenty-five dozen of good roach and dace and one barbel; Benjamin Stevens, in three days, twenty-one barbel, the largest 8lb., and some fine roach and dace; Joseph Baldwin, in five days, thirty dozen of roach and dace and two jack, weighing respectively 7½lb. and 6½lb.; J. Stevens, in six days, 56lb. and five barbel. There was a time when Teddington was most famous for barbel, not only in number but in size, and the records of barbel-fishing in the weighing-in book of the veteran Piscatorial Society at Ashley's Hotel, Covent-garden, should contain some extraordinary results from the rod of Mr. F. C. Parker, the late Mr. A. Browne, and other eminent piscators. When the former angler resided at Teddington he used to put in the ballast-hole near to the railway station large quantities of fish which he caught, as the water at that time was held by him.

**Kingston.**—John Johnson, senr., in writing from Kingston says, "I have not done much fishing this week. I have had some first-rate gudgeon-fishing, and very fine specimens, as I measured dozens that were 6½in. in length. The roach have not been feeding well the last few days, and I have only got six barbel in the week. There has not been so much done from the banks by night. A few small jack have been taken by the private boats." John Johnson, jun., previous to going on an angling trip with one of his clients to Oxford, had one good haul of barbel—the best fish 9¼lb.—and another good take of roach and dace. James Wilks, in four days, 41 barbel—the largest 4lb.—four chub, and eight dace. The bank anglers have caught during the week 30 barbel and 15 bream, and nice quantities of roach and dace.

**Long Ditton.**—H. Buttery, in three days, 11 jack—the last 3½lb. The bank fishers have had passable results in roach, dace, and gudgeon.

**Hampton Court.**—W. Milbourne, in one day, three perch, weighing 4½lb.; and Thomas Davis, in three days, ten dozen of roach and dace, seven perch, and nine dozen of gudgeon. The numerous clients of William Milbourne will be glad to find he has recovered from his illness, and is now on the river again, ready to pilot his customers to the best swims. At Tagg's Island Fishery the anglers have been showing at the bar of the hotel some good takes of roach and dace.

**Hampton.**—James Langshaw, jun., in one day, three barbel and twelve dozen of roach and dace. The bank anglers have been well in amongst the roach, dace, barbel, and gudgeon. From the scanty returns which this neighbourhood supplies, it would appear that is not sufficiently patronised by the anglers, and yet it ought to afford the best roach and dace fishing on the river. It was the favourite resort of the late Mr. Stephen Ponder, who was always great amongst the roach and dace.

**Sunbury.**—Edward Clarke, jun., in five days, 19 barbel—the largest 4½lb.—eleven dozen of roach and dace, and 15 brace of perch. H. Clarke, jun., in three days, ten dozen of roach and dace, four barbel, and twelve dozen of gudgeon. Bank angling has been first rate in the Sunbury district. Roach, dace, gudgeon, perch, chub, and barbel have been the fish principally taken.

**Walton.**—George Hone, one day, two bream, seven dozen of gudgeon, and one dozen of dace. R. Watford, one day, two brace of perch; another day, one barbel and one chub; and another dry, one brace of perch and five dozen of gudgeon. John Hone, one day, four dozen of roach; another day, six dozen of gudgeon; and another day, four bream, a jack of 4lb., and one roach of 1lb.

**Halliford.**—William Rosewell, in one day, six dozen of roach and dace, two bream and ten dozen of gudgeon. Edward Rosewell, one day, five barbel, and three bream; and another day, three barbel and one brace of perch. Thomas Strudwick, one day, four dozen of roach and dace, and one bream; another day, two dozen and one barbel, and another day, three barbel.

**Shepperton.**—James Haslett, one day in four hours, with Mr. C. Waterhouse, four barbel, four chub, and one perch; another day, in five hours, two barbel, five chub, and one perch; another day, in the same time, two barbel, five chub, and one perch; another day, a barbel of 5lb., and three chub, and another day, four chub, one barbel, and one perch.

**Chertsey.**—J. Poulter, in two days, with Signor Foli, Signor Maas, and Mr. John Wood, got 150lb. weight of barbel, and four chub; another day, three barbel, two dozen of roach and dace, and one chub; and another day, five barbel and one chub.

**Staines.**—C. Hone, in one day, with Mr. Johnson, three jack and two barbel; another day, with M. J. H. Gaunt, five barbel and two chub; another day, seven barbel, and one brace of jack; another day, five jack, and three barbel, and another day, twenty-two barbel. John Keene, jun., in three days, thirteen barbel and five chub. John Keene, sen., in one day, a barbel of 9lb., another of 5lb., and sixteen dozen of roach and dace; another day, four chub, and in three other days, twenty-two barbel. E. Keene, one day, three barbel, the largest 6lb., and six dozen of roach and dace, and another day, eleven dozen.

## UPPER THAMES.

No successful angling has taken place in the Upper Thames during the past week; the water is, in fact, too bright and stale, and until a fresh takes place, or the rotting weeds are washed away, nothing of import can be done. A meeting of the executive of the various up-river associations, under the kindly auspices of Mr. C. Foottit, of Marlow, took place on Monday, and preliminaries for the acquisition of angling knowledge on various points in connection with associations were arranged; but a more detailed account of the "meeting of the waters" shall be given on a future occasion.—MARLOW BUZZ.

### Thames (Eynsham).

We have had very little angling done in this neighbourhood lately, except that Mr. Bonvoisin, who was here ten days, had a very fair amount of sport. One day he would be among the perch, another roach, then chub, and of the latter he had a good take altogether. He, Mr. B., was anxious to take a good barbel before returning, and was fortunate enough to land one of 7lb. on his last day. The water is still low, and fish are not feeding well, the weather being so changeable just now.—W. B. Howe.

### Goring (Thames).

Water very low and clear. A lot of rain is wanted before we shall get good fishing. My best day, four chub, largest about 4lb., and a few good roach. Next best day, two chub, and some very good perch.—John Rush.

### Thames (Oxford).

Such a continuance of low water has scarcely ever been known in the Oxford district. But although the autumn sport is greatly affected thereby, the first winter's flood will find, comparatively speaking, an empty river, so that the anglers will not be compelled, unless the rainfall is unusually heavy, to resort to the flams and lay-byes on the fields, whenever favourable weather permits a turn amongst the fish. The Cherwell is undergoing a severe course of dredging and reshaping, consequently, as every available drop of water has been run off into the Thames, there is not the slightest sign of current, and fishing is next to useless, and the same cry of low water is heard from everyone who tries any of the affluents. My prognostications of poor takes are, therefore, likely to remain good until we get a decided change, and I can only say the difficulty of obtaining any items worth recording is very great. On Friday, at Wheatley, Messrs. Harvey and Beckley had eight small jack. In the Thames Mr. Scurrot landed a fine jack of 8½lb. On Saturday Mr. Cleaver caught a large jack scaling 15½lb. At Sandford Mr. Chas. Mallett had about fifty roach. On the 28th ult. little or nothing was done, although there were a great many rods at work. On Tuesday Mr. Mallett was again well in amongst the roach, his catch being between sixty and seventy. On Wednesday Mr. Potter had four roach weighing together 4lb., and one day this week, but I am unable to say which, Mr. J. Carter grassed six jack at Black Jack's, the whole going over 12lb.—Cherwell Otter.

### Walton-on-Thames.

The fishing this week has been good, and several large baskets have been made. On the 28th ult. a gentleman, fishing in the back water, caught five good pike before eleven o'clock in the morning, two of them nearly 10lb. weight each. A monster was seen yesterday in the same place, supposed to be between 20lb. and 30lb. It swam leisurely under a punt into a bed of weeds, where it was lost sight of. Dick Watford has found his patrons some good sport. A party of gentlemen staying at the Swan Hotel made a large basket on the 28th ult. Another party from the Swan Hotel, on Tuesday, had a very satisfactory take of barbel and bream with the same fishermen. The barbel seem now fairly on the feed. George Hone, senr., made a large haul on Wednesday of very fine fish. Both pike and barbel are very numerous, and some good sport is to be obtained.—Goldfinch.

### Wraysbury.

Water too low and bright; almost impossible to take anything except chub, and those must be fished for "Nottingham style"—a large lump of cheesepaste, bread, or pith, and a long way off letting the bait work into the small eddies under the old withies.

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### Ancholme District.

Some very fine fish have been taken during the past week. One angler had amongst other fish five good bream of about 4lb. each. These fish are now being caught with hard boiled potatoes. As usual, a good number were out on Monday last. The weather remains delightfully fine and the water low and clear. I had a parting shot at the trout on Monday; but only got one fish of 1¼lb. It was in the primest condition, and made a splendid supper. I relished it greatly, being for me the last of the season.—Thomas Ford, Caistor.

### Chichester.

There is nothing particularly noteworthy from Chichester during the past fortnight; a few fair bream, some roach, and a couple of small pike are all I hear of. At Selham the water is in good condition, some good roach coming to hand. I have been trying for pike in the upper reaches of the Ouse, but have met with but poor success, the river being so full of fallen timber that break-aways have been numerous. There is a large pike near Sheffield Park station, I should say a twenty-pounder, and I trust to make his acquaintance before leaving. Seven small pike have fallen to my lot in the past few days in this district, but the water is too low and bright to be successful among the larger fraternity.—George F. Salter.

### The Dee and Don (Aberdeenshire).

Though we, residenters and sojourners the north of the Grampians haven't yet been favoured with much rain, only a splash now and again, the rivers, notwithstanding, are getting into ply, and a few fish are occasionally got. On the Burgh water of Kintore, one good salmon was got last week, and another at Grandholm. Excepting good takes of white trout in the tidal waters of the Don, this is all we have heard of from that river. In the tidal waters of the Dee, sea trout are numerous, and at present are showing well to the "winged wriggler." Ten to twenty, averaging ¾lb., is no uncommon basketful. It can thus be seen that tidal-water fishing is encouraging just now; but we regret that the same cannot be said of salmon fishing higher up the rivers. On the Polldown section of the Dee, nine salmon from 7lb. to 26½lb. were landed during the week, chiefly by Mr. Robertson and Mr. Black, Robt. Clark, jun., Esq., had one in the Nether Banchory water. Another was got, a culter. Little sport on Park or Drum reported. W. Knowles, Esq., London, had poor sport on Durris water, only getting three fish within the past fortnight, the largest 27lb. General Keane, W. Scheuster, Esq., and J. Campbell White, Esq., of Overtoun, have been even less fortunate on the Kineskie and Crathes waters. On the Invery, Inchmarle, Banchory, Lodge, Riverston, Blackhall, and Cairnton sections, only two or three fish were got altogether. On the Woodend Fishery the sport was very indifferent. In the Kincardine O'Neil district a number of fish were landed within the past eight days, of which we record that Walter Evans, Esq., had two, 7lb. and 11lb.; Scott, keeper, Carlogie, four one day, 6, 7, 8, and 12lb.; Charles Farquhar, Esq., and Stewart Farquhar, Esq., on the same water, had three and two respectively on the following day, 7, 8, 6½, 16 and 18lb.; Wm. Lamont, Esq., Norton House, had one of 11lb. About Aboyne and Glentanar a few fish were landed; but on the whole the fishing was poor. Mr. George Smith, tackle maker, Ballater, reports that Captain Greig, of Bayswater, had two fish of 8lb. and 13lb. on the Monaltrie water. Heavy fish in tremendous quantities are lying all round the coast, and all that's wanted to induce them to ascend the rivers is more rain, or, speaking exactly to the point, a proper spate for a day or two.

### Dee (Aberdeenshire).

A pretty considerable rainfall on the hills within the past day or two has caused the Dee to rise a good deal; the water is now in fine fishing size, though rather dark-coloured for successful angling. Nothing approaching the run of large salmon witnessed on Thursday has taken place this autumn, or, indeed, for a long time. From break of day till evening fish continued to swarm up without intermission. The fishermen at the fords can tell the size to a nicety, and one seen ascending was guessed at little less than 60lb.—Aberdeen, Thursday Evening.

### The Exe (Tiverton).

The river continues very low and clear. Nothing has been done of late until yesterday, when two salmon were killed by Mr. Harwood and Mr. Miles, weighing 5¼ and 10½lb. respectively.—Wm. Mudford.

### Ilfracombe.

Sea-fishing.—During the past few days there has been a heavy ground sea on, which has seriously interfered with the fishing. Nevertheless, there have been some good catches, principally of whiting pout; but there have also been two or three heavy catches of conger, one party catching 1cwt. in a few hours: another party 72lb., which shows that with the abatement of the ground sea lovers of congering may look for a good time of it. Mr. Gratte, fishing from a flat rock with rod and line, caught several conger eel, the largest weighing 6lb. Also, some fine pout have been caught from the pierhead and jetty Weather at present squally.—E. Comer.

### Leicester.

The weather continues of a favourable kind, and suitable for those enthusiasts who devote their time to the pastime of fishing. The river Soar and canal, and the backwater at Aylestone have received plenty of attention, and upon the whole the sport has been of a fair character. Several nice lots of perch have been had, Messrs. Bird and Hobbs being the chief takers. Roach fishing has been quiet for some days; but those who have been trying for pike have fared well, this kind of fish having been well on the feed lately, and a number, weighing between 4lb. and 7lb., have been caught. Live bait fishing.—Our old friend Rylott, the well-known professional cricketer, now that the cricketing season has closed, has turned his attention to angling with good success, a few large pike having fallen to his share in the home waters. Not many anglers have been out of town this week, consequently there is nothing from the surrounding district to report. On Thursday a good basket of dace were shown, having been taken from the waters at Blaby by Mr. Prime; the best fish weighed 8¾oz. The weather on Thursday evening was bright but cold, and the waters fine.—Alert.

### Lea (Tottenham).

The water is very low and bright, a state of things which is not at all to the liking of many anglers. Now, there is an old rhyme which says:—

> "For every evil under the sun
> There is a remedy—or there's none.
> If there is one—try and find it;
> If there isn't—never mind it.

Anglers can find no remedy for the present condition of the river; they will have to wait until—

> "—the low-bent clouds
> Pour flood on flood."

So the best thing they can do is to "never mind it." There are many who adopt this view of the case, and keep on "pegging away," and not without results. Since my last report Mr. Pritchard has taken two jack, one 3½lb., and one 2½lb. Mr. Beresford, three jack, one 4lb., and two of 2½lb; Mr. Culse, one jack, 2lb. The above were all taken with live bait. Mr. Bennett, spinning with spoon, one jack, 3lb., and one chub; and, with the fly-rod, many dozens of roach, dace, and chub, several of the roach going 15oz. Mr. E. Day, who is becoming quite an adept at wielding the hickory, has also killed some very good fish. T. Windsor, with the blow-line and natural fly, got among the roach at the lower pool, and killed a tray of handsome fish. Some of the bottom fishers have done fairly well. A gentleman, on Thursday, filled his bag with roach, using gentles as bait, which, just now, they seem to prefer to paste.—Hackles red.

### Lodden.

The river still keeps very low and clear, but coarse fish of all kinds are well on the feed. Good creels full daily: we (two) have taken in little over half an hour, twenty-two lumping roach, two chub—the largest nearly 2lb.—and three trout; these latter are placed in the stock ponds, wherein are some 500 magnificent fellows ready for the latter end of November, when they commence spawning here. Weather very mild—wind W.—Frank Gosden.

### Lugg and Arrow (Leominster).

Both these streams are still in good fishing order either for bottom or fly fishing; both still keeping low and clear. The fish are sporting well at the fly, and some good baskets have been taken. Capital sport has been had with the wasp grub. The best flies on the water at present are the willow, little black ant, and green insect. A few good grayling have been taken with the grasshopper this week. On Friday some capital sport was had in the Arrow by a gentleman who was fishing with the black ant and green insect, and who landed eight very fine grayling, and four rough fish averaging 10oz. each. In the Ivington district a gentleman tried the water with the fly, and took a good dish of grayling weighing 6lb. In the Lugg, near Ford's Bridge, a gentleman took a small pike weighing 3lb, with the artificial minnow, and a few grayling with the fly. Good sport was had in the Stanton waters on Saturday by a gentleman, who tried the willow fly, and took a fine dish of fish, all in good condition. In the Monkland waters a nice lot of good fish have been landed with the wasp grub. In the water near the Bromyard Line, a capital lot of grayling were taken with the grasshopper. The Arrow near Eardisland was tried on Monday with the wasp grub, and a fine dish of grayling were landed. Capital sport has been had in the Aymestry quarters this week with the fly, and some very good fish have been taken in the Bodenham waters. A few good fish have been landed near Kingsland. The Pinsley is in good angling order, but low; the fish are rising well, and a few nice fish have been taken.—Gwynne.

### Medway (Tunbridge).

Ever since Sunday evening the river has been in a wretched state, the water being the colour of ink. I hear that it is caused by emptying some tanks at a tanyard, where a serious fire occurred a week or so back. If this is the case, the pollution must have come by way of the Eden, one of the tributaries of the Medway. It has happily done no damage in our fishing beyond sending fish off the feed, and nothing will be done till there is a run of fresh water.—Ye Medway Water Rat.

### The Mill Pool (Wraysbury).

This pool is full of large fish of all sorts, and only 1s. per day is charged for two rods. There is very little room; therefore it is to be regretted that men are so utterly selfish as to fish one place and stick a rod in another, so as to retain two swims at the same time, to the exclusion of an angler who, like themselves, has travelled a number of miles to fish. It is not sportsmanlike, and would not be tolerated in many places; in fact, I know a few anglers who would, without hesitation, take the rods up and cast them aside; a man cannot fish two places at once, with any grace, when by his so doing he prevents another from fishing at all. Barratt, the man in charge, informs me he will not permit it if he sees it; he is one of the right sort—likes what is fair, and is always willing to show you where and how to fish, and will provide tea, dinner, &c., at the smallest possible cost.—Roach.

### The Ouse (Huntingdon).

Nothing but a few small roach have been taken this week. Not many anglers have been out, thinking it no use, for the water is very bright. Some have been trying for jack, but nothing taken.—H. Rout.

### The Shannon (Castleconnel).

The following fish were got during the week:—Mr. Henry Hodges, on his Downess fishery, 24th ult., one salmon 26lb.; 26th, one 26lb.; 27th, one 41½lb.; 30th, two 19lb. and 20lb.; 1st inst., one 36lb. Mr. E. S. St. Aubyn, on Newgarden fishery, 25th ult., one salmon 13lb.; 26th, one 12lb. Colonel Massey got a salmon 12lb. on Hermitage. River has not risen much, and yet sport has an improvement, and prospects seem good for October.—John Enright.

### South Level Cut (Littleport).

The water has been so very low and bright for the past fortnight that it is something like fishing in a bucket, and I am afraid our best month will go by almost a blank, unless we get a heavy rain shortly. Two anglers staying down here for a few days took some nice perch, &c.—viz., Rev. A. E. Gover, Newmarket, Sept. 21st, six perch, from ½lb., largest 1lb. 2oz., and four jack, about 2lb. average ; Sept. 22nd, three perch, largest ¾lb., and two jack ; Sept. 23rd, forty roach, about 10lb. ; Sept. 24th, one perch, 1½lb., and sixty-five roach, fair size. Sept. 21st, R. W. Sprague, Esq., 6lb. roach, largest 10oz. ; Sept. 22nd, 2 good bream, 11½lb. roach, two perch, one jack ; Sept. 23rd, forty roach, 13lb., largest 1lb. 2oz. ; Sept. 24th, forty-nine roach, fair size, and two perch. Although several of the best local anglers have been down, with one exception, their catches have not gone over 6lb. for the day. Mr. W. L. Agger, Cambridge, took 13½lb. good roach last Thursday, and again to-day is having fair sport.—Charlie South.

### The Tay (Perthshire).

In consequence of heavy and continuous rain which fell in this district in the beginning of the week, the Tay and tributaries have swollen considerably, and are now in a state of flood. Previous to the rain, fair sport was got, both in the upper and lower waters of the river Tay. In the lower waters fish were very numerous, but owing to the river running so low, they were prevented from ascending to the upper reaches. The weather is now good, and when the flood subsides, large takes may be expected during the short time which yet remains of the angling season in this district. For a considerable time back the Ballathie water—in the upper reaches of the Tay—has afforded splendid sport to a number of anglers who have fished it during the season, salmon of an average weight of over 20lb. being captured daily. On the Cargill water, which adjoins Ballathie, several large fish have been caught ; and on the Burnmouth and Murthly waters equally good takes have been reported. In the waters below Perth, while the captures are not so numerous, the fish are of equally good quality. The following are the principal captures to hand :—Fishing from Dunmore Lodge, on the Ballathie water, on Tuesday last, Mr. Granville caught three salmon weighing 29lb., 20lb., and 20lb. respectively, and a grilse weighing 7lb. On the same day, the Cargill water yielded a fine salmon of 37lb. to the same gentleman. On Friday, anglers had very encouraging sport on the Cargill water, the three best takes being those of fish weighing 35lb., 37lb., and 39lb., all in excellent condition. On the Murthly water, on Saturday, Mr. Millais had a fish weighing 29lb. Up to that date, good sport was reported from several other stations on the Tay, at these points the only drawback being the lowness of the river. Since the rain at the beginning of the week, the following captures above and below Perth have been received :—On the Burnmouth water, on Tuesday, Mr. Stibbard had three beautiful salmon and six sea-trout. Fishing below Perth, Major Doncaster captured one fish in splendid condition. The river Earn is also in flood, but when the water runs off, good sport may be expected on that river.—P. M'cG.

### Taw (N. Devon).

The trout fishing is over; the last day of September closed the ball, and the season of 1884 will be long remembered because of its barrenness, and few fishermen will have recorded any big catches this past year ; the rivers for four months were dry, and what with dipping out pits, limeing, and grapping, no fish can possibly be expected to have escaped to breed for 1885. Your correspondent who has written upon the North Devon rivers would appear to have done the best. By the way, should you hear of any second edition of Cutcliffe, these articles should be added ; with a few additions of flies, &c., the book will have another good run. The peal and salmon season closes the 15th of November, and without a good deal of rain no salmon or peal, or rather, I should say, no quantities, will be found to catch. The inquiry lately held at Barnstaple, whether the fence days should still remain or another month added to destroy the few fish left, is still undecided, and although the fence days have begun, still nets and men are at work, and of course put back all fish called "salmon and peal," except when the watchman is not present, and then they are grassed until the roads are clear, and fish are bought in the different towns at 6d. per pound.—Rusty Game.

### Teme (Tenbury).

The heavy downpour of rain which has visited this district of late has made but little difference to the state of the water, which still keeps clear and in capital fishing order. The fish are rising well at the silver-twisted blue, silver grey, and hare's ear dun. Several good dishes have been taken with the wasp grub and maggot. Some nice fish have been taken with the red worm. In the Berrington waters some capital sport was had by some gentlemen from Worcester with the fly, and good-sized fish were taken. The water near Rochford was fished on Friday, and a capital lot of fine grayling were landed with the wasp grub. A gentleman tried the same water with the fly, and took a good basket of fish averaging ½lb. each. On Saturday, a gentleman who was visiting this district tried the water near Corn Brook with the silver-twisted blue and landed a splendid dish of fine grayling. A few fine fish were taken with the maggot. In the water near the town a good dish of grayling were landed by a gentleman with the hare's ear dun. Some capital sport has been had in the Eastham quarters. On Monday a gentleman, fishing with the silver grey and twisted blue, took a good basket of 8lb. of fine grayling. At Little Hereford some nice grayling have been taken with the fly. A capital lot of fine fish were landed near the bridge on Tuesday with the fly. Near to Easton Court a fine dish of grayling were caught with the wasp grub. The Kyre, Rea, and Ledwyche are all in good fishing order, but low. In the Kyre, and Rea, a few nice fish have been taken with the fly, but in the Ledwyche fishing is very quiet.—Worcester.

### Teme (Ludlow).

The grayling are sporting well in all the streams, which are still low, and water bailiffs and gamekeepers all speak in favourable terms of the quality and quantity of fish in the waters hereabouts. Fishing in the Teme has been pretty good this week, and some fair baskets made. Down the Ashford quarter some very nice perch have been caught, and some good ones at Saltmoor. A gentleman on Monday, in the former waters, with the maggot, caught six splendid perch and a couple of brace of grayling with the wasp grub. At Saltmoor a perch was caught (with the grub) which, when placed in the scale, weighed 1lb. 14oz. Some good grayling landed up Lord Windsor's waters with the fly, and a few fish on Monday night in the Burway meadows. The Clun is in better order, and some good catches had in the upper part of the stream. The waters of the Ony continue low, but a good basket of fish was landed from the stream near to Bromfield Bridge on Saturday afternoon after the rain. The Corve has been well and regularly fished, and good fish landed from the railway to Culmington. Little doing in the Ledwyche, which is almost neglected. S. Ludlow.

### Teme.

A few remarks upon grayling and how to fish for them in the Teme, Worcestershire. In the first place, I will say that of all months to take good grayling there is none like October—they are then in fine form to give sport and also in good condition for the table. If my friends will excuse me, this note shall dwell upon the use of the fly only. I will, in my next, treat upon bottom fishing for this beautiful fish. I need not describe the form of this feminine-like fish—it is enough to say, of all the finny tribe it is the most gracefully formed fish, and it is game to the back bone, though it does not jump and throw like the trout. It dashes and pulls for the bottom, and if it gets there it is three to one on the fish. Its mouth is so tender that if the hook is in the lip it will bore into the gravel and get away. I will try to explain the way I get a dish of grayling. The first thing I will call attention to is the rod that I made. The butt and middle piece are of hickory, the crop is spliced cane. It is very light, and just stiff enough to keep straight when out at length ; the line should be fine, your gut cast about three yards long. I prefer stained, and as fine as can be. Also, let the flies be tied upon the best fine stained gut. A No. 11 or 12 hook is the size. I dress the ant, willow, blue dun, coachman, red spinner, and several other duns, the hare's ear, black gnat, and little pale blue on No. 13. As the rivers are low and fine. you must be very careful, or all the grayling will see you or your shadow. When fishing the head of a ford or the smooth part, I like to fish up stream. on the contrary when in the rapids ; and I find, from over thirty years' practice, that to strike either a trout or a grayling is wrong—I have lost many fish through it. As a rule, fish in a stream hook themselves. As we are now just commencing the grayling month, I will give a list of flies I shall use for fine water. On a bright day, the willow, red ant, and iron blue ; for a dull day, pale blue coachman, and sky blue. The hare's ear and black gnat I may use if I see them upon the water. —J. A. Griffin.

### Torridge (Torrington).

River in good order for fly-fishing. One of our local fishermen took, on the 17th Sept., 21 trout ; on the 25th, 27 trout ; on the 27th, 21 trout ; and on Monday last, 32 trout. On Monday evening, I took a fish over 2lb. ; and on Tuesday evening, C. Doe took one 2lb. 6oz. All these were taken fly-fishing.—Practical Angler.

### The Trent (Nottingham).

The river is in fairly good condition for fishermen, being low and clear. Barbel and bream have been caught in decent quantities in the parts below Nottingham, Mr. Charles Smith, of the Spread Eagle, in that town, alone having taken over 30lb. of these two species. Above the "lace town," at Weston, Willington, and Shardlow, fish have been feeding freely, dace and chub being an agreeable addition to the sport afforded in other respects. Below Newark, a well-known angler has taken upwards of 30lb. of roach with creed wheat, and anglers generally who have been in the lower waters have fared better than usual. A rise just now would do a great deal of good, if only to clear away the vast accumulation of "flannel" weed.—The Man at the Clubs.

### Trent (Alrewas).

During the past week the weather has been very unsettled, and little or nothing done. The grayling have been the only fish on the move.

### Tweed (Berwick).

Just now the sea off here is full of salmon ; as there is plenty of water in the river, the fish will go up freely. At Burnmouth some nets have been seized by the bailiffs. H.M.S. *Ariel* is lying at Tweedmouth Dock, looking after the salmon fisheries. It is the general opinion here that there ought to be an extension of time for the net fishing. This interest or industry has done very badly indeed throughout the season, scarcely enough to pay wages and expenses, though best at the end of the season. No one likes paying rents under such circumstances. Mr. T. Speedy, in his book "Sport in the Highlands and Lowlands" (W. Blackwood and Son, Edinburgh), advocates a further limitation of the net-fishers' time. This would be most strenuously opposed by nearly everybody here. The opinion entertained here is that the salmon go up, get overcrowded, consequently diseased, contaminating the river, besides the great loss of food for the people. The true policy to pursue is restriction, not prohibition or free trade. There should be no more restriction than is good for the interest of the nation. The policy pursued should be governed by that consideration, and not so much in the interest of sport as at present. Over preservation is to be carefully avoided ; it does much harm, by encouraging poaching and creating disease and waste. Free trade is worse still ; a happy medium is what is wanted—i.e., an intelligent restriction. An angling friend of mine tells me that he caught three dozen smallish trout in the Whitader, on Monday : the water was quite clear. At the same time there was a slight fresh in the Tweed ; but there does not appear to have been much caught there, so far as we hear. The salmon prospect is very good now, owing to the abundance waiting outside. A correspondent in the local papers suggests burning the diseased salmon, instead of burying them, as has been the course pursued. The burying process is absurd on the face of it ; for instance, at Spital Point, the fish have been buried in a shifting sand ! This with a full knowledge of the tenacious character of the disease.—F. J. Hills.

### Waveney (Beccles).

From some cause or other very few anglers seem to have been out lately, and I have not heard of any large catches ; but let me remind anglers (roach fishermen especially) that the best time is now coming on, and instead of laying tackle on one side, thinking the season is over, I would persuade them to pursue their favourite pastime as long as the weather continues mild (for another six weeks at any rate), as the best and largest fish are now to be secured. Pike fishing seems to have been the favourite sport during the last week or two, and fish ranging from 2lb. to 7lb. have been taken. Mr. C. Chascon, the 19th ult., had five fish, heaviest going 4lb. Mr. E. Rouse, on the 20th, one turning the scale at 4¼lb. ; and Mr. Cowles, of Stratford, on Monday last, six fish, heaviest scaling between 6lb. and 7lb. ; and Mr. Brooks secured a nice perch on the 27th scaling 1½lb., taken with the worm. The above fish were for the most part taken with natural bait spinning. Weather, wind, and water all favourable to good sport.—A Waveney Angler.

### Weldon Bridge.

A few salmon have been seen in the pools. All that is wanted is rain to promise good sport. I may say Mr. Oliver, Longhorsey, had good trouting on Monday, a 5lb. basket ; J. L. Oliver and friend, Newcastle, three dozen.—F. Brown.

### Wye and Derwent.

Trout fishing is now all over for this season in the above river. Taking the season throughout, we have had a very bad one, especially on the Wye between Bakewell and Filleford Bridge. The largest baskets have been made chiefly on the private waters on the Wye, also on the higher lengths of the Derwent ; and were killed mostly in the latter end of May and all through June, and were killed principally with the yellow dun, dotterel, spider, and sand flies. The Derwent Whatstandwill length also had a lot of good trout killed on it, baskets from three to six brace of an evening, the fish running from 1lb. to 2lb. each. I firmly believe that the largest trout we have in Derbyshire is to be found in the deep water between Whatstandwill and Ambergate. Grayling fishing is now first class, especially on the Derwent, and baskets from six to thirteen brace per angler are now being daily made. One angler got twenty-nine brace of grayling in three days' fishing below Cromford with orange, bumble, furnace, ash, dun, and lean flies. Grayling are now rising the best in the rough parts of the streams, and the best fishing time is from 10 to 5 p.m. in the evening. October is a first class month for fishing the tails of the streams with the maggot and cockspur worms in the Nottingham style. Several brace of very fine grayling, roach, and dace have already been landed by this kind of fishing. I also heard of several pike being landed in the deep by line bait fishing, none of the fish being large ones. Trout are very forward spawning this season. especially on the higher lengths of the Derwent and Wye. I recommend gentlemen to lose no time in trying their skill for grayling, for now is a first-class time, especially on the Chatsworth fishery and the Whatstandwill lengths. There are a few brace being taken on the Wye, but no quantity.—Geo. Jas. Eaton.

### The Yare (Norwich).

The beautiful weather of the past week has induced many anglers to try their luck with the trolling-rod, and in many cases success has rewarded them. A very fair number of jack, though none of large size (the heaviest I have heard of being 11½lb.), have fallen victims to the spoon-bait ; and should this bright sunshine continue, I fully expect to hear of good catches. Having spent several days on the river since my last report, I can bear witness that the jack are to be seen feeding all along the banks about Buckenham Ferry. On Tuesday last a friend and I tried a few hours' roach fishing, and we caught between sixty and seventy, some of them weighing about 1lb. The general report of roach fishing is not good, the best catch reported being 135 fair fish in the day ; but those caught are in splendid condition. The bream seem to have disappeared ; even the most knowing ones cannot drop upon them ; still, I must hold to my opinion that they are high up stream. Prospects are wonderfully good for the time of year.—Robert Moll.

## A SALT-WATER FISH PRESERVE, &c.

Gentlemen fond of piscicultural experiments, and having some capital to invest on easy terms, might do worse than consider the property called "The Salterns," at Lymington, Hants. Coming up in the train the other morning with a friend who had been to the New Forest lately, he described this property as follows :—It consists of 40 acres, with a cottage residence (four bedrooms, three reception rooms) in the bungalow style, together with three labourers' cottages, barns, outhouses, &c. Twenty-five out of the 40 acres consist of ponds, in which live sea fish to any extent could be stored. These ponds have concrete sluices, and have recently been repaired at an expense of £10,000. The ponds are fed from the sea, and can be filled or emptied in a very short time. Fourteen acres are pasture. The price of the whole freehold is £4,000.

We understand the present owner—Col. H. A. Ouvry, C.B., of Lymington—nets £40 a year by growing asparagus, and that this vegetable could be cultivated to almost any extent, the soil being most favourable to its growth. But the chief feature in the place is the series of salt-water lakes ; indeed, we do not know of any similar place anywhere round our coasts where live sea fish could be stored in fine weather when they are cheap, and sent to market when a spell of rough weather has sent the price up 200 per cent., as it often does.

Our readers will be interested in a few notes on what has previously been done in the way of keeping sea fish in confinement in open ponds, and even in fresh water. In reference to which water Bacon said : "I doubt there hath not been sufficient experiment made of putting sea fish into fresh ponds and pools ; it is a thing of great use, for so you may have them new at a great distance." In Dr. McCulloch's *Journal of Science*, Vol. XIX., is a description of a lake which belonged to a Mr. Arnold, of Guernsey, about four acres in extent, chiefly supplied with fresh water. Sea fish of thirty various kinds were put into it, and "improved in quality and propagated," so that the lake, which before was worthless, produced a large rent.

The sea fish pond of Logan was formed in 1800, at an expense of several hundreds of pounds, and furnished a wholesome article of food, fatter than could be found in the open ocean. The pond, according to Mr. Matheson, "is 30ft. deep, and 160ft. in circumference ; it communicates with the tide by one of those fissures so common on bold and precipitous shores. It is the property of Colonel McDowal, of Logan ; in every state of the tide he can command a limited supply of the finest fish. The fish are fed daily, and consist chiefly of cod, haddocks, flounders, blochin, glassin, salmon, &c." Further particulars of this pond will be found in "Piscatorial Reminiscences," published by Pickering in 1835. We should much like to know if it still exists, and is in use. In the work just referred to is an account of some sea-water basins excavated out of the granite rock by a Mr. Arbuthnot, at Peterhead. These basins can be (or could be, for we cannot say if they are still in use) filled or emptied at pleasure, by high tide and low ebb. They are used as a receptacle of sea fish for the London markets. The fishermen bring them in great abundance, and feed them.

Stoddart, in his "Scottish Angler," says that "At Valleyfield, on the Firth of Forth, near Culross, there is a salt-water preserve belonging to Sir Robert Preston, in which are fed stores of fish of various kinds ; turbot, brill, salmon-trout, cod, skate, flounder, smelt, sole, and herring are the chief. The fish are fed with broken shell-fish and offal." We have not seen the ponds on Col. Ouvry's estate, but they certainly seem to offer a splendid field for experiments in storing live sea fish, and fattening them for the market. The Colonel wishes to dispose of this property simply because his advanced age prevents his turning it to a practical advantage. An Irish gentleman has recently advocated the formation of an immense salt-water preserve on one of the islands of the north-west of Ireland ; but here, in the south of England, is one ready-made, and within reasonable distance of London. We may mention that the ponds were originally made for the purpose of obtaining salt by evaporation, but the competition of the Cheshire salt mines rendered them useless for this purpose. In these days of speculation, when companies are formed to carry out impossible projects, it seems not out of place to suggest that "The Salterns" at Lymington offers the prospect of great returns for a very small outlay.

## BURTON-ON-TRENT SEWAGE WORKS.

These works, which will entirely remove the sewage from the river Trent, are in the following state of progress, from a report received by Alan Bagot, Esq. In 1879, Messrs. Buckland and Walpole, with Mr. Alan Bagot, made an examination of the sewage system, and took evidence of the pollution of the river. It transpired that the refuse from the breweries was a source of food to the fish at Burton, but then, for many miles lower down, it became a fermenting mass of putrescence, most destructive to the spawning beds. The works to remove all this are at present as regards progress as follows :—

The necessary land has been bought ; the pumping station and line of main to the sewage farm are practically completed ; the subsoil drainage works are in course of execution ; the engines, costing £20,000, have been in hand two years ; the boilers are delivered and fixed ; the works, therefore, may be expected to be in operation, and the sewage removed from the Trent and pumped on to the sewage farm, in the course of next year.

The Conservators of the Trent hope gradually to eradicate other pollutions on the principle of *suaviter in modo fortiter in re*, but with so useless and defective a measure as the present Rivers Pollution Act progress must needs be slow. On Oct. 6 a special meeting of the Conservators will be held at Derby to consider the desirability with other fishery boards of further and more stringent legislation on this point.

The Conservators observe with pleasure that trout are beginning to reappear in the river Trent itself, in the Trent Valley, and at Barton-under-Needwood, and Alrewas ; also at Rugeley, and in the Earl of Lichfield's water in Shugborough Park.

## TROUT PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION OF SCOTLAND.

The Committee of the Trout Preservation Association of Scotland reported that in May last 35,000 fry were successfully put into the tributary streams which flow into Loch Ard, and they suggested that, in view of the young trout put into the loch, anglers should return all trout measuring less than nine inches in length. Twenty-five thousand of the fry were purchased from the Howietown Fishery, while the other 10,000 were presented to the association by Sir James R. Gibson-Maitland, Bart. The committee reported that in Loch Ard, as well as in Lochs Katrine and Lomond, pike netting had been vigorously and successfully carried on. In respect of the limited revenue at their disposal, the committee suggested that all anglers interested in the preservation of the Highland lochs for trout fishing should become members of the association. While much had been done by the association in preserving these waters open for angling, a great deal yet remained for them to do, and it was now in the power of anglers to show the appreciation of the efforts of the association in connection with this matter.

## LINES SUGGESTED BY A HOLIDAY SPENT IN THE EDEN VALLEY, NEAR KIRKOSWALD.

Ah, me! who longs for *Paradise?*
Just let him turn his wearied eyes
On *Eden's* valley fair and wide,
And there in sweet repose reside.

Who would not proudly claim the land,
Or touch it with magician's wand,
Till every flower, bush, and tree,
Budded in fresh divinity?

Till the wild crags seemed peopled still
With fairy elves that work no ill,
And flowers on their petals bear
Their fairy elflings everywhere.

Till down the crystal waters go
The song of fairies, soft and low,
And the o'erhanging woods resound
With fairy mirth and sweetest sound.

Oh, who would wake the martial bard,
To hear *his* war cry loud and hard?
His songs of some old border strife
Fit in but ill with such a life.

A tale of love can only be
With such fond scenes in sympathy!
The only man who here is blind
Is the poor soul with sordid mind.

Curse on the gold that chains his breast,
What beauty finds *he* in the *rest?*
The *peace* that comes beyond express
To hearts that dwell in gentleness.

To *him* the lark's gay song is stale,
No sweet notes has the nightingale ;
The music of the river flows
Unheeded past as on he goes.

He only loves poor sordid self,
And next to this his treasured pelf ;
When in the dust lies low his face,
May it no Eden earth disgrace.

The gentle soul who casts behind
His filthy lucre—to my mind,
He 'tis alone who ought to dwell
In such a spot—*and love it well.*

The salmon cleaves the silver tide,
The trout are rising side by side ;
The fisher deftly casts his fly,
And, as he fishes, sings for joy.

The City toiler leaves his care
To bathe him in the balmy air ;
And as he wades from pool to stream,
Thinks for a moment, "'Tis a dream!"

Oh, thousands in the City pent,
Could ye learn wisdom *and content;*
And leaving gain and luxury,
Upon the verdant margin lie.

And listen when all else is still
To this dear stream, and drink your fill
Of sounds and sights that never sate,
And fragrance sweet and delicate.

There men, refreshed by Nature's food,
Find youth come back with health renewed ;
And own, when under alien skies,
Eden's an earthly Paradise.

Long may thy glittering streams run pure,
The beauty of thy banks endure ;
And many a toiler join with me,
Praise from a heart from care set free.

E. M. T.

## SCOTCH FISHING NOTES.

Thistle Bridge.—On Saturday, Mr. Kelsall, 1 fish, 22lb. ; Tuesday, 2 grilse. Numbers of fish have been caught in the Perth to-day ; the fish are running to sight very plentiful.

The Tay.—Very fair sport is being had on the Tay both above and below Perth. Yesterday, on Burnmouth water, Mr. Stibbard killed 3 fish and 6 sea-trout. One day last week, below Perth, Mr. Wardrobe killed 3 fish, and Major Doncaster 1 fish. Both the Tay and Earn are in flood to-day, but when the water runs off good sport may be expected. Mr. Granville, from Drumore Lodge, fished the Ballathie water on Tuesday, and killed 3 fish and 1 grilse of 29lb., 20lb., and 7lb. On the same day, Mr. Granville fished Cargill water, and killed a fine fish of 37lb.

Loch Lubnaig.—On Wednesday Messrs. Thomson and Ferrier killed 8lb. trout. The Balquhidder Angling Club held a special competition on Thursday. The weather was favourable, and the takes were good. The prize-takers were :—1, James Dickson, Stronvar ; 2, A. Buchanan, Ruinacraig ; 3, D. Ferguson, Achleskine ; 4, P. M'Diarmid Balquhidder.

The Orchy (Perthshire).—Fishing from Inveroran Hotel on the Orchy on Friday, Mr. Graham landed four salmon weighing 19lb., 12lb., 11lb., and 11lb, respectively.—P. McG.

Capture of a Martin by a Swan.—Standing on Longbridge Bridge, which crosses the Lodden, near Sherfield, one morning, about 8.15 a.m., I was rather interested in seeing a swan feeding, the swan being particularly active. I wondered whether it was pursuing some small fish ; at any rate, it kept placing its head and long neck into the water, and apparently swallowing the fish or whatnot upon coming to the surface. The martins were flying very low, skimming the surface of the water. The swan drew out its long neck from the water, and, holding its head erect, in the act of swallowing, when a martin actually flew into the swan's beak, which closed upon it, but was dropped into the water. It was scanned very closely by the swan, but allowed to float down the stream.

# CLUB REPORTS.

### AMICABLE BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

The result of the pegged-down match in the Rother at Fittleworth was a follows : —Sixteen of the members competed, and only four got fish. Mr. Medcalf first, Mr. Dwelly second, Mr. Marshall third, Mr. Taylor fourth. The remaining four prizes will be fished for on October 5th, roaming, between Burnt Mill and Harlow. Mr. Harding weighed in roach, dace, and gudgeon ; Mr. Squire, roach ; Mr. Partrick, roach.—J. Worledge, secretary.

### ANCHOR AND HOPE ANGLING SOCIETY.

Several members of the above society were out on the 28th ult., the following members weighing in :—Mr. D. Davis, bream, 29lb. 9oz. ; Mr. Shakel, bream, 13lb. 11½oz. ; Mr. Glass, bream, 3lb. 11½oz. ; Mr. T. Bowling, dace, 5¾oz. ; Mr. Davids, bream, 1lb. 4½oz. ; Mr. Ferguson, bream, 3lb. 7¾oz. ; Mr. Somers, bream, 10oz.—D. Davis, sec.

### BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT AMALGAMATED ANGLING ASSOCIATION—HIGHGATE ANGLING ASSOCIATION BRANCH.

The members of this association held their annual dinner on Tuesday, Sept. 23rd, at the Queen's Arms, Conybere-street, Mr. T. Coles in the chair, and Mr. R. Gumbley discharged the duties of vice-chairman. There was a good attendance, nearly 40 members being present. After partaking of a substantial dinner, which was well served, the chairman proposed the usual loyal and patriotic toasts, which were duly honoured. The chairman proposed the toast of the evening, "Success to the Highgate Angling Association." He remarked that it was three years since the association was established, and although during that period they had had to surmount the difficulty of being dry-nursed by one or two individuals, he was happy to say they were now in a prosperous and thriving condition, and he had no doubt that in a short period they would be enabled to take as high a position as any kindred association in the district. The toast was drunk with the greatest enthusiasm. Mr. G. E. Phillips proposed "The Officers of the Association," which was responded to by Mr Hanks. Mr. Gumbley proposed "The Visitors," responded to by Mr. Walsh. A number of other toasts were drank, and a most enjoyable evening was spent.—W. K. Hanks, sec.

### BROMPTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

Some very good shows on the 28th ult., Mr. C. Saunders having a nice show of bream, some scaling 3 and 4lb. a-piece, Mr. E. Saunders also having bream, Mr. Dutton jack and roach. Mr. C. Saunders won Mr. Kirton's prize for largest bream during September.—W. Dutton, sec.

### CAVENDISH ANGLING SOCIETY.

On the 28th ult. 23 members of the above society competed at Pangbourne for seven prizes, with the following results :—Mr. Almond, first, 13¾oz. ; Mr. Granfield, 8oz. ; Mr. Muiden, 6¾oz. ; Mr. Field, 5¼oz. ; Mr. Lee, 3½oz. ; Mr. Elliott, 3¼oz. ; Messrs. Canton and Brett tieing for the seventh prize with 2¾oz. Messrs. Canton and Tallman undoubtedly did their best, and succeeded, in almost every case, in selecting clear swims. Mr. President Humberstone officiated as referee. Beyond the takes being small our outing was a great success.—E. C.

### CLAPTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The usual weekly meeting was held at the Swan Hotel on Monday last, when there was a good attendance of members and friends. Mr. H. J. Tibbatts in the chair. The minutes of the last meeting were read, confirmed, and signed. The secretary reported having taken a small jack, 3lb. 3½oz., from the Lea ; Mr. H. J. Tibbatts, a jack 3lb. 2½oz., and 5lb. fine perch from private water ; Mr. Tidbury, roach from the society's water at Sewardstone ; Mr. G. Short, 4¾lb. roach from St. Margaret's. Mr. G. Colls, whilst angling with G. Harris at Penton Hook on Monday last, hooked a very fine trout, which would have scaled 6lb. or 7lb.; it was of course returned to the water. This gentleman had a small jack of 2¾lb., but reports that the barbel seem now "off the feed." The secretary reported that the Lea below Tottenham Lock still remained in a most deplorable condition, but that above the lock good fishing could be had. The waters at Day's and Ford's at Tottenham were in excellent order, and Coventry's and Bailey's at Sewardstone were so also. A new member was proposed and elected subject to ballot on Monday next. The secretary reported that their landlord had willingly consented to have suppers ready each meeting-night at a uniform charge of 1s. each, and full justice was done on Monday to the fare provided. Some very excellent singing was rendered by members and friends, Mr. Winterbottam officiating in his usual brilliant manner at the pianoforte.—Henry Howse, hon. sec.

### CITY OF LONDON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The following weighed in fish on the 28th ult.:—Mr. Chambers, roach and dace from Amberley, winning the third prize, given by Mr. Duke, of the Houghton Bridge Inn, weight, 6lb. 3oz. ; Mr. W. Jones, roach and flounders from Teddington ; and Mr. Castell, roach from the Stort.—Cas.

### DUFFIELD ANGLING CLUB.

This recently-formed club has started under most favourable auspices. Already about 30 members have been enrolled. The first contest took place on Saturday last at Eggington, in the waters of Mr. Ball. The weather was very fine, and the party, numbering about 20, spent a most enjoyable afternoon. J. Myring, Esq., president, and J. M. Tempest, Esq., vice-president, acted as umpires, and the arrangements were most satisfactorily carried out by Mr. J. W. Knapton, honorary secretary. The fishing was very moderate, the successful anglers being as follows :—1st, A. Westnidge ; 2nd, H. Bryan ; 3rd, H. Haskew ; 4th, R. Strelley ; 5th, S. Swift ; 6th, W. Walker ; 7th, W. Garratt. The prizes were distributed at the club-room (Mr. Clarke's) on Monday evening by the president.

### EASTERN COUNTIES' ANGLING SOCIETY, GREAT YARMOUTH.

This society held its usual meeting at Mr. Seaman's, Duke's Head Hotel, on Tuesday evening, Sept. 30, at nine o'clock p.m., the president (Dr. Mitchell) being in the chair. Several gentlemen having been duly proposed and seconded, were balloted for, and elected members. A discussion, opened by the vice-president (Mr. Freeman), then ensued as to the advisability of raising the entrance fee to 7s. 6d. or 10s. 6d., as the society would determine, so soon as there were 100 angling members in connection with it. The president having explained that according to rule No. 5 of the rules which governed the society, it was fixed that during the first year of the existence of the society the entrance fee for angling members should be 2s. 6d., to be thereafter followed by an annual subscription of 2s. 6d. This being one of the fundamental laws of the society, he considered that it should be adhered to. It was then agreed not to raise the subscription until the end of the present angling season. A proposition was made by the vice-president, seconded by the president, and carried unanimously, that in future at any competition a prize to the value of £2 2s. or over could not be won by a catch that weighed less than 14lb. A few remarks were made by several of the members upon the advisability of ceasing to have in future the matches staked down, great dissatisfaction having been produced at the general smallness of the catches weighed in at the last angling tournament, which was most successful otherwise ; in consequence, the next competition will probably be a go-where-you-please one. Fish are reported to be still fairly well on the feed at the various angling stations, and some good catches have been weighed in during the week. The following is a description of our recent competition, with the names of the successful competitors :—Within a few minutes after half-past eight on the morning of the 23rd ult. the drag started from the Duke's Head Hotel, Quay, twenty-five competitors being conveyed to the fishing grounds by this means, the others driving in their private vehicles. After a very pleasant journey along the beautifully-wooded road which leads to Fritton Decoy the destination was reached. The morning was simply charming, and this, coupled with the magnificent scenery for which Fritton Broad is so justly famed, was recompense enough to those who had undertaken the journey, even without the further attraction offered by the prizes to be fished for. The water having been carefully staked out by the president, vice-president, and treasurer in a depth of from 10ft. to 15ft., a start was made by the fleet of boats, sixteen in number, manned by between thirty and forty well-known piscators from this district. At the appointed time—viz., 10.30—all boats were firmly anchored, and rods and lines fixed ; the given signal having been made, every line was in the water like a flash, there, however, to remain, to our misfortune, for fully two hours, not one of our finny friends of the necessary size being landed in that time. By-and-by, however, the fish came on the feed, and some fair sport was had by several of the competitors. On the whole, the fishing was poor, as it appears always to be when a competition is on hand. As the time approached for weighing in—viz., 5 p.m.—many anxious faces were to be seen with eyes fixed upon their respective floats, looking for the long-expected move, which, however, did not come unless very occasionally, and then often with a "no result." When it did happen that a good fish was landed, the cry of "There's another" (often, however, the only one landed by the catcher) resounded over the broad, with an answering inquiry from all round, "What bait ?" Good-natured chaff was freely indulged in, as something had to be done to relieve the monotony. Five o'clock having struck, the signal for "lines up" being given, very soon afterwards the anchors were weighed, and the boats began their return journey. Having reached the landing-stage, the fish were measured and weighed in by the president and Messrs. Archard and Lowne, Mr. Archard acting as umpire. Some very good fish were shown, but the gross weight was disappointing. The following is a list of the prizetakers :—Mr. Lowne, 1st ; Mr. Hunt, 2nd ; Mr. Easter, 3rd ; Mr. Tooley, 4th ; Mr. Bayfield, jun., 5th ; Mr. Harbord, 6th ; Mr. Richmond, 7th ; and Mr. Bacon, 8th. The winners having been declared, all quietly dispersed, returning to Great Yarmouth in the conveyance they started with. Too much praise cannot be bestowed upon the competitors for the manner in which they conducted themselves during this, the most imposing angling tournament ever attempted in the Yarmouth district, not the slightest hitch having occurred to ruffle the good temper of any one, and the officers take this opportunity of expressing publicly the gratification they feel at the successful result of their attempt to make angling a better understood pastime.—A. M.

### GLOBE ANGLING SOCIETY.

Our trays were not quite so well filled on the 28th ult. as on the week previous, owing in a great measure to several of the members fishing at Ponder's End for a series of prizes, which proved very unsuccessful, most of them having blanks. The following are the weights taken from various waters :—Mr. S. Howell still at the top with 14lb. of very good roach and bream ; Mr. G. Jeffries, 6lb. 10oz. of roach and perch, one small jack 2lb. ; Mr. J. Brown, one small chub 1lb. ; Mr. H. Lake, 3lb. 8oz. roach, one small chub 8oz. ; Mr. G. Brown, 1lb. 2oz. of roach, one small jack 2½lb. ; Mr. W. Brown, 2lb. 10oz. of roach and dace ; Mr. W. Lawrence gudgeon, and your humble servant, 11lb. of roach, dace, and bream.—J. J. Holmes, sec.

### GOOD INTENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

There was a good show of fish at the club on Sept. 28th. Mr. G. Bates with close on 30lb. of roach, bream, and dace ; Mr. Snook with roach and bream ; Mr. Maybury, roach ; Mr. Hains, carp ; Mr. Ormes, roach. On the 30th, there was a good attendance of members ; two members were made and one proposed, and several more prizes were given. Next Tuesday being quarterly night, I hope all members will attend. Our first match for prizes will take place at Bourne End on the 19th and 26th of October.—R. Murphy.

### GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

The ordinary weekly meeting on Tuesday evening was well attended, and several visitors were present. Mr. Chambers occupied the chair. The formal business of confirming the minutes and reading correspondence having been concluded, the acting secretary announced the name of another candidate for membership, after which the chairman reported the progress he had made in regard to the acquisition of a certain number of transferable tickets in a private fishing in the neighbourhood of London. He also thought it desirable to negotiate for another capital piece of water, which he used to fish some years since, but which was now strictly private. A discussion ensued on the question of the society being represented at the National Fish Culture Association, and it having been unanimously agreed that the Gresham should subscribe on the terms of the circular issued by Mr. W. Oldham Chambers, Mr. G. E. Chambers was requested to represent the Gresham at the meetings at South Kensington ; the society having also the advantage of the services of Dr. Brunton and Messrs. Crumplen and Bates, who are subscribing members of the National Fish Culture Association. It was announced that Mr. Bates had sent over from Ireland an exceedingly handsome lake-trout weighing 21lb. Amongst the visitors were Messrs. Murray (president of the Central Association), Hatfield (Silver Trout), and Stocker (New Walton and Cotton), who received a cordial greeting from the members, and who duly responded. A vote of thanks to the chairman concluded the business of the evening, after which the customary musical selections brought to a close a very interesting and successful meeting. There will be a special musical evening towards the end of this month, full particulars of which will be duly announced.—Pro H.

### GREAT YARMOUTH PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

Nothing of importance to report, except new members being enrolled, and the contest arrangements are made for Thursday, October 2nd, between Ellingham and Gellesden in the Waveney Valley, which has the reputation of being a good place for perch fishing between the locks. None that have entered at present know the water, so it will be quite a match of adventure, which it is hoped will prove satisfactory to all.—J. Lark.

### IZAAK WALTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

Mr. J. W. Morgan was successful on Monday last in taking a fine jack which weighed, in the dry, 7lb. 14½oz. Mr. W. Wilshire had 14lb. 12oz. of beautiful roach on Tuesday last ; the heaviest one weighed 1lb. 8oz. Mr. T. Ward will give a handsome prize for the heaviest one fish (bar jack) taken on either Oct. 12th, 19th, 26th, or Nov. 2nd. There are two special prizes to be fished for on the 12th inst. between Burnt Mill and Harlow.—H. B.

### KIRKSTALL ANGLING CLUB.

On Saturday last, September 27th, the members of our club subscribed for a beautiful watch and guard, for presentation to our worthy secretary, John Baggott, in recognition of his services as secretary for the last six years. After a supper served in host Wildman's best style, and to which ample justice was done, our ex-secretary, T. Beckwith, in glowing terms, reviewed the progress of our society, which, starting 11 years ago with a dozen members, now musters upwards of 80, and presented the watch to our secretary, John Baggott, jun., who replied in suitable terms, when the evening was spent in harmony, much enhanced by our band, and all enjoyed themselves. We have some very good sport, and the club is very strong and a good balance in hand. We have resolved to limit our number to 101.—Thomas Booth.

### ORIGINAL ANGLERS' PRIDE.

A complimentary visit was paid to this society on the 29th ult., the headquarters being at Mr. Fiddis's, The Five Bells, Bermondsey-square, Bermondsey. Mr. J. Hurst presided, assisted by a friend. Mr. Benniefield, a gentleman well known in the angling world, presided at the piano, and gave great satisfaction, both in accompanying the singers and his choice selections during various intervals. Mr. W. Page sang "The Stowaway"; Mr. Fiddis, "Jolly Dog." Both songs called forth much applause. Mr. J. Wright, S.S., and several other gentlemen obliged during the evening. To give their names and the songs they sang would be encroaching too much on your valuable paper. The roll was called at 11 o'clock, and the following societies responded :—Anchor and Hope, Battersea Friendly, City of London (in reference to this society that well-known member, Mr. Castell, received a hearty vote of thanks from all parties present for his company that evening), Peckham Brothers, Rodney Piscatorial, Second Surrey, Bermondsey Brothers, Sir Hugh Myddelton, The Anglers' Pride, and The Kenningtonians. At the time required by the Act of Parliament we brought our amusement to a close, and retired to our respective homes.—Pixie.

### PHŒNIX ANGLING SOCIETY.

On the 28th ult. several members were out after the big bream. Slater, the demon, long corker, managed to find 14, weighing 40lb., a very handsome show. S. Aiston, some nice roach and perch; Messrs. Bartrip, Keen, Bentley, Baillie, Reed, and Milton supplying their share.—W. E.

### THE PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

On Monday evening last the weekly meeting of the Society took place at Ashley's Hotel, Covent Garden. Considerable regret was expressed by those present on account of the absence of Mr. J. Lauder (hon. sec.), who was too unwell to attend. Amongst those present were Messrs. Robinson, Jesse, Meyer, Murray, Fennings, Booker, Gray, Lemann, Brougham, Huggett, Butler, Crumplin, Goodger, Bennett, Wright, Wheeldon, Walker, Attwell, Bird, Adlington, Harden, H. B. Brown. Dr. Brunton, &c. Mr. F. Strange was visitor. Mr. Jesse, upon request, was voted to the chair. Mr. Adlington weighed in one salmon during the week from Cumberland. Mr. Fennings called attention of the members present to the question of the Piscatorial Society's ball, and his remarks were well received. He will bring the question formally before the Committee as early as possible. Dr. Brunton related his experiences of trout fishing in an artificial lake at Chesham, when he took some good fish. He has also been fishing at Winchester, and had upon the table a show of trout and grayling. Mr. Fennings gave an account of his fishing while staying at Ringwood. He has weighed in more fish than last year from the same waters. His best day for roach was a total weight of 47lb., each roach retained weighing over 6oz., and in a single day's pike fishing, took 41lb. He considered the roughest days gave the best sport even for roach. There were a few nice trout in the water and plenty of grayling, the latter being very difficult to capture. Mr. Hugget stated that the Ringwood jeweller was an expert at grayling fishing, this gentleman always using the finest tackle, and fishing with a dry floating fly. Mr. Wheeldon stated that some time since, on a rough day, fishing near Fordingbridge, he took 75lb. of roach in 5 hours. Messrs. Harden and Brown have been angling at Market Deeping, the former gentleman taking 18lb. of roach and dace and one chub, all with the artificial fly in a single day. Mr. Brown also had good sport. The chairman proposed the healths of the successful anglers, Mr. Huggett and Dr. Brunton each showing a tray of fish. Mr. Huggett thanked those present for their kindness in proposing his health. He had been trying for bream, and although he had baited two places, had not a single bite. He afterwards tried for chub, and took several with cheese paste. The largest weighed 4lb., at time of capture, and 3lb. 14oz. when weighed here. He also took some roach and dace. Br. Brunton having previously described his capture, thanked the members for drinking his health, and jokingly remarked that the "chiel" who was taking notes was often reminding him of the small array of fish he weighed in at this Society. Mr. Crumplen called the attention of those present to the great efficacy of bayonet-pointed hooks, and strongly recommended all to use them, their penetrating power was much greater, and he was prepared with statistics to carry out his opinions. Dr. Brunton proposed the health of the visitor, Mr. F. Strange, whom he had had the pleasure of meeting at other societies. Mr. Strange thanked the members for their kind welcome, and regretted his absence from the grand show of roach of the previous Monday. The chairman gave the usual toast of "The Piscatorial Society," which was duly responded to. "The health of Mr. Jesse, who has so ably filled the chair," was unanimously proposed. Mr. Jesse, in reply, said he was always happy to do all he could to forward the interests of this Society to which he had the honour to belong. The business then terminated.— T. H.

### RODNEY PISCATORIALS.

On the 28th, Messrs. Smith, Chantry, and Grant visited Tunbridge. Mr. Smith had about 10lb. of nice bream; the other two gentlemen had roach. Messrs. Grant, jun., and W. H. Flowers visited Ponder's End, and succeeded in getting some nice dace. Mr. G. King has been enjoying a little sea-fishing during the past few days. One day he forwarded 14 score of pouts, whitings, and plaice, and on the Thursday evening he came home he brought with him plaice, whiting, and pout, enough to start a market in this neighbourhood. At the meeting held on the 1st., Messrs. C. Grant and W. Flower were appointed as auditors. On the 8th, the where, and how the October competition shall take place, will come on for discussion. All members interested are requested to attend. This is considered to be sufficient notice to all members, and those who do not attend must be satisfied with the work done by those that do attend.—Pixie.

### SHEFFIELD ANGLING ASSOCIATION—ANGLING CONTEST AT SAXILBY.

In no town in England is there a stronger love for angling than in this far-famed cutlery capital. Considering the difficulty in obtaining sport within anything like a reasonable distance from Sheffield, this passion for fishing would seem to be, at the first glance, wholly unaccountable. But this love for the gentle art in a town so unpromising, has been fostered in no small degree by the Sheffield Angling Association, the headquarters of which is at the Crown Inn, Scotland-street, the worthy host of which is Mr. Jarvis Sanderson, one of the best known anglers in Sheffield. The executive of the association is composed of an energetic committee of working men anglers, whose love for the sport, and a desire to improve it for their fellows, is certified by a life-long attachment to angling interests. Mr. Styring has long held the post of president, and is best liked by those who know him best; while in Mr. Walker, the secretary, the S.A.A. have one who may be safely trusted to watch sharply over the interests of every member of the Association. It has been a custom for some years past for the members to meet for the purpose of having a "Monday's outing" into the country, and though prizes are offered for an angling competition, many avail themselves of the excursion who take no part in the fishing. Foremost amongst the favourite resorts of the Sheffield angler, is Saxilby, a cleanly little village on the Fordyke, a canal more than river, which connects the Trent at Torksey with the river Witham at Lincoln. Saxilby, standing as it does about midway between the above-named places, offers every facility for carrying out a large angling contest, there being long stretch of good water both above and below the village. This water has long had the reputation of containing splendid specimens of roach, and being less exposed to the wind, the very lightest tackle may be used, and many a rare basket of the "red-finned beauties" have found their way to Sheffield club houses from the waters of the Fosdyke. No wonder, then, that Saxilby should be once more selected as the destination of over 500 Sheffield anglers at 8 a.m. on Monday last, September 29th. This year the Association offered (to members only) the sum of 20 guineas in money, and £10 in prizes. The morning opened somewhat cloudy, and a slight rain fell, notwithstanding which the day turned out beautiful and fine, and tended to make the outing thoroughly enjoyable. On calling over the names of the competitors, 440 members answered "Here!" then hopefully made the best of their way to their allotted stations. Thanks to the efforts of the worthy president and secretary, aided by Messrs. Guest, Pashley, Ridge, and Shiply, the contest passed off in a most satisfactory manner, the catch of fish for the four hours' fishing being exceptionally good. A roach 1lb. 9oz. was taken during the match. In fact, the fish throughout were a really nice sample. The names are appended below of the first six—1. W. Blackburn, 8lb. 15¼oz.; 2. G. Thompson, 7lb. 6½oz.; 3. A. Slack, 7lb. 1oz.; 4. H. T. Packard, 6lb. 7oz.; 5. T. White, 5lb. 9oz.; 6. W. Lumley, 5lb. 9oz.—Rotherwood.

### SOUTH LONDON UNITED.

All secretaries requiring extra tickets are requested to attend or send to the meeting held at the Alscott Arms, Alscott-road, Bermondsey, on the evening of the 9th day of October, for the number of tickets they require, and those secretaries who have not disposed of all that have been allotted to them are requested to return those left to the secretary on the same date. I am happy to inform all members of this Unity that two more societies have been enrolled—viz., The Kenningtonians and the Peckham Rovers. This brings the number on the list up to 20. Special notices of this competition will be sent to all societies enrolled during this week.—Pixie.

### THE STANLEY ANGLERS SOCIETY.

Subjoined are the weights of fish taken by members since my report last sent :—Mr. D. M. Humby, seven roach, 5lb. 3oz., heaviest fish, 1lb. 11½oz.; Mr. W. R. Humby, seventeen roach, 11lb. 9oz., nineteen roach, 10lb. 10oz., heaviest fish, 1lb. 12oz.; Mr. C. P. Wheatstone, one perch, 7½oz., four perch, 1lb. 4½oz., four chub, 6lb. 1oz., five chub, 5lb. 15oz., four chub, 6lb. 10¾oz., five barbel, 11lb. 4oz., six barbel, 13lb. 15oz.; Mr. A. Wrightson, ten bream, 24lb. 14oz., four bream, 11lb., two perch, 12oz., twenty-eight roach, 20lb. 9oz., heaviest fish, 1lb. 6oz.; Mr. G. Walker, one bream, 3lb. ½oz. As will be seen by this and previous reports, several of our members have been successful in securing some fine specimen roach this season.—G. E. W.

### UNITED BROTHERS, DEPTFORD.

Several of our members were out on the 28th ult., but sorry to say not much sport—Messrs. Belton, Currans, Penton, and Beak, roach from the Medway. Will our members be kind enough to attend next Saturday for some very important business? H. T.

### THE UNITED BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY, KIDDERMINSTER.

The annual dinner of the United Brothers Angling Society took place in the large assembly room at the Swan Hotel, on Wednesday evening, the 24th ult. The Rev. S. B. Bathe presided, Mr. Councillor Bytheway occupied the vice-chair. There was a large number present, and an excellent dinner was put upon the table by the hostess. After the removal of the cloth the chairman said he had very great pleasure in rising to propose the first toast, which was always cordially received by Englishmen, "The Queen and Royal Family." He was sure there was no more loyal body of men than anglers. One thing he might mention, and that was, that he had never heard of her Majesty throwing or using a rod of any description, yet she was always to the fore in encouraging all other sports and pastimes. The chairman then went on to say that the Prince and Princess of Wales and their three daughters were all anglers and fond of fishing. The chairman then gave "The Army, Navy, and other Forces." Mr. Tandy replied, saying, no doubt that if they were wanted they would be, not only ready, but willing. Song by Mr. Redding, "Livingstone." Mr. Councillor, Bytheway proposed the "Bishops and Clergy," which was responded to by the chairman. The president of the society, Mr. Redding, made a short statement as to the position of the society. He said, when the society started four years ago its members were small in number; in 1882 it mustered 17, in 1883 there were 40, and at the present time they numbered over 60, besides hon. members, and that there were not many larger clubs in the country. Mr. Redding went on to give a list of the takes of fish by a few of the members up to the present time. John Goode, 27 baskets, 127lb.; F. Millington, 20 baskets, 111lb.; J. Yeomans, 15 baskets, 76lb.; C. Walters, 12 baskets, 54lb. Those were the chief takes, which were not bad, considering the low and fine state of the water, and angling from the bank, too. Recitation by Mr. Butler, "The Ruined Cottage." The distribution of prizes then took place. The chairman, in handing the prizes to each successful competitor, gave some good advice to the younger anglers, whilst the older ones came in for some humorous remarks. Mr. Fearnly gave the toast of the evening in felicitous terms, "Success to the United Brothers' Anglers," particularly emphasising the good the society was doing by its fair and equitable management of the public competitions held under its auspices. Mr. Redding proposed a vote of thanks to the donors of prizes, and also to those honorary members who gave leave to the members of the society for the use of their waters. He, Mr. Redding, explained that they were about to secure waters for the members' use, besides the privileges they already possess. The president said there was one thing greatly to be regretted, that was the withdrawal of the privilege tickets by the railway companies. He was afraid it would affect the society very materially as regards their numbers, but he hoped they would think better of it, and alter their minds for the next year. Song, "Down by the River Side," Mr. Smith. Mr. Redding proposed "The Mayor and Corporation." Mr. Councillor Bytheway responded, and in referring to the present outbreak of fever in several parts of the town, said the authorities were doing all in their power to stamp out the epidemic, remembering the words—

Tender heart, stroke the nettle,
  And it will sting you for your pains;
Grip it, like a man of mettle,
  And it soft as silk remains.

The chairman next proposed "The Health of Mr. James Redding, the President of the Society." They could not, he thought, possibly have a better or more energetic president. He thanked him, on behalf of the members, for the most valuable services he had rendered to the society during the past year. The toast was received with musical honours. Mr. Redding thanked them for the confidence they had in him. He could assure them that he should do for them in the future as he had done in the past. Mr. Earp then gave "The Hostess," and spoke most heartily of the high estimation which Mrs. Titley was held by all the members of the society, complimenting her at the same time on the splendid dinner she had placed before them. Mrs. Titley having briefly responded in a few well-chosen words, several other toasts, including the healths of Mr. Bytheway, Mr. Titley, and other gentlemen present, and another capital recitation by Mr. Butler, the meeting broke up with singing the "National Anthem."—E. Earp, hon. sec.

[The very serious outbreak of typhoid at Kidderminster is yet another reason why anglers should do all in their power to prevent the contamination of our streams and springs. It appears the disease attacks chiefly the teetotalers who drink water. Why do they not boil it? And if they are wise they will add a little spirit "as medicine," while this terrible epidemic lasts.—Ed.]

### WALWORTH PISCATORIALS.

The result of the competition that took place at Tunbridge on the 28th ult. among some of the members of this society is as follows :—1st, Mr. R. Cane, with roach; 2nd, Mr. Piolaine, roach; 3rd, Mr' Griffin, gudgeon; 4th, Mr. Irons, roach; 5th, Mr. Mawbey; 6th, Mr. C. Bansback. Fish weighed in during the week;—Messrs. Gilbert and Delhaye, sen., rudd and other fish from Pitsea. Fish exhibited this evening by Mr. F. Grigg from Tring (which place I hope to speak of later on), weighed 26lb. 15½oz. of perch and roach. Among the perch were three fish weighing 1lb. 8oz. each, and several others going over 1lb. each. One roach he had turned the scale at 1lb. 15¼oz. Mr. Boalch showed 4lb. 7oz. dace; Mr. Gilbert, 2lb. 5½oz. of dace; and Mr. Beckett, had 1lb. 13¾oz. of dace from Richmond. The next competition will take place on the 9th day of October for two prizes given by Mr. Bayley and Mr. Grimmett. Conditions :—Fish where you like; private waters excluded.—Pixie.

### WIMBLEDON PARK LAKE.

A competition took place here on the 28th ult. for a series of prizes given by the proprietor, Mr. Harper. The conditions were, for the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, gross weight taken during the day, and one prize for the heaviest fish taken by any angler—not being one in the first three; two rods were allowed, and all fish over 7in. allowed to weigh, barring eels. The following is the result:—1st, Mr. Cartwright had 9lb. 8½oz.; 2nd, Mr. Underwood, 7lb. 8oz.; Mr. Corras, 5lb.; the 4th prize was taken, but the name of the winner I have not heard. Mr. J. Gafney acted as master of the ceremonies, and gave satisfaction to all competitors.—Pixie.

### WEST GREEN ANGLING SOCIETY.

Mr. Coleman's monthly prize was won by Mr. C. Firkings, being the heaviest weight by 1lb. 10oz. Mr. Orridge's prize for the month of October, go where you please, all fish to weigh in, bar jack, is now on.—J. Guyver, sec.

## PERCH FISHING IN ELLESMERE LAKE.

Having, in returning from our competition in the Vyrnwy on the 17th Sept., to pass Ellesmere, myself and Messrs. Seaman and Wood decided to stay there for the night on purpose to fish on the lake next day. We put up at the Red Lion, and after a couple of "refreshers" and a chat with Mr. and Mrs. Sparrow and their charming daughter, were shown to bed. We were astir by 7 a.m. the next morning, and after partaking of an "eye-opener," we walked to the lake. We found the water very much "broken" indeed, green as grass, and covered nearly all over with innumerable pieces or patches of scum of the same colour, nasty-looking enough in all conscience to deter any but the most ardent anglers from wetting a line therein. But nothing—well, scarcely anything—frightens the real angler, and some of these were already at work trying to beguile the tenants of this strange-looking element to bite. To our inquiries as to what sport, we only received an ominous shake of the head, or a depressed-sounding "None." However, we were there, and must, of course, have a try, *one* or more of us secretly believing that owing to our superior skill we should certainly have more success than those we had questioned. But only about a dozen roach or so rewarded our venture, and at 10 a.m. we adjourned to the Red Lion and enjoyed a plenteous and tasty breakfast which, with a "nip" afterwards, completely restored our equanimity. After resting for about an hour, we returned to the lake and fished up to 2 p.m., with the same meagre results as before. We were now quite tired of the monotony, and Mr. L. suggested trolling for jack or pike for a change. This being agreed to, I rigged up a good-sized artificial dace, and away we went, Mr. L. kindly officiating with the oars He rowed the whole length of the lake, but without a response. Turning at the top to pull back again, I had necessarily to wind up to prevent the hooks fouling in the weeds or getting fast in the bottom, as we were in shallowish water, when just as the artificial reached the surface and was "skurrying" along with the motion of the punt, something rushed for, but missed, it. I immediately cast again, and on spinning the bait, distinctly saw a large perch following it in the most eager fashion, dashing at it, and then sweeping round it in the most frantic manner imaginable. Thinking the dace too large, I changed it for a "kill devil," and at once began to take perch. Mr. L. now rigged up rod and tackle for Mr. W., and this gentleman, who had never fished this style before, when he had overcome the first awkwardness, began to take perch, too. It was a lively time and no mistake, and it was a rare treat to *see* the fish dashing at the lure. It was really astonishing to see how fearlessly the perch followed the bait so close, that we could notice how determined they seemed to have that spinning little fish for a meal, and often when a fish was being wound in, several others would be seen watching, with hungry-looking eyes, his movements, and at last most reluctantly turning back when they saw the case hopeless. We missed, after hooking slightly, a goodly number of fish; but in something under two hours we caught 38 perch of from ½lb. to 1¼lb. each. We had unfortunately to leave off at half-past 4 to catch the train, or we could, I believe, have half-filled our punt if we could have fished on.

Another peculiar feature was that the fish seemed all to be in one particular place a few yards in area, for as soon as we drifted away from this one place, not a run could we get, and we lost a lot of time by not being able to keep the punt in the right place through losing the bearings. After we left, I believe some other anglers tried the same place, but failed to get any fish, and next day also, but without success. I have fished a good number of years, but never before have I *seen* fish so madly in earnest to get a meal. It was quite a new experience to actually see them rushing at, and taking, the bait, with very often one or more hovering around watching their turn.

Liverpool. R. Woolfall.

## CONFERENCE OF THE UPPER THAMES ANGLING SOCIETIES.

A novel movement in reference to the Upper Thames Fishery Associations took place on Monday, when delegates from each society and their friends met at the Royal Hotel, Henley-on-Thames, when they went on board the launch *Austral*, and proceeded down the river to call at the various fishing stations. At Great Marlow an elegant luncheon was provided by "mine host," Mr. Chas. M. Foottit, of the Compleat Angler Hotel, and business and pleasure were most agreeably mingled. The gist of the discussion was the desirability of each association being represented in a separate body. Several instances of the associations bidding against each other for trout having occurred, it was decided that for the future, on information being received by any secretary that trout were for sale, he should inform the secretaries of the other associations, to prevent their bidding against him. The amalgamation of all the up-river associations into an Upper Thames Angling Preservation Association, with local branches to be worked much as at present, was also discussed and found much favour. The conference devoted some time to the consideration of the Report issued by the Select Committee appointed by the House of Commons to report upon the steps which are necessary to secure the Thames as a place of recreation, and it was pointed out, as regards angling (one of the principal recreations of the river), the Committee had not carried out the object for which they were appointed, inasmuch as they had not reported the steps which are necessary to secure the angling in the Thames to the public. It was decided to prepare statistics connected with Thames angling, as the number of fishermen employed in each district, the varieties of fish taken, and other matters of interest connected with the waters bearing upon the sport. The conference passed off very harmoniously, and great good feeling and mutual goodwill prevailed. It is but fair to state that the conception of this conference may be traced to the brotherly feeling which prompted the Thames Angling Preservation Society and the Maidenhead Association to come to the rescue with advice and assistance when the Windsor and Eton Society lapsed into almost extinction.

"Forestry" having changed hands, Mr. Francis George Heath has retired from the editorship.

## ROBERT BURDETTE'S SERMON ON FISHERMEN.

"The Fishers shall also mourn, and all they that cast angle into the brooks shall lament, and they that spread nets upon the waters shall languish."—Isaiah, xix., 8.

It is the time of the fish liar. He is even now in our midst. "A poor man is better than a liar," saith the wise man, which goes to indicate that even in the days of Solomon a poor man was about as useless a piece of furniture as could be found in the State, and when the liar was pegged one row below the child of poverty, he was clear down; yes, he was thirty-nine degrees below the State house. The psalmist said in his haste that "All men are liars." And, although after saying it, he had many years for mature consideration and deliberation, he doesn't appear to have moved a reconsideration. He doesn't say anything about it. He doesn't explain it. He doesn't add anything to it. He doesn't even move to strike out the enacting clause. He just lets the record stand.

But there be hope of a man, if he steal, that one short term in the penitentiary and a wholesome fear of another will cure him. If he be a drunkard, John B. Gough and John P. St. John may reform him. But if he goeth a-fishing, he will come home and lie about it. There have been men who have told the truth in a horse trade, because they knew so little about horses they didn't know how to lie to advantage. But any man can, and every man does, lie about fish. In two ways he does this—he belittles the fish his neighbour catches, and enlarges the one he took himself.

I remember once myself fishing in the eddying waters of the Mississippi about four miles above Burlington, striking a catfish. I was using a lancewood rod and set reel, and the fish ran out about twenty-five yards of line, then, turning suddenly, made straight for me as I stood in the water. I struck at it with the rod, which broke off in my hand. The infuriated fish chased me ashore, ran me through a lumber yard, pursued me across a wide stubble field, and some distance into the woods, when, being unarmed, I climbed a large cottonwood tree. The relentless fish followed me up the tree, where it was shot by some hunters just as it was "cooning" out along a big limb to get at me. It fell to the ground dead, shot through the heart. It was nine inches long, and weighed a pound and a half with its clothes on. Which, by interpretation, is dressed.

The worst feature, or rather effect, of the stories of the fish liar, and his habitual tendency to exaggerate, is that people are slow to believe a simple statement of fact, even when made by a truthful man, who does not fish as a profession, and has therefore no inducement to make even a slight departure from truth for poetic and artistic effect.—*Exchange.*

Bismarck as a Pisciculturist.—Prince Bismarck has been going in strongly for pisciculture during the last three years at Friedrichsruhe, and every stream and lake on or near his estate is now well stocked with fish. The Prince has an extensive breeding establishment at Graude, near Friedrichsruhe, from which 10,000 young trout have lately been sent out to neighbouring waters. He obtained a large stock of trout from the celebrated ponds at Wolfsbrünnen, near Heidelberg, which are, or at least which ought to be, well known to many of my readers.—("Atlas" in the *World.*)

George James Eaton, of Starkholmes, Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required, from gentlemen who can fish, to prove whether they may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—(Advt.)

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WILLIAM J. VIAN, Secretary.

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Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only, and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith. Unless this rule be adhered to, no notice will be taken of such communications.

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The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1884.

## THE FISHERIES DIPLOMAS.

IN answer to an inquiry on our part, we are informed on very good authority that the delay has been caused by the Paris firm who have had the diplomas in hand, who are "solely to blame." The diplomas are executed by a new process, and only a small number can be printed in a day. We understand that a sufficient number to issue to BRITISH EXHIBITORS ONLY have been finished, and will shortly be sent out.

## FLOATING GROG SHOPS IN THE NORTH SEA.

THE letter which we published recently from the Lord Mayor under the above title referred to the "cooper," or bumboat, as "the pest of the North Sea." A very interesting article on this subject appeared shortly afterwards in the German *Emder Zeitung*, and the German press generally has referred to it. The fact is, although only a small proportion of the "coopers" sail under the German flag, it is German brandy which is doing most of the harm complained of by our fishermen. As showing the immense increase in the sale of spirits to the North Sea fishermen, it may be mentioned that *one* Dutch "cooper" which sold 1,649 quarts of brandy in 1880, in the first eight months of 1881 had already sold 2,247 quarts.

The German papers often contain complaints of outrages by English sailors; but they now begin to see that it is their very low duty on brandy which is at the root of the evil. In France the duty is about £2 per twenty-gallon cask; in Holland, £4 16s.; in England, even more; while in Germany it is only 8s. per twenty gallons. It will be seen at once where the brandy comes from. Fishermen do not usually take much money to sea with them, and as soon as it is exhausted the "coopers" prime them with liquor and induce them to exchange their nets, ropes, anchors, for brandy, and then the "Belgian Devil" has often to bear the blame of the loss of this property of the smack-owners.

What is the remedy? It may be difficult to find a complete remedy; but there can be no doubt if the duty on German brandy intended for consumption in the North Sea were raised to the Dutch or even the French figure, a great blow would be given to the bumboat harpy, who, after fleecing our fishermen of their money, nets, clothes, everything he can get, complains if he gets his head broken now and then in some drunken brawl which he has instigated.

## THE TROUT STREAMS OF NORTH DEVON.—VI.

By Helwr.

MY pleasant task is nearly ended, and when at the end of this paper I shall have appended my nom-de-plume (Helwr), all that I have to say upon this subject will be ready for the pages of the FISHING GAZETTE. In my first paper I wrote:—"I propose later on to give a few descriptions how to make the kind of fly referred to." After consideration, I have decided not to do so, because I make them from Cutcliffe's instructions, and he describes the method of tying flies and the materials to be used far better than I can. True, I might copy his directions; but, not believing in plagiarism, I think it better to refer my readers to his book. The book is—"The Art of Trout Fishing on Rapid Streams." London: Sampson Low, Marston and Co.

In this most valuable little book will be found some capital remarks about fowls' feathers, and I must mention that Mr. James Rowe, fishing tackle maker, Barnstaple, has some fowls of the colours alluded to by Cutcliffe. I called upon him a few days ago and saw his fowls, and consider them most useful birds for a fly-maker to have. Cutcliffe says: "These rusty feathers are by far the most rare, and by far the best when obtained; they combine several colours, and shot, as it were, over the surface of a rich glossy grounding in blue and red. Of the different varieties of feathers the rusty are the most valuable in all respects, and therefore we must seek to procure a good assortment of rusty blues, &c." The fowls Mr. Rowe showed me had just these colours about their necks and wings, and are very different to the birds one usually sees in a poultry yard. I am not aware that fanciers, as a rule, are influenced in their selection of birds by the desire to possess those the most suitable for growing a crop of feathers for fly-making.

Having said my say about the streams lying to the south of Dunkery, we must now go "out over," as they say in these parts.

Near Lynton and Lynmouth is the choicest scenery of the West of England, and there is good trout fishing in that neighbourhood. There are several hotels, all of them being largely patronised during July and August. I think the best place for the angler is the Lyndale Hotel, Lynmouth. A lot of streams can be fished from here: the Lyns, Brendon stream, and the Badgeworthy water. The landlord, Mr. Bevan, knows all about it, and will give every information.

Perhaps one would be more likely to escape the crush, and would also find it a more economical course, to stay in the village of Brendon, where there is a nice little inn. By doing this, we should get considerably nearer the Doone Valley and Badgeworthy water; but we must bear in mind that the farther we get from our fellow-men the less luxury and high living must we expect. I do not mean to say that the inn at Brendon can provide one with the same style of commissariat that we should get at the swell hotels.

As a set off against that rosiness of description to which some say I am too prone, let me here state that the Doone Valley is overrated; for this Mr. Blackmore is to blame, because he has thrown such a glamour around the place in his delightful romance of "Lorna Doone." Here we see the old proverb exemplified—"One man can steal a horse, where another must not look over the hedge at one"; for that tendency to regard things *couleur de rose* which is to me a cause of reproach, has been the means of making Mr. Blackmore famous. [Mr. Editor must not think I am galled—not at all, I am getting quite callous; it is only my fun.] Well, the Doone Valley is a wild, lonely, desolate place; well worth seeing under a summer sun, but not so attractive to the stag-hunter when winds are cold, moors brown, and mists are sweeping across from ridge to ridge, at last coming down into the valley itself.

Taking wing and flying west across the high table-land, we soon reach the pretty village of Martinhoe, for it is only five miles distant from Brendon, and that is not much of a fly. Martinhoe lies high above the sea, from which it is distant about half a mile. The best place to get down to the water is at Woodabay. This is rather a romantic valley, well worth seeing, but not quite up to the Lynmouth standard. But fresh water is what I am treating of, not salt; so, harking back to my subject, I will tell you that a very nice trout stream flows into the sea at Heddon's Mouth, about half a mile west of Martinhoe. This is the Heddon, and it is fishable for about three miles up it—say, to Paracombe. I can confidently recommend the Hunter's Inn (Mr. H. Berry), and permission to fish is here obtained—at least, such was the case a few months ago; but as the property has recently changed hands, other things may be changed, although I believe matters piscatorial are *in statu quo*.

When I last visited this stream it was pretty well stocked with fish, averaging about five or six to the pound.

In last week's FISHING GAZETTE, owing to a stupid mistake (of printer or author), I am made to say that "the evening of the first day is always spent at the inn at *Dulverton*, &c." Of course it is obvious that I meant *Withypool*, not *Dulverton*, for it was of the *inn* at Withypool I was speaking, and not of the hostelry accommodation of Dulverton, which contains, as I said in a former paper, three good *hotels*. When speaking of the Yeo River in my second article, I took care to describe its vicinity very carefully, viz., as running from Molland Station down to Bish Mill; yet I am informed that, as there are several streams of that name in the West of England, I ought to have been more explicit. I do not see how I very well could have individualised the water more; but, in order that there shall be no doubt as to its identity that I can avoid, I will state that by the inhabitants of its banks it is known as "The Old River." It was in this "Old River" that I had the good sport recounted in my last, notwithstanding my disgraceful behaviour.

In my fourth article I alluded to Sherdon Brook, and only alluded to it. I intended dealing more fully with it in the next paper, but forgot to do so; and unless the sight of it a few days ago, when hunting, had brought back my erring thoughts into a proper channel, I should have finished my remarks upon "The Trout Streams of North Devon" without saying what I desired to say about one of the best of those streams. Sherdon Brook runs into the Barle exactly half a mile above Landacre Bridge, and is on the right side of that river—the right, of course, as one proceeds downwards.

It is admirably adapted for fly fishing for at least four miles up from the "big river," the four miles being in two sections. Whilst fishing the first, or lower half, we are proceeding in a south-westerly direction; and as we proceed onwards, we turn a decided bend, and then go on towards the north-west. From this it will be seen that if the day be at all windy (which it often is hereabouts), we want the wind to blow from the east, south-east, or south, and that the prevailing wind of the fishing season—viz., from the westward—is not so convenient for that throwing up stream which is so indispensable to success upon a stream so small, narrow, and shallow, that the trout can easily see one approaching from the front, though at a great distance. Fortunately, the course of this stream is so exceedingly tortuous, that no matter what the wind is, we can always get a nice forward cast in parts of it. At the lower end the bed of the stream is strewn with boulders, dividing its course into two, and sometimes three portions, and forming nice little still hovers where the trout anxiously await flies washed down by the current. Here they do not disdain the artificial fly, if properly offered to them, provided always that we do not give them a sight of our charms, dress, tackle, or any part thereof, whilst displaying the lure. As we ascend the stream, it alters in character. In most places it flows onward with a steady, undulating surface. On such portions of the water the fish may be inveigled in mid-stream, or any part thereof. Higher up still we constantly find sharp bends and deep pools—not quite still, but with a slight swirl. In these pits, when there is plenty of water, half-pounders are to be caught, and the higher we go the larger the fish appear to get. It will be found exceedingly difficult to get a good creel upon this brook when the water is low and bright, though then they are to be caught; but after "the springs have broken" (as they say), it is astonishing how freely they sport. For about a mile of the middle portion of the stream, a low wall abuts on the water's edge. This affords a capital screen, behind which one can deal certain death into the ranks of the enemy. There is not a yard of water that cannot be fished, on account of bushes, trees, or other impediments, at least on one side. Usually, both sides are quite clear and open.

It is wonderful the amount of bird-life one meets with when fishing quietly along this interesting, lonely stream.

Water-ouzels constantly utter their startled cry, and, darting swiftly up stream for a short distance, alight upon a stone in the water, and wait till the human trespasser gets close to them, when they repeat the process.

Kingfishers I often see, though never very close. They give forth a shrill, crisp note, and flash by, a glittering mass of green. These most brilliant birds are, I believe, getting very rare in England. Though not common, I think they are more plentiful in this district than most people suppose. Even gamekeepers tell me they rarely meet with them, and the reasons why I see so many are that angling keeps me longer by the water than any man would be, unless drawn there by the ardour of the fly fisher, and because, also, the nature of the fisherman's occupation makes his approach quiet and stealthy. In the latter respect, it is widely different with the gentleman in velveteens and the death-hurling weapon he usually carries.

After traversing the four miles I have mentioned, proceeding up stream, we come to the road leading from Simonsbath to Sandiway, striking it at a point about three miles from either place—perhaps a little less.

In addition to the water-ouzels and kingfishers I have mentioned, and wood-pigeons, rooks, magpies, thrushes, blackbirds, tiny wrens, and swallows in clouds, that I have not mentioned, there are, alas! a great many herons about. These skilful fishermen, locally known as cranes, come from Dulverton, and are so numerous that one morning about six o'clock I saw a score sunning themselves on a high crag overhanging the Barle, just above Landacre. Notwithstanding the immense amount of mischief they do, I rather like to see them, for they are such noble, interesting birds.

And now I have said my say about the trout streams of North Devon, and will conclude with this: If Exmoor and its vicinity will not yield as many trout *per diem* as other parts of England, nor fish as large, yet its wild moors, with the gorgeous varied hues, its sombre, lonely wastes, its streams, either mountainous and swift, or flowing more slowly through the most delightful wooded valleys, and last, but not least, its bracing air, its palatable food, and its charming, hospitable people, will cause the angling stranger who visits it to say that it is as well worth a summer holiday's stay as any place he has hitherto known in those little islands that compose the United Kingdom. HELWR.

(*Conclusion.*)

[We hope next year that our correspondent will be able to describe the streams of Dartmoor in the same pleasant way he has done those of Exmoor. What a jolly life his must be—hunting, shooting, and fishing, one or other, all the year round! How is it readers of "Lorna Doone" so often forget that the Doone Valley, the water-slide, &c., are described as seen by a *boy* in the winter, and not by a full-blown British tourist in the summer?—ED.]

## FRESHWATER FISHERIES.

THE following extracts are from an interesting article in the *Justice of the Peace*, No. 37, Vol. XLVIII.:—

Though legislation, for the last quarter of a century, has been most active as regards our salmon fisheries, it is pretty generally conceded that that legislation has become so involved, intricate, and almost unintelligible, that, like Lord Dundreary, few people can hope to understand it. And, as might be expected, the freshwater fish could scarcely be let alone, seeing that these are often mixed up with their imperial brethren. It was thus inevitable that the legislature, after bringing the salmon laws into a network of unintelligible details, should take up the freshwater fish, and make them also much more complicated and difficult to comprehend. Indeed, until a few years ago, except in the Thames, legislation there was none as regards all these minor fish.

At last power was given to salmon fishery conservators to appoint by by-laws a close season for these fish, and even to issue licenses for fishing them. There still remained many places where there was no salmon fishery district, and therefore none of these latter restrictions applied. But in course of time the legislature has gone the length of enacting that there may be fishery districts where there are no salmon, and that whatever be the kind of fish that are found, there may be a board of conservators appointed, and a power given to them to make by-laws and impose suitable restrictions as to that fish for the common good—that is to say, so as to multiply and protect the fish, and thereby enhance the sport and amusement of the people who delight in fishing.

The result of the legislation, though now embracing all kinds of freshwater fish, as well as and including trout and char, is still to separate those two fish from the common herd; and separate laws govern them. Thus the close time for trout and char is usually between 2nd October and the 1st February following; and while power is given to boards of conservators of salmon to vary the season within certain limits, yet the total close season for trout and char is not to be made less by the board than 123 days. Moreover, in a salmon fishery district there is power given to issue and enforce licenses for trout and char fishing, but care is taken that these shall be very moderate and much less than the salmon rod license duties. One important advantage which the trout anglers have over salmon anglers is, that the trout license may be had for the day, week, season, or any part thereof; and hence it must, at most, be a mere bagatelle, and it can scarcely be a serious check to a few days' amusement in any strange country.

While, therefore, trout and char anglers may in many cases now require to have a license to fish, yet this drawback is counterbalanced by the increased protection given to their fish by the conservators who tax the angling fraternity. There are water bailiffs who reconnoitre the district and repress all irregular practices. The board can prohibit altogether most of those practices, and in particular they can prohibit the fishing of trout and char with nets during the night time. This practice, it is needless to say, is most prejudicial to the breed of fish, and has no pretensions to be a branch of sport. And even when net fishing for trout and char is not illegal, yet the board can prescribe the length and mesh of the net, and can prohibit nets altogether in particular spots. There are also prohibitions against destroying the fish with lime and poisonous matter, though this last protection is equally enjoyed by the other freshwater fish.

Having thus alluded to the law generally as to trout and char, the other freshwater fish are under somewhat different regulations, though in several respects trout and char are also affected by the Freshwater Fisheries Acts. The first of these Acts was passed in 1878, and introduced the thin edge of the wedge; while the last Act of this year considerably amplifies the legislation, and embraces all kinds of freshwater fish. These Acts are, respectively, 41 and 42 Vic. c. 39, and 47 Vic. c. 11. By the first Act a fishery district was authorised to be formed for trout and char only, irrespective of salmon. But by the last Act the same power is now given to constitute fishery districts for other or all the other freshwater fish.

The most important part of the law now affecting freshwater fish is this—namely, that when a fishery district is once formed, and this will be done on the model of the salmon fishery districts, a power is given to the board to make by-laws as to a variety of matters. One is to determine the size of mesh of nets for freshwater fish, for though nets are seldom used for these fish, yet the owner of a river might now and then make a sweep of the stock of fish—at least, so far as particular pools contain such a stock. But the important power given to boards now is that contained in 47 Vict. c. 11, s. 1 namely, "for prohibiting the use of any mode or instrument of fishing for freshwater fish within the district of such board, where such mode or instrument appears to be prejudicial to the fisheries." This large power will enable most of the boards to grapple with the chief enemies of the sport, for, as everybody knows, the pleasure of angling, like the pleasure of hunting, lies not in the actual catching, but in the constant desire and intention to catch. And hence spectators are apt to say that the more difficult and uncertain the art of catching fish can be made, so much the better for the angler. Nevertheless, as he is apt to lose his temper if he goes wholly unrewarded with a fair basket, it cannot be disputed that the best thing of all that can happen is to secure a plentiful breed of fish so as to distribute perfect happiness among the greatest possible number of aspirants. And this result must usually be attained by judicious by-laws containing regulations as to the instruments of fishing.

Another important part of the new law as to freshwater fisheries is that relating to a close season. The sole object of a close season is to secure to the fish, at the time of year when they breed, as much rest and non-interference as will give nature fair play. Fish do not, like hares and rabbits, live at the expense of some owner of the soil, so that what they eat—and the more of these the more will be eaten by them—is so much deducted from somebody's pocket. On the contrary, fish feed and support themselves entirely either out of the air and the flies above, or the worms and insects found below the surface, and cost nobody a farthing for their keep. All they require is to be let alone—at least, during a few months in the year. This object has, to some extent, been secured by the Freshwater Fisheries Act of 1879, for by 41 & 42 Vict. c. 39, s. 11, a close time is enacted for all England and Wales. That time is between 15th March and 15th June, both inclusive. So that if the freshwater fish are left undisturbed for three months, they will usually supply ample sport during the other nine months of the year. And this close season has also been adopted in the Thames for nearly all the freshwater fish there, except trout, these last being more akin to the salmon, and requiring another and longer time to grow.

While a close time has thus been laid down for freshwater fish, some attempts are made in the Act 41 & 42 Vict. c. 39, s. 11, to make exceptions to its applicability and to secure the owners of private fisheries from being bound by it. Thus it is said nothing shall apply "*(a)* to the owner of any several or private fishery, where trout, char, or grayling are specially preserved, destroying within such fishery any freshwater fish other than grayling; *(b)* to any person angling in any several fishery with the leave of the owner of such fishery, or with the leave of the fishery board." These exceptions show a hopeless bewilderment as to the effect they must produce. As to the words, "where trout, &c., are specially preserved," these are very loose; for who or what must be the owner who does not specially preserve his trout? It will be impossible to find a reasonable meaning to these words. But the other exception as to "all anglers in a several fishery with leave of the owner" is still more unfortunate, for they make the exception almost as large as the rule. All fisheries for freshwater fish being substantially several fisheries, it will follow that no owner, nor his licensees, need pay any regard to the close season at all. Hence, none but poachers will practically be affected by the enactment of a close season, and as there must usually be few poachers this useful enactment seems too likely to be nullified in practice.

## A THREE-AND-A-HALF POUND ROACH.

WE have just had a sight of the finest roach we have ever seen. It was sent up to our office by Mr. Cooper, the fish preserver, of Radnor-street. It appears to have been sent to him by Messrs. O'Handlen and Co., of Bristol, to be set up. It was caught at Malmesbury, Wilts, March 10th, 1884, and weighed 3½lb., and it certainly looks every ounce of this weight, and a more handsome specimen of the true roach we never saw; there is no bream or rudd or any other cross about it. Someone wrote the other day to ask us the weight of the biggest roach ever taken in England? We said we did not know, but that we had one of 2¼lb. being set up, and had heard of even larger than this; but all we have seen or heard of must take a back seat in presence of this well-authenticated three-and-a-half pounder. Let us hope he was taken by fair angling. Perhaps Messrs. O'Handlen will give us his history?

## ON THE DESCRIPTION OF SALMON FLIES.

BY MR. GEO. M. KELSON.

### MAJOR TRAHERNE'S PATTERNS (*Continued*).

### No. 15.—THE "LAPWING."

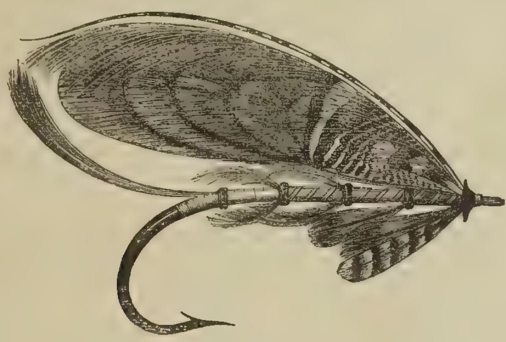
IN continuing the remarks relating to throat hackles, &c., I may remind the student that the fibres of these feathers, whether they are wound spirally or set in as butts, should increase gradually in length from the tag to the wings, When short ones were fashionable we used to draw a square with a pencil and lay the fly inside across the centre, placing its head to the right. The rule was for the throat hackle to extend to a diagonal line from the top left angle to the bottom right, and no farther. I believe I have tried them all ways, not in one river but in several, to see which is best, and decidedly prefer those that nearly or quite reach the barb of the hook. The chief secret of success with long hackled flies is to present them properly. To shake the rod about spasmodically, giving the fly fits and starts, and converting it into a rough and tumbled mass of riotous fibres, is not much use. Sometimes even for all that the fish may be enticed from under the rent red rocks, and rush through the swirling streams; but nine times in ten they would be as likely to take a birch broom in a fit. Upon another occasion—in "Odds and Ends" most likely—we will dwell a bit upon that subject.

One cannot offer any general standard as to the amount of hackle at the throat; the best plan, I think, is for strangers to follow the example of the most successful angler in the district. We often hear that some rivers require a good batch, while in others a mere nothing will suffice; but I cannot believe in any of these hard-and-fast laws, and so rarely listen to them; indeed, I have frequently "landed" by offering these fastidious fish something or other entirely novel, and opposite to all rule and custom. How inexplicable are the frequent freaks of salmon. For instance, not very long ago from one pool in a few hours I had a regiment of six on the bank, all taken with the king of flies—Jock Scott; and although there were fresh fellows up in the catch daily—for the water was in good fettle—the fly failed afterwards entirely. I tried several others I thought likely at odd intervals, but to no purpose; at last, coming to the end of my invitation, I whipped up a monster "Black Eagle," minus wings. The first time down I hooked and lost a jiggering 10 or 12-pounder, and banked a beauty of 13lb. the next.

I can quite believe that salmon fidget and lose their "sense of safety" in haunts that have been very much disturbed by similar or any other means. They may just take shelter perhaps and no more, but not even that sometimes. During a netting expedition a few years since a somewhat remarkable opportunity happened of noticing their little pranks, and that, too, in a good stretch of water where the drag-nets had swept the bed of the river almost spick and span.

There was a small run of fish coming up, "all of a heap" (as the local paper put it), and the moment they came upon this freshly-swept half-moon arena some of them would run over it like lightning, while others danced about like a wild bird caged. Now, where rocks are pretty well perpendicular—although they may be smooth—as the water becomes vapid and dead, so does mess and muck gather upon them. We may well fancy all that cut and gashed about in places, especially in a small pool, not only by the line in playing two or three salmon, but also by their tails, which surely flip off and expose to view conspicuous patches of bright stone, or may be chalk.

"Something has put the fish off," we say. And how can we account for such matters? Indeed, any decision would be in a degree doubtful. We can come to our own conclusion, and we may form our own opinion, and keep it if we like, which is both pleasant and cheap; but we really have to rest content with probability, after all, as we cannot get beyond, for our best reasonings will reach no further. However, let us always balance arguments, and make the most of them in the hope of progressing, and let us take care at the same time, even if we favour preferences, to fight shy of all prejudices, so that we may store up in that philosophical chimera—the mind—principles which take their rise in, and rest upon the best of all evidence—Practice.



We have this week another splendid novelty in flies, and the "Lapwing" is one of the most beautiful of all these patterns. It is suited to every river, and can be dressed any size, certainly from the smallest up to four or five sizes larger than the illustration. The enamelled Thrush has no great reputation; indeed, I believe until now it has never been quite understood, inasmuch as the feathers have been misplaced, and not worked correctly.

It is very odd that we always practise more easily what we already know; but would it not be better to pay a little attention to what others glory in. Their theory and practice may possibly be a cut above our own, and the chances are we should at least learn something. Solid and substantial advice to quicken every sense and nerve to acutest perception is what we want, and that is only capable of being imparted from minds freed from bias and misconception after long and close experience.

The blue feathers in the wings here are from under the tail of the bird, though along its back there are others, small, yet equally effective, and could be used similarly even for our diminutive grilse flies. This Thrush is about one-third the price of a light blue Chatterer, and may be bought at almost any of the tackle shops. The fly is described:

Tag: Silver twist and green silk (same shade as the green feathers from Macaws).
Tail: Topping.
Butt: Black herl.
Body: In four equal sections, the first three butted with the herl. No. 1 division, silver tinsel, with canary Toucan above and below. No. 2, topping coloured floss silk, ribbed with fine oval tinsel, and the ordinary Toucan above and below. No 3, orange silk, ribbed likewise, with Red Crow above and below. No. 4, red claret silk, ribbed again as before.
Throat: Five or six Red Crow and Jay feather, as illustrated.
Wings: Ten Enamelled Thrush, as shown and described.
Cheeks: Summer Duck and Jungle Cock, two toppings over.
Horns: Amherst pheasant.
Head: Black herl.

I am told that this bird is called the Jaffa Finch in Syria. Fishermen, or rather fly makers, always know it as the Enamelled Thrush. We had better make a note of it, though I do not like altering names, as that only causes confusion.

## POLLUTION OF THE RIVERS SHERBOURNE AND AVON.

### Important Government Inquiry.

Mr. Harrison, one of the Inspectors of the Local Government Board, has just held an inquiry at St. Mary's-hall, Coventry, respecting the application of the City Council for an order declaring that the third section of the Rivers Pollution Prevention Act, 1876, shall not be in operation until the expiration of a period to be limited in the order, so far as regards the discharge of the sewage matter into the river Sherbourne.

Mr. T. Browett (town clerk) appeared for the corporation, and Mr. Colmore for the Warwick Town Council, who have entered proceedings against the Coventry authorities for polluting the river Avon.

Mr. Colmore said it might possibly shorten matters if he stated that he did not appear there in any hostile spirit. He, with the mayor and town clerk of Warwick (who were present), had had an opportunity of looking into the scheme proposed, and, with one or two little exceptions, the scheme appeared satisfactory, and they should not interfere at all.

Mr. Melliss, C.E., was examined as to the scheme proposed. He stated that when the present works were erected ten years ago they were sufficient, but the city had grown, and there had been a large increase of sewage.

After some discussion and examination of plans, the Inspector said he should have to report that if the scheme, as sketched by Mr. Melliss, were carried out there was every reason to think it would purify the sewage properly before it was passed into the river, and on the town council of Coventry undertaking to prepare plans and estimates, and make application for sanction to the works proposed by Mr. Melliss within six months, then the protection of the order asked for would be granted for that period, and the Local Government Board could grant on application an extension of the time of the order, say eighteen months, or as long as might be necessary for the execution of the works, without further inquiry. The inquiry then terminated.

## ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

J. R. T.—We are very glad to hear you liked the article; thank you for your letter.

A Tyro Pike Angler.—We should advise you to get an American spoon-bait from Messrs. Watson, of 308, High Holborn—they are the English agents. A fluted spoon with a red feather on the triangle, the whole about 3½in. in length, is a good medium size. You can spin this from a punt or from the bank. If you do not use a lead you must use plenty of swivels on your trace, or your winch line will kink. A Fishing Gazette lead, which can be put on or taken off in a moment, and hangs below the line, entirely prevents kinking. We cannot tell you who keeps it in stock, but fancy Messrs. F. Williams and Co. do.

# CORRESPONDENCE.

[*We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.*]

### IMPROVED EYED-HOOKS.

Sir,—Since writing my last letter for the Gazette, I have received the first samples of the new hooks I was waiting for, and I am much pleased with them. They are most accurate imitations of those I twisted myself, and if all the different sizes can be as satisfactorily dealt with as these (May-fly size), I shall be quite content. As soon as possible I will publish the maker's name, prices, &c.; to do so before our experiments are concluded would only result in tiresome requests for samples, and orders which cannot be carried out until all details are definitely fixed.

One word about O'Shaughnessy hooks. I have always understood that O'Shaughnessy was a watchmaker, and that he made every hook singly, even cutting and filing them separately after the steel was tempered, and that for every hook he made he charged one penny. Certainly in respect of temper, point, and barb, they were marvellous hooks, but most irregular in shape. If what I have heard about their manufacture is correct, it would account for the peculiarities of bend.

I have a few of the real O'Shaughnessy hooks given me by Mr. Aldam, who had them thirty years. They are all sorts of shapes and sizes, and most of them decidedly "roach-backed." The inclosed samples will show what I mean. Though I should be very glad to secure the temper and finish of these hooks in future patterns, I cannot but think O'Shaughnessy's shape in 0, 00, and 000 eyed-hook would be intolerable.—I am, &c., H. S. Hall.

Sir,—I am not writing to continue the eyed-hook controversy, only to offer an explanation which I trust will be satisfactory to Mr. Hall.

I hope, and think, that *good will come out of it* in the shape of improved hooks, judging by the specimens received from you (forwarded by "Waltonians"), so let us devote our attention to that end.

I am glad to learn that Mr. Hall is not responsible for the bad shape of bend of the present eyed-hooks, and after this explanation, I frankly withdraw my expression that *he* utterly spoiled them. Some one, however, must have done it, as hooks were made for me of much better shape in 1879 and 1880 than they *are now*. I complained of the hooks purchased *this year*, though they appear the same in shape as for two or three years past, and as I had never heard of any difficulty with the makers as to *shape of bend* (only as to smallest size), the natural conclusion I came to was that this particular bend was the approved result of Mr. Hall's twisting of patterns. After 1880 sizes were produced; but as Mr. Hall asked the makers in 1881 to make the same shaped hook as I now advocate, and they refused to do it, that puts quite a different aspect on the case and exonerates him.

More than thirty years ago I went over Messrs. Hutchinson and Sons' factory (I am not quite sure if it was then Hutchinson and Sons or Adlington and Co.). I saw the whole process, made some hooks myself, and paid my "footing," so that, unless machinery has since been introduced, I know something about the process as *then* conducted in making sneck-bend hooks of trout-fishers' sizes. They are (or were) all made by hand; no expensive machinery is used which would require alteration and entailing cost, and I cannot understand why they should refuse to make any kind of bend asked for.

I have not stated that the present hooks are bad hooks. I said the present shape is "not so good as it might be made," and as you say Mr. Marryat (than whom probably no better judge exists as to what would be perfect in such matters) may be satisfied with them, it probably has been a case of "Hobson's choice," as he, like myself, could get no other shape under the circumstances. But, I presume, neither he nor you will reject an improved hook if it can be got, or defend the present one as unimprovable; therefore, *why not try to get them as perfect as possible?* Judging by the first attempt of "Waltonians" in the samples received, and by Mr. Hall's remark as to his "new firm," I think it is most likely we shall get it shortly.

The alteration desired is very simple. At present the sizes, strength of wire, size and shape of eye, colour, sharpness, and tempering are good. The only alteration required is to make the body of the hook straight, sneck it from the bottom of the bend, and keep the point in a true line with the shank.

I strongly approve of Mr. Hall's rather more sudden drop from the *straight back* of hook in comparison with the gradual curve of the Limerick, as it enables the body of the fly to be dressed nearer down to the *bend*, making *that* less visible and lighter for floating flies; but the absurdity of the present hook is that instead of the drop being kept straight, *it is canted off to the right*, and then the *point* brought *back again* nearly under the shank, thus nearly doing away with the advantage of the sneck-twist. The sneck should not be made from the *base* of the *barb*, because that is the weakest point in the hook, and any twisting of the metal at the place the barb is cut out of the wire will make it very liable to snap off.

I hope you will soon be able to announce that the desired hook has been offered by the trade.—I am, &c., Geo. Bankart.

[Mr. Hall said he had sent samples of Hutchinson's shape, and those he had shaped, to Mr. Marryat and Mr. Francis, and they preferred the Hutchinson. We learn from Mr. Bankart that the hatchet is buried, and he is now on friendly terms again with Mr. Hall.—Ed.]

### LOOPED FLIES v. EYED-HOOKS.

Sir,—The controversy concerning eyed-hooks has created some interest. For a good many years I have been using, with undoubted success, particularly in Northern rivers, a substitute for hooks with steel eyes. So far as I can see, for all practical purposes, eyed-hooks chiefly are superior to those whipped on in the usual way in respect of *wear*. There is no knuckling or breaking of the gut close to the shank. Mr. Hall gave me a sample hook, by the Tummel's banks, years ago, a fly most creditably tied, by himself, and I had a lot of his eyed-hooks sent by Hutchinson and Co., and had them dressed by Forrest and Sons, of Kelso, to my pattern, and I confess that I have seldom or never used them, and when I have done so, I have not met with great success.

My honest objection to them is that the *eye* is so conspicuous. Now my own idea is simplicity itself. I don't wish to make capital out of it; but, seeing this controversy, I am led to give my little invention the light, hoping only that some practical fisherman may *try* it, and report thereon. I use any ordinary hook, round, sneck, Kirby, or Limerick, for it applies to all. But what made me think of the invention was the large accumulation every year in my book of flies not in any way pulled about by the trout, but from being "broken" at the neck, having to be nipped off the gut. This I found specially the case in (A) flies, particularly the larger size of river trout flies, dressed on the finest drawn gut; and (B) loch flies dressed on good strong gut, which latter "break at the neck" long before they are "fished out," and, thus, *many a good fish is lost*. I simply tie the fly on a loop, and so it has a double thread of gut to play on, and lasts, in the case of *river* flies, more than *double* the time of flies dressed on the *single* strand of fine drawn gut, and in the case of loch flies it has the enormous advantage of permitting a *finer* thread of gut to be used, which will outlive two flies dressed on *thick* hard gut which so often "knuckles," as some call it. In both cases the head, if knotted after due soaking, is *hardly observable.* I will only add that the fly I now inclose is one of my own patterns for Scotch rivers, dressed by myself, and in the simplest way, and I can vouch for its killing excellently on the Tweed, Teviot, and Tummel, and many a Northern stream besides. I use it myself, and shall continue to use it, but I would much prefer to use eyed-hooks, if I could really believe that they killed equally well amongst shy trout—such as those one has seen in the barge river at Winchester. Trout that *do* know, in no ordinary degree, "a hawk from a heronshaw," or, as some interpret the passage, "a hawk from a heron!" They can be so readily changed, are put into so small a compass, last so long, and so forth; but I always feel that the eye of the wary trout must be on the eye of the eyed-hooks *I* have in my possession, one of which I send for a fair comparison in this respect. If you decide in favour of the eyed hook, I shall in no way feel sore, and, moreover, if a hook is produced which I *can* place faith in, with an "eye" of the smallest possible dimensions, I will gladly take up the eyed-hooks, *and use them constantly.* And I would venture to ask the gentlemen who have been labouring at this, "have they ever tried a hook with a small round or flat knob at the end, so made that a piece of gut can be knotted on it securely, or, in lieu of a knob, a short *barb*—in fact, something which may possibly show less than the eye, and do equally well?" I throw it out merely as a suggestion. I have twisted up a piece of soft steel wire, in the form of a hook of the simplest crooked-pin form, and placing it in a pin vice, have endeavoured to fashion, roughly, a head, in the shank end, and then, with a single running knot, all but invisible, I have securely tied it on, and it seems to me as if, in the hands of a hook maker, a small *stud* would answer the purpose of the eye, and show less—yes, even look, if carefully made, like the head of a natural fly. This, with my own simple plan, may open up a field for discussion, and if, in any way, I may have given a useful hint to any honest angler I shall have served the end, the only end, for which these lines are penned.—I am, &c., E. M. Tod.

[Our correspondent sends us samples to show his plan, and it is certainly a good one for hooks tied on gut, because just at the head where the single gut usually cracks and wears, the gut is double, but the knot is so small and so close to the head, that, to all appearance, the fly is tied on a single strand of gut. There is no more difficulty in tying a fly on in this way than with the ordinary fly on gut: you simply make a loop in the end of the gut and fasten it with a knot. If you cut the end of the loop you have your gut single down to the knot and double below it; it is on this double part and close to the knot that you fasten the hook. All kinds of bait hooks might also, with advantage, be mounted in this way. But if our correspondent objects to the eyed-hook because the eye is rather prominent, and the fish see it and get used to seeing it, why does not he dress his flies, or get them dressed, with fine and small stained gut loops? Mr. Kelson tells us he often makes even the smallest trout flies with a gut loop, or rather eye, for it is not so large as the metal eye. For our own part, we do not consider that the metal eye of Mr. Hall's hooks is likely to frighten fish, though in Wheatley's eyed-hooks, made thirty or more years ago, the shank has been filed down before the eye was made, and thus the wire of the eye is finer than that of the rest of the hook. We gather from Mr. Hall's letters to us that he is aware of the ease with which the eye may be reduced in size in this way.—Ed.]

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## SALMON FLIES ON EYED-HOOKS.

Sir,—In accordance with your suggestion I wrote to Messrs. Hutchinson for some large-sized eyed salmon hooks, and in return received some of the inclosed patterns. Now it seems to me that for a salmon fly this is clumsy, thick in the wire, and too short at the point, nor do I think that the fly would swim well; in fact, it seems to me that the hook is much better suited for putting on a night-line for eels, or for bait-fishing in the sea, than for a salmon fly. Do those correspondents to the Fishing Gazette who recommend eyed-hooks for salmon flies use such hooks as these? If not, and if any of them can tell me where to procure "Limerick bend" eyed-hooks for salmon flies, I shall be much obliged. I had hoped that my previous inquiry would have elicited some replies from anglers who have had some experience with these hooks.—I am, &c.,

H.M.S. Lord Warden, Sept. 8th. An Amateur.

[We quite agree with the strictures of our correspondent on this large eyed-hook. Cannot Messrs. Hutchinson put the *same eye* on an ordinary finer wire Limerick bend salmon fly-hook? We feel sure it would answer admirably. Will some of our Irish correspondents kindly send us a sample of the kind of eyed salmon-hook they use? —Ed.]

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## TWO NICE THAMES PIKE.

Sir,—At Maidenhead, fishing with Clark, Mr. S. Renaut and Mr. W. Turpin caught two jack weighing respectively, 5lb. and 8¾lb., the former a very handsome fish. On our way we came across a very large eel minus tail and head, evidently the work of an otter. We heard later on that one had been killed at Clevedon weighing 14lb. The jack in question are being set up by Cooper, and can be seen when finished in the billiard room of the Old White Hart, Borough.—I am, &., S. Renaut.

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## A FINE ROACH.

Sir,—One of our members, Mr. Charles Dyson, caught a roach in this neighbourhood in July which turned the scales at 2lb. 8¼oz. Have you heard of anything heavier than this?—I am, &c.,

A. Malloch,
Sec. Southport Angling Society.

[We have elsewhere, in this number, described a roach of 3½lb.—Ed.]

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## USE FINE TACKLE FOR PERCH.

Sir,—I can indorse the remarks made by you and "Mark Antony" about the absurdity of using coarse tackle for perch. There is not the slightest necessity for it.

I used to fish a great deal for perch at Sonning, and I had a special paternoster made for me by Mr. Holroyd, the fishing-tackle maker of Gracechurch-street, which I recommended in *The Field*. He used to sell it as "Pickerel's paternoster." It is the best paternoster I ever used.

The excuse made for using coarse tackle for perch is, that a jack may come and take the minnow. Well, let him come, I say, and let the angler do his best to land him. Better to have your paternoster broken occasionally than spoil your perch fishing for fear of jack.—I am, &c.,

75, Mark-lane. R. Cullen Dewy.

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## THE GREEN INSECT.

Sir,—I inclose pattern of green insect as used on river Teme. It was myself that made the addition of the red tag to them, and it answers remarkably well. Dressing: body green, part of the moon of peacock's herl; hackle very pale blue dun. (I add red tag).

I daresay it would be called a bumble or a peacock fly in the North. If not troubling you too much, would you kindly tell me what the gardenia is?—I am, &c.,

13, Raven-street, Ludlow. T. B. Hodges.

[The green insect seems to be as popular as the red tag. The pattern Mr. Hodges sends is a very good one with a red tag to it. The gardenia is an æsthetic name for the angle worm or earth worm,—we fancy Dr. Brunton is responsible for this *double entendre*.—Ed.]

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## THE GREEN INSECT—HOW TO KNOT GUT.

Sir,—My stock of green insects is quite exhausted, with the exception of the three I now inclose. You will observe it is made:—Body, bright green peacock herl; hackle, any small white feather. I have fished the Teme for the last 25 years, and, as far as my experience goes, it is an excellent fly for Teme grayling. Those inclosed are rather spare; I prefer them a little more bushy.

If you like to send them on to "W. T. S." pray do so; but do not trouble to return them, as I can get more when wanted from "Page," of Teme-street, Tenbury. Another good fancy fly for Teme grayling is the "red tag." The tag should be made of floss silk, and not wool; the latter fades almost directly.

Whilst on this subject I should like to know how you fasten your droppers on to the cast? My way is to fasten two small loops together, then open, and pop the dropper through and pull tight. I never saw a fisherman yet who did it in this way. The loops, if small, do not make any more show than an ordinary knot, and the fly is changed instantly without the aid of a pin or scissors, by simply pushing the two loops apart. I never lost a fly from this fastening.—I am, &c.,

Knutsford. H. B. S.

[We are obliged to our correspondent for the dressing and samples. If we have time this week to prepare them, we will give sketches of the methods we use for fastening flies to a collar, or second or third hooks, to a gut bottom.—Ed.]

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## THE GREEN INSECT, &c.

Sir,—Body, green peacock herl, hackled at head only with a blue dun hackle. I believe that one dressing of the red tag is like the above, but with the addition of a piece of red worsted or floss silk; to my mind the floss is much preferable, as it is brighter and glistens more in the water.

What are the dressings of the *Silver Wickham* and *Coachman?* I mean the one without the invariable white wings. This latter fly was mentioned recently by a Teme correspondent in his report, and he then goes on to refer to the white-winged Coachman.

Does "Orange Partridge and Smoke" mean more than one fly? If so, what is the dressing of the "Smoke"? Where could I buy a copy of the *Fish Culture Journal?* —I am, &c., J. B. J.

Hull.

[The Silver Wickham is the ordinary pattern with a turn or two of silver twist on the body. A good fancy grayling fly is one with starling wing—a slight ginger hackle confined to the part close under the wings, and the body silver tinsel with one turn of gold; it is especially good when the water is just coloured enough not to prevent the fish rising. Mr. Cummins, of Bishop Auckland, makes the coachman with a reddish-brown wing (landrail answers very well). "Orange Partridge and Smoke" are two different flies—see our Wharfe River report. Write to W. O. Chambers, Esq., National Fish Culture Association, Health Exhibition, South Kensington.—Ed.]

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## POACHERS AND NETTING.

Sir,—I beg to inclose you a cutting from the *Daily Chronicle*, Sept. 27th, 1884, as I see no mention of the case in your last edition; perhaps you may be glad to have it. The only thing I have to say in reference to the subject is, that the T.A.P.S. and other kindred societies deserve not only the hearty thanks of all true anglers, but to be more liberally supported by them to enable them to carry out their good work even more efficiently than at the present time, and I may add that when an offender is captured belonging to a notorious family well known to the river-keepers as poachers and netters (the Beesley family was mentioned some time ago in the Fishing Gazette as old offenders), the full penalty of the law should be asked for, instead of a "small fine," which would be laughed at, and which would very likely be paid by other members of the gang.—I am, &c., W. L. G.

[The following is the cutting. Our Oxford correspondent sent a report, but it was too long to insert. The barest outline of these police cases is all anglers care for, and the brief style in which Mr. W. H. Brougham reports his cases is much to be commended.—Ed.]

Oxford.—At the City Court, John Beesley, of 3, Luther-terrace, was summoned for having a prohibited net in his possession, and also for using the same. Mr. Dudley prosecuted on behalf of the Oxford Angling Society, who, he said, during the past year or so, had placed in the city waters something like a million of fish. As a small fine was only asked for defendant was fined 2s. 6d. in each case and 12s. costs, and the net to be destroyed.

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## WHARFE GRAYLING FLIES.

Sir,—If I had succeeded either with cinnamon, orange, partridge, or smoke fly, or any other well-known local fly, I should not have made the inquiry. The fact is, fancy flies undoubtedly do kill grayling well at times. If I were as prejudiced as some local celebrities, I should not have tried either red tag or Wickham—both good trout flies in a fresh. Grayling at this time of the year go in for a small insect which falls from the overhanging trees, and I have seen large flies pass over them unheeded. I have found Eaton's honey bumble a good fly; but not being prejudiced I inquired for information. I quite agree with you, sir, a little later on gardenia will do her work.—I am, &c., Cinnamon.

[We have sent our correspondent a sample of the green insect to try. Of course, if the grayling are "midging," we fear "Cinnamon" will not get anything that will kill them well; at least, we never could, and never came across anyone who could, *in practice*, though we have heard of its being done with some secret pattern which no one ever saw. Certainly if grayling or trout took the artificial well when midging, they would soon be cleared out of our rivers, for they rise so freely.—Ed.]

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## "GUMMAS PALCUM," &c.

Sir,—This being the last week for weighing in for the summer clubs, and it being holiday week here, very many have availed themselves of the opportunity to pay a visit to the banks of the Trent; but sport (with the exception of a few instances) has been very indifferent. On Monday some very good baskets of dace were caught at Willington, one member of our club weighing in several over 10oz. each. A few very good barbel were got in the same water on Saturday. I tried the same water myself on Thursday and never caught a fish, the river being full of "gummas palcum," Nottingham Latin for Burton slime; in some places it lay a foot deep. At Colwick Mr. Baker has got some very nice perch and 10 pike; on Friday at Hickling two other gentlemen killed 40lb. of the same fish. Mr. Dann brought about 15lb. of roach and dace on Saturday, taken with the fly.

Nottingham, Oct. 6th, 1884. A. W.

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## ROACH FISHING.

Sir,—Many thanks for the splendid article on "Roach Fishing," in the Fishing Gazette of Sept. 27, and continued in this week's issue. They are very acceptable to myself and friends, who are *amateurs* in every sense of the word; and no doubt there are many more of your numerous readers who, like myself, anxiously await the next issue, in hope of finding something to enlighten us in the art of fishing. We get some good fishing in the Society's waters at Peterborough, which extend along the river Nene some 6 or 7 miles, but I find that we might have had double the sport if we had only had the valuable information you have now given us. Thanking you once more, and hoping to hear the opinion of some other of your numerous readers, —I am, &c., W. Lakin.

Peterborough, Oct. 6.

[We shall have further notes on roach fishing shortly.—Ed.]

## A HINT FOR ROACH ANGLERS.

Sir,—As a little addition to the very excellent article on the above subject, it may not be generally known that a basket of roach may sometimes be obtained, particularly if the water is low and bright, by the very simple mode of mixing some of the ground-bait—viz., bran and bread with the white paste, *i.e.*, just sufficient to make it adhere to the hook, and using it instead of the white paste alone—and if used ledgering, you get the largest fish; but care must be taken in putting it on the hook, otherwise it flakes off before reaching the bottom. At the present time, as the water, particularly in the river Lea, is so bright, I and several friends have found it the most killing bait. Another plan most successfully used is to pinch a small portion of the ground-bait, about the size of a hazel-nut, on the line, about 2in. above the paste, and as it flakes off, the chances are you will get a bite if they are feeding at all.—I am, &c.,

Mile-end, E. Act on the Square.

[We are much obliged to "A. G." for the hint. We should be glad if other readers could give hints on roach fishing.—Ed.]

## ROACH TAKING LIVE-BAIT.

Sir,—Looking over one of your old numbers, August 23rd, I saw an account of a large roach being taken with an artificial dace. Last July, fishing at Ems, Germany, with bleak on paternoster, I took an eel of about 1lb., and the next cast brought to land a roach of about the same size, or rather over 1lb. I never met with an instance before of a roach taking live-bait; perhaps you may think it worth notice.—I am, &c.,

Aldgate. W. C. M. H.

[We presume it was a very small bleak, as a 1lb. roach has a small mouth. We have not heard of roach taking live fish, as far as we remember. It is most unusual at any rate.—Ed.]

## A NOTE ON BREAM.

Sir,—In fishing for bream on the 3rd inst., I was successful in landing a fine specimen of 6½lb. Then, as on several previous occasions during the past summer, I was surprised to find the fish containing a considerable quantity of partially-matured spawn. In my last specimen there was certainly as much as 1lb. of roe. Can you kindly tell me at your earliest convenience if this is of usual occurrence, or is it an abnormal condition brought about by the unusual mildness of last winter, and the well-nigh unprecedented heat of the summer we have just passed through? The bream undoubtedly were on the spawning beds late in April or very early in May, and began to take the brandling worm a few weeks after the expiration of the close season. It may be that, in common with the other members of the carp family, spawn in a more or less developed condition may be found in *Abramis Brama* during any of the summer months; but I have not noticed it before. Would fish ova so far developed wait for the usual spring time before being deposited, or would it be prematurely shed?—I am, &c., Fredk. Miller.

[There is nothing abnormal in finding roe in bream at this time of year; the fish will not spawn until spring. Yes, we should like to have a short article.—Ed.]

## "WICKHAM'S FANCY."

Sir,—I have read carefully the remarks in the Fishing Gazette anent the "Wickham's Fancy," and as I am probably the first who made the fly, and am acquainted with its early history, and as I have used it successfully in various forms for trout and grayling, roach, and dace in Hampshire, Yorkshire, and Oxfordshire, for sea trout and salmon in Canada, and for sea trout, saith, and lythe in Scotland. I do not think I am presuming if I claim for it a foremost position in an angler's fly-book. Although it has been called a fancy fly, it may be made to represent many natural flies—one, for the Itchin (when dressed with landrail wing), is the small "red rail"; another (when dressed as the original was), with amber-coloured silk showing between the ribs of tinsel, the "Cockerton." This last was Captain John Wickham's idea, the originator of the fly.

Inclosed is my *Natashquan* Wickham for salmon, and a very telling fly I found it. It would fill a small volume were I to relate the various changes to which the "Wickham" has been subjected under my hand alone. Suffice it to say, I have ever turned to it in some form when everything else seemed to fail, and have never discovered time or place it would not prove useful.—I am, &c.,

Winchester. George Currell.

[The fly sent is a medium double hook (eyed), salmon or grilse pattern; but there is not much of the "Wickham Fancy" about it. It looks a killing fly.—Ed.]

## THE RIGHT TO A THAMES SWIM.

Sir,—The above interesting and important question appearing in the Gazette, may I ask your permission to be allowed to say a few words?

I am totally unable to trace, Mr. Editor, in your reply to W. H. Britton's inquiry, any definite solution to the vexed question, for, as a rule, in your inestimable paper, both legal and moral rights regarding fishermen are governed by a strong sense of justice; but in this instance the contrary line is adopted, for the liberty you would allow to the private individual is not given to the fisherman, whose living depends not only on his skill, but also upon the pitch he might select for his customer.

My knowledge of the Thames and fishing laws may be small; but I have fished the river from Oxford down for many years past, more especially over tidal water (being more convenient for a business man), and during my whole experience I cannot recollect an opinion being given on this subject so fatal to the interests of the tidal fisherman.

There surely can be no morality in upholding an illegal act, and by your reply to "W. H. B." you certainly sanction the committal of one.

Some time back I was given to understand that the puntsmen of Richmond, Twickenham, and Teddington received early in this present season printed notices prohibiting them from adopting this very means of securing a swim, unless their punts duly occupied were placed at the station they intended fishing, and in violation of this order steps would be taken to endorse their licenses. This I hold myself to be a fair and just regulation, and should be strictly observed, not only by the men themselves, but more especially by the individual who dispenses with the use of a man.

Above the locks there appears to exist a time-honoured acknowledgment of this custom you would favour; and I trust it may be confined to the upper reaches of the river, for half-measures are as abominable as they are unjust, and the liberty of the man who angles for his personal pleasure should not be in the least degree greater than the man who angles for his living. Apart from the above remarks, the placing of a punt-pole in mid-stream at such a place as Twickenham is highly dangerous to the traffic of small boats, and I venture to say the Thames Conservancy would strongly object to such a system. One might as well permit the London costermonger to place the wheel of his barrow at the kerb side of the street where he intended to pursue his day's trade. Trusting you will insert this in your issue of Saturday next, assuring you of my best thanks.—I am, &c., Walter Long.

[To strain at the pole and swallow the punt seems unreasonable. The interests of anglers and professional fishermen are identical, or ought to be, and we claim no right for one more than for the other. The principle is the same, whether you claim a swim by means of a punt or of a pole, and what we strongly object to is that one angler should forcibly take possession of a swim already chosen, and perhaps baited, by another angler. If you see an angler's tackle on the bank, you don't select that spot for your swim, even though he may be absent at the time. Our view may be very immoral and very illegal, but we have heard no argument likely to induce us to alter it at present.—Ed.]

Sir,—I differ from the opinion you express upon the above right. Never yet have I found anyone who believed that he had a right to any particular swim by the mere fixing of a pole; yet without doubt he does if a punt or boat is fixed to the same, and a fisherman or someone in care is left in the same, and such a rule, in my opinion, is sorely needed.

In the first place, it secures the fisherman's day's pay should his employer not put in an appearance, which you must allow is too often the case. Yet there the pole remains—can this be fair?

Then, again, it is a common practice for the same fisherman to have two or more poles fixed, leaving one swim for another, and returning just as the fish may feed or leave off. You must also bear in mind that these swims are the known, and perhaps, only favourite swims near Putney; there it should be imperative that when a fisherman leaves a swim, he should take up his pole and so leave the swim open. It has long been a subject for argument if or not any man has the power to leave a pole standing in the river at any time, the same being attended with danger to small craft, particularly after the hours of daylight, many being left in position the entire night.

Living upon the river, many are the disappointments and complaints that come to my knowledge, so that I think this would be a good time to ventilate the subject.

You will allow that I do not write in my own interest, not having sat in a boat for bottom fishing three times in twelve years. Inclosed is my name and address, which, if desired, you may give to any one; yet in your issue, I beg merely to subscribe myself—Yours, &c.,

October 8th. A Lover of Fair Angling.

[Our correspondent is well known to all Thames trout anglers, and his letter leads us to think still more strongly that, as we have said elsewhere, the whole matter should be taken up by the T.A.P.S. or the Thames Conservancy. We should much prefer to see the matter in the hands of Mr. Spreckley, because he would take care to get the opinion of the majority both of anglers and professionals.—Ed.]

Sir.—I quite agree with you that if any person, either professional or amateur, baits a swim, he has a right to expect the use of the swim for the next day, and no one but a very mean person would rob him of it; but at the same time you appear to be ignorant of the fact that Mr. J. held the swim opposite Pope's Villa for two weeks, and fished it when he liked. One Saturday afternoon during the time he held it I was in the deeps, and am ready to swear that from three until half-past four there was no punt or man at the above-mentioned swim, only a ryepeck. Several men came up with fares, and had to do the best they could in out-of-the-way swims, simply because all the other swims were taken by fishermen with fares, and this one with Mr. J.'s pole.

I will now point out an evil which arises out of the before-mentioned gentleman's example. Since he held the swim with a pole, it has become the practice of several fishermen in the employ of a punt proprietor to engage a man that has nothing whatever to do with the river, to get up early and take their poles and fix them in the best swims, so that they can get up at 9 or 10 o'clock and take their customers out; whereas, a man that gets up as a fisherman should, and tries to get a good pitch himself, finds that he has to do the best he can, as all the good swims are taken by one man that perhaps gets a pint of beer for each pole he has stuck up. I don't think any man has a right to expect to keep a swim that he has baited for more than one day, and when he has finished he ought to pull up poles and chance getting it the next if he wants to come out again.

Perhaps these people that stick up poles are ignorant of the fact that any respectable jury would return a verdict of manslaughter against them should anyone row down the river and get capsized and drowned through coming in contact with the aforesaid poles.

I for one shall take no notice of poles in the future. If a man wants a pitch let him be there with his punt, or else leave his punt there with some one in it to take charge of the swim.—I am, &c.,

Twickenham. One who Gives and Expects Fair Play.

[Our correspondent, who is a professional fisherman, certainly throws a new light on the matter, and the abuse of the "custom" (which has been the custom from time immemorial) by which anglers can now write to a professional and get a swim baited ready for them, will lead to its abandonment and give a severe blow to Thames fishing. If a fisherman can always manage to have his punt in the selected swim, let him by all means have it there; but how many of them can always do this? It would be a good thing if the T.A.P.S. took up this matter in the interests of anglers and fishermen. Surely it would be best for all if there were one rule acknowledged by all.—Ed.]

Sir,—In your reply to my letter upon "The Right to a Thames Swim," you have been pleased to advise me as to the direction in which I should apologise. I do not think I asked you for a lesson on good manners, that being a matter totally irrelevant to the question of angling.

You certainly uphold the moral rights of a private individual to secure a swim by fixing a pole; but may I ask, Mr. Editor, have the fishermen no moral rights?—as that point you entirely ignore. I think it a most important matter.—I am, &c.,

Putney. W. H. Britton.

[Mr. Britton wrote to us last week to say that he had insisted on fishing in a swim which had been previously taken by another angler, and in spite of the "compunction" his (Mr. Britton's) fisherman had in doing so. He began his letter by saying, "May I ask your advice upon the following?" We gave him our advice: in our opinion, the only thing left to him to do was to apologise to the "person of the name of Johnston," whom we consider he treated as no angler ought to treat another. We should like to ask Mr. Britton what he thinks is to become of the pleasure of Thames angling if the question of the right to a swim is to be settled as he settled it? The abuse of a custom is no reason for still further abusing it. In the old times, when anglers were few on the Thames, the rule that an angler could secure a swim he had baited, and wished to fish, by putting a pole in it, as an outward and visible sign that he had done so, was invariably observed. Now that anglers have so enormously increased on the Thames, it becomes more than ever necessary to "give and take," or else we shall see very few anglers inclined to risk the expense of baiting, say, a barbel swim, with the probability of finding another "brother angler" has taken possession of it. Mr. Britton should not ask for advice if he cannot take it.—Ed.]

## THE HALCYON SPINNER.

Sir,—Seeing your notice of Hardy's halcyon bait, I would like to state my experience of it. In August I obtained a small one (No. 1). On August 16th I took 32 trout, only keeping 19, averaging ¼lb. each; on Aug. 23rd, 21 trout, keeping 15, about same weight; on August 25th, seven trout. I should have no doubt got more, but I hooked one about 1lb. or rather more, and after playing him a short time, the tail triangle came off the spinner. The only way I can account for it, is that the little ring which fastens the triangle to the skeleton (so to speak) of the bait, must have been improperly soldered, and opened wide enough to allow the hooks and also the fish to escape. It was in a place with a rooty bottom, or I should not have put so much strain on the tackle. These fish were all taken in a small burn, in some places not above 10ft. wide, and so much overfished that it requires a great deal of skill and patience to kill a dozen good fish with worm in clear water, even the day after a spate. Can you tell me where I can obtain some really good dotterel flies and also midges? I inclose you a midge I found in an old book (at least it is 10 years since it was used) which I had given me. I consider the gut rather coarse for the size of the fly, and the hook might be better. I have about a dozen of them, and will be glad to exchange specimens with anybody. I found some about half as large again kill very well on the Carron and Allan waters at dusk, about two months ago; I had not these then, or would have tried them. Hoping you will find me space for the insertion of this,—I am, &c.,

Bannockburn. Captain.

SALMON & TROUT-FISHING.

CHAS. FARLOW & Co.,
191, STRAND, London, W.C.,

MANUFACTURERS OF FIRST-CLASS RODS AND TACKLE, SALMON AND TROUT FLIES, SUITABLE FOR ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD.

**Mahseer Tackle in Great Variety.**

**Makers of Split Cane Rods.**

**Improved Folding Trout Landing Nets**
(Very Light).

**New Patent Lever Salmon Winch**
(Can be regulated to any stiffness at will).

**PENNELL'S TACKLE KEPT IN STOCK.**

CATALOGUES GRATIS. PRIZE MEDALS. IMPORTERS OF SILKWORM GUT.

GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY.

RIVER THAMES.—The Great Western Railway, having Stations on the Banks of the River at Brentford, Windsor, Taplow, Maidenhead, Cookham, Bourne-end, Great Marlow, Henley, Reading-Pangbourne, Goring, Moulsford, Wallingford, &c., affords unequalled facilities to those desirous of visiting it for Fishing and Other Purposes.

ANGELRS' TICKETS.—Cheap Third-class Return Tickets, available for three days, are issued at Paddington, Weatbourne-park, and Kensington (Addison-road), to Stations within 50 miles of London to members of "The Angler's Association," and "The Central Association of London Angling Clubs," who present their Cards of Membership at the time of taking their tickets.

CHEAP DAY EXCURSIONS.—Cheap Day Excursion Tickets are issued daily by certain specified trains until October 31st, from Paddington, Westbourne-park, Hammersmith, Kensington (Addison-road), and Uxbridge-road, and certain Stations on the Metropolitan and District Raiilways to

| | s. d. | | s. d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Windsor | 2 6 | Coodham<br>Bourne-end<br>Great Marlow<br>Henley | 3 6 |
| Taplow<br>Maidenhead | 3 0 | | |

For Further Particulars see Company's Time Bills.
J. GRIERSON, General Manager.

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# RIVER REPORTS.

## TIME OF HIGH WATER IN THE THAMES.

To find the time of high water in the Thames at any of the following places, to the time of high water at London Bridge (given below).

Add 30 minutes for Chelsea.
40 „ Putney.
45 „ Hammersmith.
50 „ Barnes.
55 „ Kew.
75 „ Richmond.
80 „ Twickenham.
85 „ Teddington.

Example :—If it is high water at 2 o'clock at London Bridge, it will be high water at Teddington about 3.25, or eighty-five minutes later ; but it must be remembered that a strong wind accelerates or retards the tide very much.

For Times of High Water at London Bridge.

| | | | Morning. | Afternoon. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Saturday, | October | 11 | 6.6 | 6.33 |
| Sunday, | „ | 12 | 7.5 | 7.41 |
| Monday, | „ | 13 | 8.22 | 9.5 |
| Tuesday, | „ | 14 | 9.50 | 10.30 |
| Wednesday, | „ | 15 | 11.5 | 11.38 |
| Thursday, | „ | 16 | 12.0 | 12.7 |
| Friday, | „ | 17 | 12.31 | 12.54 |

Note.—New Moon October 19.

## THE LOWER THAMES.

### General Remarks.

The continued absence of anything like a fall of rain is being seriously felt by both anglers and fishermen—the former will not come whilst the water is so low and bright, and in consequence the latter get no employment. The report from the tideway is, "The spring tides are bringing the mud up in wholesale quantities, but the fish with it. It was quite an anglers' fair on the 5th between Richmond and Twickenham Deep, but the fish, on account of an easterly wind, were not much on the feed." Another movement is about to be made in the removal of some flounders from Putney and neighbourhood to the waters above the locks. The first movement of this kind was made in the month of October, 1863, when, as the "Blue Book" for 1864 says, "Upwards of 5,000 flounders taken from the tideway were turned into the waters of the Thames between Sunbury and Moulsey Lock ;" and it further adds, "In former times this sweet-fleshed fish was tolerably abundant in these waters and grew to a good weight." The revival of this movement by Mr. Thomas Spreckley is certainly a move in the right direction, as the fish taken up as youngsters will drop down in the tidal waters of a good size, and so improve the flounder industry amongst the netsmen. This is the aim of Mr. Spreckley and to benefit the netsmen. The Thames Conservancy has put into circulation a notice to "Fishermen in Punts," cautioning them against mooring their boats in the navigable channel of the river.

### Angling Results.

**Richmond.**—Job Brain, in six days, 140lb. of roach and dace. Henry Howard, in four days, 70lb. and a couple of barbel. Henry Mansell, in three days, 60lb., and in one day 35lb. of good roach and a few dace. T. Young, in four days, 30lb. and three barbel. Henry Platt, in three days, 20lb. Christopher Brown, in six days, 100lb. and five barbel. F. Brown, in five days, 90lb., and seven barbel. Henry Wheeler, in six days, 100lb. and two barbel. S. Aldridge, in four days, 40lb. and a couple of barbel. One of the bank anglers in one day got five dozen of good roach and a smelt.

**Twickenham.**—John Spong, in five days, 152lb. weight of fish, including eight barbel. William Spong, in five days, thirty-five dozen of roach and dace. Edward Finch, in six days, 120lb., including three barbel. P. Hammerton, in four days, 50lb. and five barbel. Samuel Cole, in seven days, 100lb. and three barbel. James Dobbin, in three days and one half day, thiry-one dozen and six barbel. Charles Hennessey, in three days, eight dozen of dace and five barbel. John Coxen, jun., in three days, eighteen dozen of good roach and dace. Richard Coxen, in one half day, with Mr. A. J. Little, four barbel ; and in two other days, fifteen dozen of roach and dace and six barbel. George Coxen, in four days, 48lb. and four barbel ; and Henry Spiers, in five days, seventy dozen and a couple of barbel. In this report the united takes of fish by John Spong and Edward Finch in eleven days produced 270lb. weight, or an average of 25lb. each day.

**Teddington.**—Joseph Baldwin, in five days, 25lb. of good roach and dace and seven barbel. Charles Baldwin, in four days, 32lb. and one barbel. Alexander Kemp, in six days, 50lb. of good fish and seven barbel.

**Kingston.**—John Johnson, sen., says :—"I have been unwell this week, and have only been out twice, one day twenty dozen of gudgeon, and the other day three barbel. John is up the river with Mr. Bond, but not doing much." James Wilks, in four days, eight barbel, the largest 4lb., four perch, one chub, four dozen of roach and dace, and five dozen of gudgeons. The bank anglers are not doing very much, and the night fishing, which has been so objectionable in this neighbourhood, is, owing to the cold nights, somewhat abated.

**Long Ditton.**—H. Buttery, in two days and one half day, five jack, the largest 4½lb., six brace of perch, the best fish 1½lb., and eight dozen of gudgeon. The bank fishers have done well amongst the roach, dace, and gudgeon.

**Hampton Court.**—A gentleman from Surbiton, fishing at the Water Gallery from the bank, caught five jack, the largest 5lb. The fishermen do not appear to have been out this week. At "Tagg's Island Fishery" there has been some good takes of roach and dace.

**Sunbury.**—Edward Clark, jun., in seven days, twenty-five dozen of gudgeon, twenty-five perch, twelve bream, the largest 7½lb., twelve dozen of roach and dace, and two jack, the largest 4¾lb.

**Walton.**—George Hone, in two days, two dozen of roach, four barbel, five bream, and five dozen of gudgeon ; another day, eight barbel and two bream ; and another day with Mr. Phelps, two jack, weighing respectively 5lb. and 7lb. R. Watford, one day, two barbel, three bream, and three dozen of dace, another day, two barbel, the largest 5lb., a chub of 3lb, three dozen of dace, and a perch of 1lb. ; another day, three barbel, and two bream, and another day, two brace of jack. John Hone, one day, four barbel, six bream, and two dozen of roach ; and another day, three barbel and one brace of perch.

**Halliford.**—E. D. Rosewell, in one day, four barbel.

**Shepperton.**—James Haslett, in one day, with Mr. C. Waterhouse, six barbel, and three chub ; and another day with Mr. G. F. Bambridge, two chub and one barbel. F. Poulter, for David Hackett, in one day, five dozen of roach.

**Weybridge.**—Herbert Curr, in one day, with Mr. Dowdeswell, a jack of 3½lb., four dozen of roach and dace, the largest roach 1lb., and one perch ; and another day, six dozen of good roach and dace.

**Staines.**—John Keene, sen., in one day, four barbel and some roach and dace, weighing altogether 30lb. John Keene, jun., in three days, five barbel, eight chub, and thirteen dozen of roach and dace. Charles Hone, one day, six barbel ; and another day, one barbel and two dozen of dace.

## UPPER THAMES.

The river, during the past week, has been as clear as gin, and those angling enthusiasts out have had poor sport indeed. Mr. Bayley, at Cookham, on one occasion has taken some 7lb. of roach, and the following day four jack, one of 4½lb. being only retainable. The Marlow district has been visited by many eager piscators lately, but the evening reflections have formed a mournful ending to the morning's hopes. On the 4th inst., at the Complete Anglers' Hotel, Great Marlow, the annual meeting and dinner of the Angling Association was held, a detailed account of which I annex, and ask you to give full publicity to in your columns. Thursday evening : Rain has been falling heavily for some 12 hours, and continues to do so as I write this note. This will take away the staleness of the water, and should induce all kinds of fish to come on the feed ; roach and chub I feel sure will be well on during the coming week, and all the more so if the rain will but keep falling.—Marlow Buzz.

### Thames (Datchet).

There was a sharp frost this (Thursday) morning and the ice was ¼in. thick ; now it pours with rain, which will make things look up—even the roach had left off biting. A few barbel have been caught at Windsor with greaves. J. Hoare, on the 6th inst., caught a barbel of 7½lb. and a jack of 5½lb. ; on the 8th, two barbel, with greaves. I have not done much in the fishing line this last week or two—one jack on the 4th of 10lb. Now the lob-worm promises to be plentiful, I hope to have something more encouraging to say when I write again.—G. Lumsden.

### Thames (Eynsham).

Our local anglers have been busy all the week amongst the jack, several having been taken trolling ; but I have not heard of anything larger than 5lb. being caught. The perch and roach have been feeding well in the Evenlode. On the 3rd inst. Mr. Green, Mr. Gatward, and myself had a very enjoyable day's sport in the Evenlode, each of us having a very nice take of perch, roach, and chub, all taken with lob worms on roach tackle. We have had heavy rains the last two days (with a prospect, according to the weather-glass, of more), this will, no doubt, improve the fishing in the Thames.—W. B. Howe.

### Thames (Oxford).

I have reasons to believe thet there are plenty of fish in the Thames, but during the past week they have displayed a strong disinclination to come to bank. Considering the lowness of the water and the piercingly cold north-east winds which have prevailed, this is not to be wondered at. A friend of mine at St. John's Bridge on the Upper Thames on Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Monday, had 38lb. of roach ; two of the best fish turned the scale at 1¼lb., and the general average of the whole was about ¾lb. On Saturday, Messrs. Butler and Corbett had sixty perch, chub, and roach, in addition to several which were returned.—Cherwell Otter.

### Ancholme District.

Angling has been very fair during the past week. Boiled potatoes continue to catch the bream in fair numbers. A nice lot of fine roach have also been taken with maggots and paste. I advise perch-fishers to try the stickleback for bait. It abounds in all the little feeders of the main river. Pike-fishing is very much improving. Those who want gudgeon for bait will find an abundance in the neighbourhood of

Bishopbridge. Several fair-sized pike have been taken during the week, chiefly with the live bait. A spinning minnow on stout gut trace is perhaps the most scientific way of taking these fish. They then show excellent sport, and require playing like salmon or trout. One caught in this way is, in my judgment, worth twenty taken with the dead gorge. I caught four in an hour in this way last season, and it was the best bit of coarse-fishing of the season.—Thomas Ford.

### Ballynahinch.

For this last fortnight there has been but few anglers on above, first week being very unfavourable ; but this week we have had a good spate with south and south-west wind. Mr. B. Winthrop, in four days, killed six salmon weighing 8lb., 11lb., 11lb., 14lb., 10lb., and 8lb. Mr. Bury and Mr. N. Winthrop had a few dozen of trout each for the fortnight.

### Chichester.

During the past week nothing of importance has to be noted from this district. A few good bream have been taken, and a pike of 6½lb. near Birdham. At Selham some good roach have been landed, but pike have not been on feed. In the upper waters of the Ouse a few roach up to 1¼lb. have been secured, but pike have been very wary. Mr. Colgate, on Tuesday, having three runs with live bait without securing a fish. Bait is difficult to procure here, all pike fishermen should provide bait, when, with a change in the weather, some good sport may be had.—George F. Salter.

### The Dee and Don (Aberdeenshire).

Salmon Angling.

So far as it has run, the present autumn, we regret to say, has proved the greatest failure experienced for many years. The weather is much too fine, the water being too small, and though fish in the lower reaches since the last fill of the river have been quite plentiful, they disinclined to rise freely. In the present condition of the water and state of the weather, little improvement can be looked for with any degree of hope. From this date onward the fishing would require to be very fine indeed ere anglers could realise anything like an average season's sport. As yet, the Don has been fished a blank, or nearly so. This year the precariousness of salmon angling has been strikingly exemplified, and the experience of the past summer and this autumn ought, we should think, to have the salutary effect upon the many high rented tenants of Dee fishings. The principal takes of last week, we need not say the best, for best they can scarcely be called, were obtained by using small blue charms, Jook Scotts and Gordons. In the tidal waters of the Dee fair catches of whitling have been common of late, the winged wriggler being the deadliest lure. The following takes on the Dee are reported :—Polldown, Mr. Black, one fish, 19½lb. Mr. Balfour, one fish, 15½lb. Deebank, Mr. Duncan, jun., three fish, 15lb. to 21lb. ; on Blair's water, three salmon, 14lb. to 24lb. ; and again, three salmon, 18lb. to 29lb. Murtle, Mr. Nicol, four fish, 6lb. to 15lb. ; Maryculter water, two fish, 9lb. and 14lb. ; Culter water, two fish, 6lb. and 10lb. J. Lyell, Esq., on the Culter water on Saturday, had five fish, 11lb., 15½lb, 17½lb., 20lb., and 21½lb. Drum water, Mr. Irvine, three fish, 9lb. to 20lb. Mr. Buckley, one salmon, 18lb. Mr. Deans, on Maryculter, three salmon, 14lb. to 22lb. Mr. Potter's party, at Park, two fish, 7lb. to 18lb. Durris water, W. Knowles, Esq., three fish, 8lb. to 16lb. ; T. Knowles, Esq., two fish, 16lb. to 18lb. ; G. Knowles, Esq., one fish, 16lb. Crathes and Kineskie, Gen. Fane, H. Keane, and J. Campbell White, Esq., of Overtoun, nine fish, 10lb. to 25lb. Invery, R. Brands, keeper, two fish, 15lb. and 18lb. Blackhall, Watson, one fish, 17lb. Inchmarlo, Greville Douglas, Esq., one 26½lb. Duncan Davidson, Esq., one fish, 35lb. Cairnton, D. Rae, fisherman, one fish, 10lb. Woodend, R. C. Menzies, Esq., one fish, 22lb.—Mr. George Smith, Ballater, reports Tom Grant, Pananinch, having a fish of 12lb., on Wednesday ; and that three were got on the Invercauld Hotel water, 8lb. to 14lb. At Aboyne and Glen Tana, five fish, ranging from 8lb. to 19lb., were got. The following takes in the Kincardine O'Neil district were kindly reported to us by Messrs. Wm. Blacklaws and Son, rod and tackle makers there :—Monday—W. Evans, Esq., Borrowstone, two fish, 19lb., 5lb. Tuesday—Wm. Lamond, Esq., Norton, two fish, 26lb., 7lb. ; Albert Farquhar, Esq., Carlogie, one fish, 18lb. Wednesday—J. Mortimer, keeper, Ballogie, one fish, 18lb. ; Mr. J. Harper, Desswood, one fish, 12lb. Friday—Albert Farquhar, Esq., three fish, 18lb., 8lb., 7lb. Saturday—W. Evans, Esq., Borrowstone, one fish, 14lb. ; Mr. J. Harper, Desswood, one fish, 12lb. Total, twelve fish. Very few fresh fish have yet come our length.—G. B.

[By Telegram.]

A good deal of rain fell on Thursday night. The Dee is in spate, and fish are running well from lower reaches. Last week's run of fish ought, if not netted, to ascend into the higher reaches. No beats well occupied by anglers. Weather colder, and larger flies necessary in consequence. Fish are healthy ; indeed, there is no appearance of disease ; but a lot of poaching goes on. More water bailiffs are required. Can nothing be done ?—W. M.

### The Dove.

Grayling have been rising capitally since my last ; but there have been very few rodsters out, in fact, I never saw less at this time of the year. Rain fell heavily on Wednesday, and the stream was consequently coloured. Considering the small number of anglers out, the sport has been fairly good, several bags of three and four brace of grayling having been taken with the fly. The most successful artificials have been the October duns and the claret bumbles ; but a great number of flies, fancy and otherwise, have been killing. Bottom-fishers have not been very successful. Up to Wednesday the river was low and clear to a surprising degree, considering the amount of rain that fell in this district a short time since. The weather to-day (Thursday) is bright, and sport should be of the best description.—The Splodger.

### Eden (Carlisle).

Tuesday, Sept. 30, was the first day that one could call the river in fair order for salmon fishing, and the opening of the Church Congress in Carlisle was not sufficient to keep all the anglers off the water. Mr. E. L. Hough opened the autumn season with a 36-pounder in the Crosby water. On the following day he had two of 25lb. and 23lb. ; next day he had the chance of six, landing four which scaled 81lb., and Mr. Hodgson, of Newby, killed three fish, all in the same water ; Sam Wright had one 26lb., Waters one, and Serg. Fox one, in the Angling Association water. Everyone was pleased to hear of Colonel Sharp's success on October 4th. He is very popular amongst anglers, partly owing to his ready wit, and partly to his big flask. He killed a beautiful fresh-run fish of 35lb. in a very difficult place, and gave another one a bad toothache. On Monday, 6th, he killed one 21½lb. at Syke Foot, and in the same water Mr. Wilson took two, 21lb. and 10lb ; Col. Aitchison a small one at Holme Eden, and Mr. Hannah a 20-ponnder at Armathwaite. No doubt many other fish have been killed, of which I have not heard, for the water is in grand order, and there are plenty of fish.—Silver Grey.

### The Exe (Tiverton).

On this river the season for salmon-fishing will close at the end of the present month. The complaint that was heard all summer—want of water—interferes with fishing for salmon now, as it has so long interfered with trouting. In September, a brief rise of water brought up a run of grilse, which, under favourable circumstances, would doubtless furnish excellent sport, but the low state of the river now gives little chance of success. Last week, when the water was somewhat higher, the fish showed a disposition to rise in a capricious way just at sundown, and one evening a friend of mine hooked four fish within an hour, only one of which he killed, the others succeeding in breaking away ; and on other days during the week he landed two more fish. These were all grilse, bright, and only recently up. One or two of the fish that got away are spoken of as being very small—only, perhaps, two or three pounders. Can they have been peal ? Peal are almost unknown in the Tiverton waters, but there seems to be no reason why they should not come up now. It is said they are in large numbers in the estuary and about Exeter. The weirs are now so fitted with passes and facilities for the passage of fish ; that salmon get up with only a slight freshet, and there is every reason to believe that peal can follow suit. If they do, some good autumn sport may be looked for in future in the upper waters of the Exe.—R. A.

### The Exe and Canal (Exeter).

Some few takes of perch near Cowley Bridge, and in the canal, near Turf, have come under my notice, as also some roach and dace in the river at Exwick, and near St. David's Station. At last we have been fortunate in getting a good downpour of rain, and there are now brighter hopes for piscators generally. We have for some weeks had the river so low that sport has been out of the question, and the salmon season for the rod fishermen has been the worst on record for some time. Mr. Kalmardine took a nice pike of 7½lb. in the backwater near Cowley Bridge, last week, and a few perch ; but next week I hope to send you a better account of our doings generally. Weather wet, wind westerly.—J. A. Kelley.

### Ilfracombe.

Sea fishing : owing to the stormy weather, there has been very little doing from the boats ; but parties fishing from the rocks at Shallow Path and the Parade and Jetty have had fair sport, Mr. Gratte, Mr. Brooks, and Mr. Pile getting the best catches. The herring fishing commenced on Monday last, but with poor results as yet. Weather at present stormy, with a heavy sea running.—E. Comer.

### Lea (Tottenham).

No change in the condition of the water. Most of the roach fishers who have been down have managed to get a few fish, but there have been no big takes. One of the monarchs of the lower pool—a pike weighing 14lb.—poached his last fish on Friday, the 3rd inst., the fortunate angler being Mr. Culfe. A handsome little fish, weighing 4½lb., was taken from the same pool by Mr. E. Day on Wednesday last. Two or three smaller ones have also been taken.—Hackles Red.

### Leicester.

Angling items of any importance have been very scarce for the last few days, but this may be attributed to the change in the weather. Cold winds and rain have lately prevailed, and it is only the old stagers that have put in an appearance at the river side. The sport has been of a varied character. In a few instances fair lots of roach were shown, principally taken from the brook at Aylestone. Chub and pike fishing has been more actively indulged in, but with no great amount of success. A few brace of chub were caught and several pike, but only moderate-sized fish. The weather on Thursday was very cold, and heavy rains fell during the day.—Alert.

### Lugg and Arrow (Leominster).

These streams still keep in good fishing condition, but very low. In both streams the fish are rising well at the fly, and some good lots of grayling have been taken. Good sport has been had with the grasshopper, and some nice fish have been landed with the wasp grub. A gentleman visited the Lugg near Kingsland on Friday, and with the red ant took a good basket of grayling. In the water in the Bodenham district, some very fine fish have been taken with the willow and coachman. A good dish of grayling were taken with the wasp grub. The Arrow, near Eardisland, was tried the same day, and with the grasshopper a gentleman took eight very fine grayling, averaging 10oz. each. At Ivington, on Saturday, a gentleman fishing with the red ant, landed a nice dish of grayling, 5lb. the lot. The Lugg, near Aymestry, was tried with the fly, and some very fine grayling were taken. A gentleman tried the water at Ford's Bridge, and with the willow and red ant took a good dish of capital fish averaging ½lb. each. The Arrow in the Stanton district was fished on Monday with the coachman, and some fine grayling were taken. The Lugg was tried the same day and some capital fish were taken with the grasshopper ; a few good grayling were taken with wasp grub. A gentleman tried the Arrow on Tuesday, and with the red ant and coachman took a nice dish of fine fish. A few very nice grayling were taken in the Lugg the same day with the willow. Fishing very quiet in the Monkland water. The Pinsley still keeps in good angling order, but low ; the fish are rising well, and some good dishes have been taken.—Gwynne.

### Medway (Tunbridge).

The water below the town has again been poisoned, apparently by sewage matter, and consequently there has been little doing. The Angling Club had the matter under their consideration at a meeting of Tuesday night, and do not mean to play with the matter any longer, as owing to the occurrence of the same thing every year, their efforts to provide good fishing in the free part of the water is rendered futile. Several anglers have promised to subscribe if legal proceedings should be necessary, and I am informed that the London clubs would not be behindhand. The following resolution was passed at the meeting :—"That the attention of the Tunbridge Local Board be again called to the pollution of the river Medway on the 2nd Oct., between Child's and Eldridge's Locks, and the consequent destruction of fish thereby ; and that they be informed that unless a letter be written to this society forthwith, containing a promise to obviate the nuisance in future, that a petition be presented to the Local Government Board, asking them to send down a commissioner to inquire into the matter." I cannot conclude my report without referring to the determination of three anglers—members of the Hoxton Brothers, I believe—who, in my peregrinations last Saturday at midnight, I found ledgering at High Bridge, below the town, by lamplight.—Ye Medway Water Rat.

### The Spey.

This river has been in good fishing trim for the past week, and anglers have been getting capital sport. On the Wester Elchies section Mr. Charles Lethbridge, on the 3rd inst., killed three salmon, weighing 8½lb., 15½lb., and 24½lb. The same gentleman secured a basket of six salmon on the 4th, weighing 9lb., 18½lb., 19lb., 26lb., 27½lb., and 29lb. respectively. On the 6th Mr. Lethbridge secured five splendid salmon, weighing respectively 8lb., 11½lb., 21lb., 22lb., and 30lb. On the Aikenway Water Captain Menzies killed six salmon, weighing 17lb., 20lb., 20lb., 12lb., 11lb., and 26lb. respectively. On the Easter Elchies Water, on the 6th, Rev. Robert Cameron caught six fine fish. On the Rothes section Mr. John Dallas killed a salmon weighing 20lb. On the Craigelache Water Captain Grant killed a fish of 19½lb. on the 6th, and on the following day he had two nice salmon, the heaviest weighing 18lb. On the Wester Elchies section Mr. Walter Gordon Cumming caught two salmon weighing 12lb. and 29lb. ; and on the same section Mr. Gordon, West Park, Elgin, killed a salmon 8½lb. On the Arndilly section, on Thursday, Mr. George Sheach, fisherman to Mr. Myburgh, killed a fish weighing 7lb. On the following day Mr. C. Myburgh landed a salmon 22lb. weight ; and Mr. Macdonald, gamekeeper, another weighing 17lb. On Saturday General Hume had two salmon, weighing respectively 6lb. and 18lb. On the same day Mr. P. A. Myburgh, Q.C., killed a salmon weighing 11lb. ; and on Monday the same gentleman and party killed six fine fish, two of which weighed 17lb. and 22lb. On the Aberlour section, Mr. H. Macdonald, on Friday, killed a salmon 13lb. weight. On the following day Sergeant Sims caught a grilse weighing 5lb. On Monday Mr. John Laing killed a grilse 7lb. , and Sergeant Jameson a grilse weighing 4lb. On the Maerfiddock secton, Mr. Ross, Graigelachie, killed a grilse and a sea trout. On the Aberlour House water, Mr. Thomas Duff killed two salmon weighing 7lb. and 25lb. On the Pitcroy Lodge section, Mr. Charles Cruickshanks caught two salmon weighing 6lb. and 29lb. On this section, on Thursday last, Mr. Daun, gamekeeper, killed a grilse weighing 5lb. ; and on the following day a salmon weighing 14lb. On the Birchfield water during the week good sport was got. On the Carron Lodge water, on Monday, Mr. Mainwaring caught a salmon 22lb. weight. —P. M. C. G.

### Severn and Stour (Kidderminster).

There is not much news to relate in respect of angling. The rivers keep very low and fine, and I think the Severn is lower than ever. I can hear talk of one or two fishermen that can manage a coracle taking a few fish when there is a gentle ripple on the stream. Two of our members, J. Goode and C. Wellings, were out this week, and secured 16lb. of chub with pith and bullock's blood. Several good baskets of roach have been secured with paste and gentles for bait. I have had some good fish since my last report, so have some others of our members, with paste for bait. I tried the fly two days, but the catches were very meagre. Two dozen of dace the first day, one dozen the second day. Flies: a small gold palmer, small cinnamon, and a dark spider fly, one of my own making. The way I make the spider is:—Body, bronze peacock herl; hackle, black cock's neck feathers; hook. No. 11 or 12. I took most fish with the cinnamon. It has set in to rain here. I hope it will continue, so as to freshen us up a bit, to say nothing of the rivers, and especially the fish, so that they may be within the reach of most anglers, especially—E. E.

P.S.—Thanks for your advice on boiling the water before use, and especially the 'leetle drop of the crater."—E. E.

## South Level Cut (Littleport).

With the water so bright and the strong north-east wind we have had until yesterday, I am pleased to have anything to report at all. The few anglers who have faced the piercing cold wind have, although none of them have had what ought to be October sport, done something, as the following will show. Oct. 2nd, Mr. F. G. Tuck, New Barnes, Ely, 6lb. nice roach; Mr. Hailstone, Bottisham, 7lb.—a fair lot; Mr. S. O. Beeman, Littleport, a nice bag roach and one jack. Oct. 3rd, Mr. Hailstone, 8lb. roach; Oct. 6th, 8lb. roach; Oct. 7th, 9½lb. roach; and Mr. F. G. Tuck, 4lb. in a short time. Yesterday, with a west wind blowing, we got fairly among the roach, Mr. Hailstone taking 11lb. good ones; Mr. S. O. Beeman, 5lb., and pike 3¼lb.; Mr. W. L. Agger, Cambridge, with son, a nice show of roach and 3 small pike; Mr. T. Allpress, Ely, with friend, a splendid bag, in 4 hours, going 23lb.—Charlie South.

## The Tay (Perthshire).

Burn Mouth Water. (Saturday.)—Major Curtis, three fish; Mr. Glyn, one, 23lb. Thistle Bridge Water. (Saturday.)—Sir William Eliott, five fish. John Bright, M.P., has been enjoying good sport on Stanly water. On Monday he killed five fish, other three fish were killed on the same water. Scone Palace Water. (Tuesday.)—R. M. Jolly, five fish, one was killed from the bank by Peter McKinley, 28lb. Great numbers of fish are being killed all along the banks of the Tay. If an angler can throw a line at all, he has no trouble in getting on a fish. Splendid sport is being got on the Earn. Dupplin Water. (Monday.)—Lord Dudley's party: eighteen fish. One gentleman had thirteen fish to his own rod after twelve o'clock. On the Lower Dupplin water, Captain Murray had seven fish out of one pool. A great deal of rain has fallen last night and to-day, which is sure to bring out the rivers. Trout-fishers are having very good sport, the weather being so mild great numbers of flies are on the water.—P. D. Malloch.

## The Tay and its Tributaries.

The spate, which last week prevented good sport being obtained in the various rivers in this locality, has now run off, and the streams are in splendid angling condition. Reports received from all quarters are of a very favourable character, and state that the fish are very numerous, are of good quality, and are large sized. During the last few days the number of fish taken from the Tay—especially from the upper waters—has far exceeded the captures made during the earlier parts of the season. The two causes which chiefly account for this are the rise of the river and the fact that the nets were taken off the river some time ago. So numerous have the fish been, that in three days at the end of last week Mr. Barclay Field's party secured no less than ninety fish in the Stobhall water. On Thursday last Murthly water yielded the largest salmon that has been caught with the rod in that part of the river for the past twenty-five years to Mr. J. E. Millais, Birnam, the fish being a perfect beauty, and weighing 44lb. It was hooked with a "silver doctor" in a pool called the "Girnal," and gave some fine play before it was landed, running wildly for upwards of an hour. Mr. Millais sent the fish to Mr. P. D. Malloch, High-street, Perth, for preservation. A large number of anglers have come into the district to enjoy a few days' sport previous to the closing of the season to-morrow (Friday). The Right Hon. John Bright, M.P., has been the guest of Colonel Frank Stewart Sandeman at Stanley House for the past few days, and during his visit the right hon. gentleman has had very successful fishing on the Stanley water in the Tay. Mr. Bright left Stanley on Tuesday for Kelso, where he is to stay for a short time for the fishing in that district. Since the recent rain the river Earn, a tributary of the Tay, has greatly improved, and is now in good angling ply. Until within the last few days this river was very low, and the fish were prevented from ascending to the principal waters. Since the rise of the Earn anglers have been very numerous in the locality, and reports to hand state that large numbers of good-sized fish have been captured. The following are details of the sport in the Tay and its tributaries. On Tuesday, last week, Mr. Henry Curr, Pitkellony House, factor to the Baroness Willoughby D'Ersby, caught four salmon, averaging 11lb. each. On the same day Mr. Andrew Dickson, Innerpeffray, caught three salmon in the same river, one of which weighed 10lb., and the other two 7lb. each. Mr. Graham Stirling, of Strowan, secured two salmon of 16lb. each, and three grilse, weighing 7lb., 6lb., and 5lb. respectively, while fishing on the Strowan waters in the Earn on Tuesday and Wednesday. A gentleman from Crieff had a 7lb. fish in the Earn on Wednesday. Mr. P. Jack, Crieff, secured a fine salmon weighing 20lb. on the same day. On the Murthly water on the Tay, on Thursday, Mr. J. E. Millais had three salmon weighing respectively 25, 23, and 20lb. Upper Cargill water on Thursday yielded fourteen salmon and a grilse to Mr. Barclay Field's party, while on the same day they secured nine fish and a grilse in Lower Cargill water, and on Stobhall Beat they had seven beautiful salmon and grilse. Mr. Stewart, St. Martin's, on Friday fished Lower Cargill water for a few hours in the afternoon and killed four fish and one grilse. Mr. Field's party on Saturday had seven fish and grilse on Lower Cargill water, while the Stobhall Beat yielded a similar number of fish to them on the same day. The Earn on Friday was in fine ply, and anglers were having good sport. General Briggs secured seven salmon, averaging from 8lb. to 18lb., and all in fine condition. Mr. Henry Curr, Pitkellony, secured a salmon weighing 17lb., On the same day, Mr. M'Intosh, gamekeeper, Aberuchill, last week landed a newly run salmon from the Earn, weighing 15lb., besides several sea trout of good size. Mr. M'Intosh had on another occasion two fine salmon, weighing 14lb. and 6lb. On Thursday last, Mr. P. Christie secured a nice plump salmon which scaled 14lb. Anglers have enjoyed better sport on the Isla, a tributary of the Tay during the past few days, than has been experienced for a considerable time past. Heavy rain fell in the district at the beginning of last week, causing the river to rise several feet, and enabling fish to ascend the stream, with the result that good baskets had been obtained. Mr. James Baxter, on Friday, had two very fine fish, weighing 12½lb. each. Mrs. M'Intosh had a beautiful fish on Friday, and another of a similar character on Saturday. Messrs. Stewart and Winter had one each on Friday, and Mr. John Hill, jun., had one on Saturday. On the Birnam Hotel water in the Tay, on Monday, Mr. Pople and Mr. Ritchie landed two salmon weighing 20lb. and 10lb., and lost a very large one in the act of gaffing. Mr. P. McInlay, Perth, fished the Tay below Stobhall on Monday, and killed a salmon weighing 25lb., after fully half-an-hour's play. Mr. Durrant Stewart, of Dalguise, fishing in the Dalguise water for a few days, recently caught five fish weighing 21lb., 18lb. 15¼lb., 10¼lb., and 8lb. Mr. David Hodge, Dundee, fishing on the upper waters of the Tay on Tuesday afternoon, killed two salmon weighing 22lb. and 24lb.

## Teme (Ludlow).

The streams, though low, keep in excellent condition for angling, and good sport has been had in this district during the week. The willow fly, blue dun, and silver grey have been killing flies this week, also the silvertwisted blue. A sharp, frosty night or two has improved the grayling fishing. the fish sport well and the angler is almost sure of success. Some very good grayling have been taken in the Park district. A gentleman on Saturday visited that quarter with the willow fly. After about one hour's fishing he had landed but one grayling; he changed the fly for the blue dun, and during the remainder of the afternoon he managed to land fourteen good sized grayling. The lot weighed 8lb. Down the Steventon water on Monday a fisherman using the silvertwisted blue caught several very nice fish. At Ashford on Tuesday some fair-sized grayling were landed with the blue dun. Now that trout fishing is over, it is to be hoped the fish will be allowed to rest the allotted time allowed by law. The close season for all kinds of fish has been loosely observed for some years in this neighbourhood; in fact, until a water bailiff was appointed, the close season, either for salmon or trout, was scarcely recognised at all by many. There appears to be little doing up the waters above Downton, owing to the shallowness of the stream. The Clun remains in the same state, and a few baskets have been taken up stream. The Onibury waters continue rather low, but some good grayling have been landed there, also by Trippleton with the willow fly. The grayling rise well about here from eleven o'clock in the morning until half-past five in the evening. A gentleman on Tuesday caught some thirteen nice fish. The Corve in pretty fair condition, and some good catches up Felton waters.—S. Ludlow.

## Teme (Tenbury).

This stream and all its tributaries are now in splendid order. The fish are sporting well at the fly. The water is still very low but clear, and some good dishes of fine fish have been taken with the willow and Hare's ear dun, which are the best flies on at present. A few nice fish have been taken with the maggot. In the water near Easton Court a gent with the willow on Friday landed a good dish of grayling weighing 5lb. the lot. A gentleman fished the water near Eastham with the fly and landed a capital lot of fish, averaging ½lb. each. On Saturday a gentleman tried the water below the bridge, and with the Hare's ear dun took a nice dish of grayling. A few very nice grayling were taken with the maggot. In the water above Little Hereford some capital sport has been had, and some splendid fish have been taken with the fly. Tye water near Corn Brook was tried on Monday with the willow, and some very fine grayling were landed. A good day's sport was had near Berrington Court. A gent fishing with the fly landed a dish of good grayling averaging 10oz. each, and a few perch. Several very good trout were hooked, but were returned to the water at once. A good dish of fish were caught with the maggot. On Tuesday a gent fished the water near Rochford, and with the hare's ear dun took a good dish of fine grayling. Good sport has been had in the Association waters this week, and some very fine fish have been taken. The Kyre and Rea are in good fishing order, but low. There have been but few visitors to the Rea, and but little doing. A few fish have been landed from the Kyre with the fly, and a few with the maggot. The Ledwyche is still very low, and scarcely any fishing has been done in it of late.—Worcester.

## Torridge (Torrington).

River is rising fast with the heavy showers we had last night and this morning. This will bring up lots of fish. There is now little over a month left for fishing, and any of your thousands of readers who require good quarters and fishing, weather and water permitting, and will apply to Mr. Bastard, Torrington, North Devon, he will, I am sure send them the information they require. Only send stamped envelope for reply. Weather showery.—Practical Angler.

## Trent (Newark).

The water is now very low and clear, and sport on the whole is not very good, although a few good bags have been landed in various parts of the river. One or two of our local anglers have been getting some very nice catches of bream and roach this last fortnight, and I heard of another getting four good barbel last Saturday, one of them going over 12lb., a grand fish, if true; but I cannot say whether the report is true or not, as I only heard it from another angler. Barbel fishing is getting about over for this season, and I cannot remember a worse season for those fish; scarcely a good bag has been landed, and I know good anglers who have baited up likely swims, and stuck to them for days manfully, and yet not a barbel did they get. A few roach and dace have been killed with gentles and small red worms; bream also have been killed with cockspurs and tail end of lob; chub have fancied a bit of stinking cheese, and a lump of scratchings, at least the few fish that came under my own observation did. Prospects, in my opinion, are not very bright, although it will be possible to get a few fish, if angled for properly. Cockspur worms, tail end of lob, gentles, and scratchings will be found the best baits, in my opinion, while jack should reward the toiler and spinner by allowing themselves to be bagged.—The Trent Otter.

## The Trent (Nottingham).

There was a welcome downpour of rain on Wednesday, and on Thursday our anglers were busy in all directions. Fairly good sport has been met with, and the latest news at the Wellington Association—the most influential in the town—is to the effect that Mr. J. Tomlinson and Mr. C. Goodall, most respected members, have each weighed in dace above 9oz. They are, however, out-beaten by Mr. W. H. Cooper, of the Waltonians. Mr. E. West boasts of the heaviest barbel, and the business of the half-yearly meeting of the society was transacted last (Friday) evening. The annual dinner and distribution of prizes are fixed for the 17th. Mr. Butler, of the St. George's, has taken a splendid brace of grayling close to Burton-on-Trent; and a friend of Mr. J. Stanley, the celebrated taxidermist of Trent-street, has caught a very fine barbel weighing over 6¼lb. The winter term has now commenced, and judging from the numerous applications made to Mr. H. Coxon for railway travelling tickets as issued by the Midland and Great Northern Companies to the clubs, the ensuing winter season bids fair to outrival its predecessors in the matter of piscatorial popularity.—The Man at the Clubs.

## Trent (Alrewas).

River very low and fine, and with the wind north-east all the week, very little has been done. A few good grayling have been taken with the gentle, and a nice sample with the bumble, willow, and red palmer. Pike are running well; a handsome fish of 11¼lb. was captured with the spoon bait, and several smaller ones were lost.—Anon.

## Waveney (Beccles).

Water during past week has been in good order, but wind rather cold, and not many anglers have been out. Mr. W. Buck on Saturday last had a good catch of roach. Mr. Brooks, on the 27th, captured a pike weighing 5lb. This should have been mentioned in my notes of last week when reporting the capture by the same gentleman of a 1½lb. perch, but, through a misunderstanding, was omitted. A few pike fishermen have been out. On Wednesday a special competition for pike took place with members of the Waveney Club between the Cut and Burgh Staithe, but not with so good results as were anticipated. About ten members competed. Mr. Cowles, of Stratford, who came down especially, was again to the front with three fish, the heaviest scaling 5¼lb. Four other members secured one fish each, between 2 and 3lb. Water at present good colour, and wind S.E.—A Waveney Angler.

## Wye and Derwent.

Grayling fishing continues good on the Derwent. On last Saturday there were baskets from 8½ to 13½ brace per angler made on both the Chatsworth club waters and the Matlock Angling Association waters below Cromford. The killing flies have been bumbles, ash dun, furnace, black and lean flies. Pike have been well on the feed during the week; as many as five and six of a day have been killed below Cromford in the Derwent, chiefly by trolling, with small dace for bait. No doubt, if the Darley Dale Club waters, between Rowsley and Matlock, were only tried while the pike are on the feed, some heavy fish would be killed. Now is a good time for grayling fly-fishing on the Derwent. The Wye: very little is doing on this river; it wants rain.—G. J. Eaton.

### The Wharfe (Yorkshire).

It would be very difficult to imagine anything much more unprofitable than angling at the present time. There was, certainly, a little fresh water down both the Yore and Wharfe last week; but the fish turned sulky, and would not stir; it is not cold enough yet for grayling to take worm or maggot freely, and for some reason known best to themselves, they have, up to now, ignored the fly. The cinnamon, small willow, orange partridge, and smoke fly are the best flies to employ for grayling at the present time. The last named is a great favourite in Wharfedale, and is identical with the fly known in Derbyshire as the "little chap." Your worthy correspondent "Watchet" told me the other day that he dresses it from an Andalusian cock's hackle and bronzy peacock's herl for body, and I seldom find his advice in matters relative to angling "far out," as we say in this country. I am, however, now engaged on an article upon autumn flies, which I hope to send you shortly.—Francis M. Walbran.

## ROACH FISHING.

(*Continued from page* 167.)

### How to Cook Roach.

(A Hint for the Wives of Piscators.)

Roach being not an every-day sort of fish, some servants do not know how to clean them in a proper manner, and if they are not cleaned properly they are of no use for the table. We have seen a great mess made with them in the kitchen, and the fish spoiled after all. To prevent this, adopt the following simple method:—

Having turned the fish out of the bag, lay them in a pile on the board, their tails toward you, and taking them one by one, with the bluntest knife you have scrape off the scales, beginning from the tail, and pressing it fast on the board with the fingers of your left hand. Be sure you get every one of the scales off, for one only is very disagreeable while eating them. As you scrape them lay them aside, one by one, until the whole are finished. Then wipe your knife quite clean and put it away. Having done that, take an old pair of scissors, and cut them open from the vent up to the head, laying them as you do them in a pile until they are all done. Then wipe your scissors clean and put them away. Then take out the insides of them, putting them as you do them again into a pile. That being done, get a pan of water and wash them in it, taking them one by one from the board, and as you wash them put them in a cullender to drain. Be particular in this respect, for if they be all tumbled into the water together, and are in it only a few minutes, they will all be spoiled, and this is the case with all freshwater fish. As soon as they are all washed and in the cullender, take a cloth and wipe them, one by one, as dry as possible, and put them into a dish, in which dredge them well with flour, and they will then be ready for cooking. Take the insides and scales from the board and throw them away, wash your board clean, and throw away the water, and your kitchen will be as clean as before you commenced the operation.

There are several ways in which roach may be cooked: they may be boiled, or stewed in vinegar, or baked like any other fish; but as we consider that frying them is by far the best method, we shall just throw out a word respecting it, knowing that there are many servants quite as deficient in the art of cooking them as in cleaning them. Let, then, the following plan be adopted: Put your pan on the fire and make it warm, then wipe it well with a cloth, and be quite sure that the pan is all over as smooth as possible, for if it be not, the fish while frying will stick to it, and having begun to stick will keep on sticking, until it will be such a sticky affair that all your roach will be spoiled, and be much more fit to put down to the cat than to bring to the table. If the pan be not quite smooth, make it so by rubbing with sand or ashes. It being quite smooth and clean, put it on the fire, which should not be too fierce, and put into it at least five or six ounces of lard, or if you use salad oil, a cupful. It is a very bad plan to put small quantities of fat in the pan, and then keep on adding to it, for in that case it keeps burning away and the fish are all spoiled; while if there be a good quantity it does not waste, and at the same time it rises high enough to penetrate into the flesh of the fish. Your largest fish should always be cooked first, while there is the most fat in the pan, and bear in mind also that in proportion to the size of the fish you are going to cook so should be the quantity of fat, in order that it may rise to the thickness of the sides of the fish; it need not be wasted after you have cooked your fish, but may be put away for the next cooking.

Having put your fat in the pan, let it be on the fire until it boils, for if you do not the fish will stick in spite of you; then put in your fish, letting their heads be towards the back of the stove, and placing the largest in the middle of the pan. Let them fry till their eyes begin to turn white, then turn them over with a knife, and let them fry not quite so long as they did before you turned them. Those in the middle of the pan will generally be done first, especially if they be all of one size, and if any of those that have been on the sides are not quite done, bring them into the middle of the pan for a little time to finish them off before you put any fresh ones in. As they are done, put them on a strainer, and serve them up with brown sauce, melted butter, or any other sauce that may be preferred.

### The Way to Eat Them.

There are many persons who are quite as ignorant of the way to eat roach as they are of the right way to catch, clean, and cook them. They may understand the anatomy of a large cod or salmon weighing 20lb., but that of a roach is far too intricate for them; therefore, for their instruction, and to make our chapters on roach complete, we shall just give one word of advice. Having a roach on your plate, first pull out gently all the fins, and put them aside; then put your knife into the middle of the side of the fish and turn off the flesh, taking care that none of the bones come with it; if they are well cooked they will not, and the flesh you turn off will be fit to eat without any fear of bones. Having eaten one side, turn the fish over, and take off the flesh of the remaining side in the same way. Never let the sauce be over your fish, but keep it on the side of your plate, or you will not be able to see the bones and to dissect them properly. If any be left save them for breakfast, and you will find them very good cold.

To conclude, we will only add: let roach be thus caught, kept, cleaned, cooked, and eaten, and depend upon it the opinion of many who sneer at them will be quite altered, if they should have the opportunity of partaking of any. And we do think, after all, that it is more rational and proper for anglers to take care of their fish, and have pleasure in partaking of them with their families than to throw them about and waste them, or, as we have said, give them away to their friends.

[We feel sure our roach angling readers will have appreciated these plain and practical hints about the roach; the recipe for cleaning, cooking, and eating will equally apply to perch, dace, gudgeon, &c.—Ed.]

"**Tree Gossip**" is the title of a new book by Mr. Francis George Heath, to be published shortly at the Leadenhall Press by Messrs. Field and Tuer.

## NOTICES OF FISHING TACKLE, &c.

A Very Natural Bait.—Mr. Wm. Brown, of 36, George-street, Aberdeen, sends us a capital imitation of the elver, or young eel. What it is made of we cannot say, but it appears like horn, and is very strong, also semi-transparent. It is very neatly mounted, and we can easily understand that, as Mr. B. says, it has been found most successful, both as a trout and sea-trout bait. Its shape causes it to spin slowly when pulled through the water.

Messrs. Farlow and the Sliced Hook.—Messrs. Farlow and Co., of 191, Strand, write: "Dear Sir,—Herewith we beg to hand you four different-sized sample 'Sliced' hooks. These are the only sizes we have ready just yet, but have ordered all other sizes of Messrs. Milward. The price of those inclosed is 1s. per dozen, tied on the very best gut." As several correspondents have written to know where they can get the "Sliced" hook in London, we have much pleasure in publishing Messrs. Farlow's letter. The gut is of first-class quality, and the hooks sent are just the size for a lively, well-scoured marsh worm for perch. The mountings are strong, neat, and well-varnished.

Autumn Grayling Flies.—Messrs. D. and W. Foster, fishing tackle makers, Ashbourne, Derbyshire, remind us that the grayling is in full season now by sending some patterns of autumn grayling flies. We confess we are extremely fond of fly-fishing for grayling after the glare and heat of the summer are gone, and the trout are no longer fair game. These patterns are extremely nice, and consist of the following winged "floaters": grey quill gnat, grey gnat, two October shades of the iron blue dun, two killing midges—viz., General Black and the Little Chap; the brown earwig, the needle fly, the mulberry and light bumbles, and the brown palmer. We are always pleased to notice the things sent us by Messrs. Foster, as from our own experience and that of all anglers we know who know them, we are sure they leave nothing undone to secure the satisfaction of their very numerous customers. We are glad to learn that increasing business will compel them to remove shortly to larger premises. We often wondered how they could get through their work in their present rather cramped quarters.

The Automatic Baits.—Miss Campbell, of 2, Cecil-terrace, Maynard-road, Walthamstow, writes to say that, at the suggestion of several anglers, she has made her baits so that by simply bending the tail end they will spin. This is a great advantage. Miss C. deserves encouragement, for she puts no end of talent and work into her baits.

## THE NATIONAL FISH CULTURE ASSOCIATION.

Mr. Andrews, of Guildford, has just sent to the National Fish Culture Association's tanks at the Health Exhibition some specimens of Salmonidæ of 1884 hatching. The grayling, which were turned out in May, have attained to the length of 5⅝in. The Loch Leven and brook trout, which were hatched in January and February, have reached 6⅜in. in length. They were reared in Mr. Andrews' nurseries at Haslemere, Surrey.

## THE GREEN INSECT.

Since the correspondence about this capital grayling fly, Messrs. Foster, of Ashbourne, have sent us some dressed by them, and they certainly look most deadly customers to put before the fanciful grayling.

## SCOTCH FISHING NOTES.

Tweed and Teviot.—The late flood in the rivers, although not so large as was to be desired, did an immense amount of good in the way of bringing up fish from the sea to the upper reaches, and as great numbers of salmon were in the bay at the mouth of the river, at the time the rise occurred, the various salmon fastnesses are sure to be fairly well stocked. The rivers have again run in very low, but, notwithstanding this, fairly good sport is being got. Reports from Berwick state that there are plenty of salmon ready to take the river whenever a rise takes place. Anglers, therefore, will have good sport whenever the much desired flood occurs. The following are the reports from the districts:—

Selkirk District.—The flood of the 26th September, brought up large numbers of salmon and sea trout to the spawning grounds. Hundreds of both kinds of fish were daily to be seen running up the cauld at Selkirk, as also shoals of yellow trout.

Melrose District.—On the Dryburgh waters on Wednesday Sir Wm. Scott, of Ancrum, Bart., and Mr. Edwards, had two salmon, one a fresh run fish of 24lb. On Friday a small spring salmon was landed on the same water. On Saturday, on one of the Mertoun casts, five salmon were killed before 2 p.m.

Kelso District.—Friday October 3rd. Mr. Jas. Brunlees, C.E., London-on-the-Dub, at Sprouston, killed six salmon weighing 7lb., 9lb., 13lb., 22lb., 27lb., and 27lb. respectively. On the Carham water Mr. Hay Gordon had a couple. On the Ednam House water Mr. Drummond had two salmon, and on the Floors water the Duke of Roxburghe had one. On the Mertoun water the Hon. A. Brougham has had good sport, and on the above date he had four excellent salmon. On Burgham Dub Mr. Denison had one of 24lb. and one of 7lb. Saturday, October 4th. On the Carham waters Mr. Hay Gordon killed four salmon, two of 18lb. each and two of a smaller size. Monday, October 6th. On the same water Mr. Hay Gordon killed a grilse. Last week Mr. Cockburn, London, who holds the Makerston water, had very satisfactory sport, Saturday's fishing being remarkably good in respect to the weights. Besides having a grilse, he had three grand salmon, averaging 28lb. each. On the Floors Castle waters (his Grace the Duke of Roxburghe's) Lord Walshingham, on Tuesday, killed two fish, one of 20lb. and one of 7lb. On the same day, on the Mertoun water, the hon. H. Brougham killed four, all about 18lb. each. The waters are very low and fine, and a flood is much wanted.—Maxwheel, Kelso, October 9th.

Conviction of a Well-Known Oxford Poacher.—Heavy Fine.—A notorious character, named Lazarus Cox, appeared at the Oxford City Police Court, on Friday last, charged with using an illegal net on the 30th ult. P.C. Tundell stated that he was on duty on the morning in question, and about twenty-five minutes to five he saw the defendant come from his house and go into his punt, on a stream at the back of Duke-street, New Botley. Defendant was using the draw nets produced, and he told him they were illegal, and that he intended to take possession of them. Thereupon defendant resisted, and attempted to destroy them with his knife. The Mayor said he was reluctantly compelled to trouble Mr. Cox for £2, together with £1 10s., the costs of the prosecution, or he would have the option of sleeping on a plank for the next few weeks. Mr. Cox did not appear entirely satisfied with his worship's decision, and on coming out of court he was heard to remark "My eyes, but they gave it me stiff."—A second case against Antony Beesley was then proceeded with. From the evidence which was given, it seems that Mr. Beesley was found on the Thames on the 8th of September, in company with his brother and another man, who was using a scoop net. That netting trip cost Antony Beesley exactly £1 1s. 6d.

# CLUB REPORTS.

## AMICABLE BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

On Oct. 5th several of the members fished the Stort for four prizes; the result was as follows:—Mr. Dacey first, Mr. Pedley second, Mr. Say third, Mr. Chevalier fourth. Mr. Medcalf, jack from the Lea; Messrs. Moir and Worledge also weighed in fish. A roaming match for fourteen prizes will take place on Oct. 26th in the Lea, between the Fish and Eels and the top of the Black Pool.—J. Worledge, sec.

## BATTERSEA FRIENDLY ANGLING CLUB.

On Oct. 5th, fishing at Richmond, Mr. G. Anstiss caught two nice barbel, also a nice show of roach and dace, the total weight, 6lb. 10oz. Mr. G. Mumford, H. Martin, and F. Newton also had fish from Amberley. Members going for Mr. Burgess's prize must give in their names on Tuesday, when all are requested to attend for important business.—A. T. Sampson, hon. sec.

## CLAPTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The general weekly meeting was held on Monday last, Mr. G. B. Parry in the chair. The minutes of the last meeting were signed, and formal business having been completed, the chairman gave an interesting account of his visit to Newark, fishing the Trent, in the strictly preserved waters of the Muskham Angling Society, by invitation. He described the waters as teeming with fish of all descriptions, and his experience of the Nottingham style of angling was most favourable; the weather was so unpropitious that he only got about three hours' angling, but in that time he caught upwards of 15lb. of very fine roach and dace. The evening he spent at the headquarters of the Muskham Society, and he expressed the great satisfaction at the friendly treatment he experienced from the members, who gave a cordial invite to any members of the Clapton to come down and try their waters. Mr. Parry, in thanking them for their kindness, gave a return invite from the Clapton Society to any of their members who might be visiting London, stating that although the Clapton had not such grand water as the Trent, they had a hearty welcome at their club house, and could promise a good day's angling at private water. On the arrival of Mr. G. Colls, and Mr. Wood, a magnificent show of roach was exhibited, weighing 73lb., the take of those gentlemen in private water; a finer show it was hard to conceive, as the fish ranged from ½lb. to 1¼lb., in splendid condition—a few perch, the heaviest 1lb. 1oz. These gentlemen took a much larger weight, but distributed them amongst their friends. Two other members at the same water were unsuccessful with the jack. Mr. G. Short had 5lb. of roach from St. Margaret's. Sundery minor catches were reported, and the society's water had been visited with fair success. A hearty vote of thanks to the chairman closed the proceedings.—Henry Howse, hon. sec.

## CLAPHAM JUNCTION ANGLING SOCIETY.

Since reporting last, we have had two prize contests. In the first, Mr. R. Wellman took first, Mr. W. Maslin second, Mr. Weyer third. In the second match (Oct. 5th) Mr. R. Banfield, 10lb. 6oz., first; Mr. Maslin, 8lb. 10oz., second; Mr. Wilson, 6lb. 14oz., third. We have had some good shows of late, Mr. Wilson having about 90lb. of barbel and roach in five days from Staines; Mr. Speed had 30½lb. ditto; Mr. Banfield, 27lb. 12oz. bream (two days), two fish weighing 8lb.; Mr. Favell, one bream, 3lb. 6oz.; Mr. Speed, a very handsome chub, 4lb. (sent for preservation); Messrs. Wakeford, Gomm, Wellman, Moore, and Maslin also had fair sport. Mr. L. Boisseau has been giving his attention to a pretty swim at Weybridge, and I expect he will have a nice take shortly.—W. Maslin, sec.

## COBDEN ANGLING SOCIETY.

Several of our members were out on October 5th. Mr. Stead weighed in some nice roach from Uxbridge weighing 8½lb.; also Mr. Webley some roach, about 3lb. On Wednesday last, Messrs. Maples, Hayward, and Howland were out at Richmond, and weighed some barbel, roach, and dace, about 13lb. Messrs. Stead and Baker were at Uxbridge, and weighed in some very fine roach—Mr. Stead, 8lb. 2½oz.; Baker, 4lb.—C. Reeves, sec.

## EASTERN COUNTIES' ANGLING SOCIETY, GREAT YARMOUTH.

A meeting of this society was held at the Duke's Head Hotel, Quay, on Tuesday evening, the 7th inst., at 9 o'clock. The president, Dr. Mitchell, occupied the chair. The honorary secretary, Mr. Lee, was instructed to again write Edmund Birkbeck, Esq., M.P., with a view to knowing whether, now that that gentleman is in possession of a book of rules, he will become an honorary member of the society. The president announced that Alfred Nuthall, Esq., Mayor of Kingston-on-Thames, had expressed a desire to become a member, and towards this end he was proposed and seconded in due form, and unanimously elected. A vote of thanks was accorded by the society to Captain Styles, C.M.R., and to Mr. Nuthall, for their kindness in offering each a prize to be fished for on some future occasion. It has been suggested that a competition for jack be fished some time next month, and there is every chance of this being carried into effect. Very few catches of any weight have been weighed in during the week, the fish not being nearly so well on the feed now as they were last month. The pike season is now on, and several members have notified their intention of being amongst them shortly. A few days ago I saw a take made by Mr. Barber, of Regent-street. There were ten jack, not large, but in excellent coddition; they afforded very good sport. Mr. Barber caught them in the North River, near St. Bennett s Abbey, spinning with spoon-bait.—A. M.

## GRANGE ANGLING SOCIETY.

The ordinary fortnightly meeting of this society was held on the 2nd inst., when there were present about thirty members. Mr. J. H. Rich was voted in the chair. After the usual business, the chairman distributed three of the prizes given for September. The prizes were for the first, second, and third heaviest weight of fish (except jack), taken during the month, and the heaviest weight of perch. The winners for the first three prizes were Messrs. Haigh, W. Rich, and J. H. Rich. Mr. Gibbons's prize is to be fished for by Messrs. Fowler and Sherval on a future date, both gentlemen having weighed in exactly the same weight of perch. A peg-down match will be held on the 21st inst. near Egham, for four prizes. The first is presented by Mr. Varney, the second by Mr. Roxbury, and the third and fourth by Messrs. Calwell and Brooks.—W. K.

Sir,—What was your opinion, please, of Mr. Gibbons's gauge-board, a specimen of which I sent you with my report for insertion in your paper of the 12th July last?—I am, &c., W. Kayes.

[We thought it a very useful gauge, but did not know who sent it.—Ed.]

## GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

There was a good attendance of members on Tuesday evening last, when the chair was occupied by Dr. Theodore Cash. The minutes of the previous meeting having been duly confirmed, Mr. Chambers reported the result of his negotiations with respect to the acquisition of certain fisheries by the society. Dr. Brunton favoured the members with a narration of his adventures by night in the neighbourhood of Shepperton, on the occasion of the barbel competition, when owing to the mist which prevailed he mistook the road, and arrived at his destination considerably later than was intended. He was corroborated in his opinion of Docket Point as a barbel swim by Capt. Alfred, who reminded the members that in the Gresham Museum was a case of two barbel, specimens of 26, which he had caught with a very light cane rod and fine tackle in one afternoon in 1850, a friend who was fishing in the same swim with him, but with ordinary strong tackle, not taking a single fish. Mr. Parker followed with some experiences of Elstree late at night, when we fancy he might have found his hydroscope useful in finding the level of the road, as, from his description, there must have been a second edition of the Deluge. Mr. Crumplen also caused some considerable amusement by describing his nocturnal adventures at Hendon with two friends, the effect of the lights carried by the bream-fishers, who were taking up their swims, being very curious. After some further discussion, the formal business of the meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the chairman, and the remainder of the evening was devoted to harmony.—Pro. H.

## GLOBE ANGLING SOCIETY.

Several of our members competed for two special prizes on the 5th inst. with the following result:—Mr. S. Howell, first, with 5lb. 11oz. of roach and dace, and Mr. H. Lake second, with 2lb. 12oz. of roach and dace. Messrs. W. Brown, G. Brown, A. Chambers, C. Ellis, and A. Harris also weighed in roach, dace, perch, and gudgeon. Mr. Alexander Payne was proposed and seconded to become a member of this society at our usual weekly meeting. It was also arranged for the next smoking concert in aid of the Anglers' Benevolent to take place on Wednesday evening, the 22nd inst.—J. J. Holmes, sec.

## GOOD INTENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

The following members weighed in on the 5th inst.:—Mr. G. Bates, roach, bream, and dace; Mr. Snook, roach and dace; Mr. Maybury, roach; Mr. Haines, bream; Mr. Barrington, roach; Mr. Murphy, roach and chub. On the 7th inst., being quarterly night, there was a good attendance of members. The members rescinded a previous resolution—that we fish at Bourne End for prizes; but fish at Burnt Mill on the 26th of this month for ten prizes instead; I am very pleased to say. Mr. H. Brookwell is going to bring his handsome collection of fish to the club to take up their old position.—R. Murphy.

## GREAT NORTHERN BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

On the 5th inst. our show of fish was not up to the average. Mr. J. K. Fitch had a nice tray of roach and dace, several of the latter over 8oz., the total weight being 9lb. 3oz.; Mr. J. Dingley, dace and bream, 7lb. 2oz.; Mr. W. Theobald, 3lb. 12oz.; Mr. S. Baker, 2lb. 13oz.; Mr. G. Watling, 2lb. 12oz.; and Mr. C. Watling, sen., roach. We pay a complimentary visit to the Original Anglers' Pride Society, Five Bells, Bermondsey-square, on the 15th inst., when we mean to spend a jolly evening.—J. Fitch, sec.

## GREAT YARMOUTH PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The contest noticed in the last report to take place on Thursday, the 2nd inst., proved nearly a total failure, so far as only one prize was claimed, and that was for two fish only, not weighing 1lb. total. Now, as readers will say "What is the reason?" as far as I can I will give it. No one contesting knew the water, and we ought not to have had a staked-down match. Again, these inland rivers, on a bright, sunshiny day, the water is so clear that you can easily see 6ft. to the weeds, and ought not to be fished till the cold weather has destroyed the weeds at the bottom and the water not so clear. When that time arrives I intend having, if possible, some of the large roach that were continually swimming by our bait. It is much to be regretted that no catches were made, as our vice-president, Captain Blake, with his pleasure wherry, accompanied by F. Blake, Esq., and members of the Waveney Preservation Society, were purposely brought up at the fishing ground, the vice to act as referee, which he did in true sailor fashion, by first asking the exhibitor of the catch if he claimed a prize for two fish, and on receiving a reply that he did, awarded it, with the remark, "Come on board, have a glass, and hope for a better match next time." I may tell you that the vouchers and the auditor's report are now in the society's hands, but very great disapproval was shown by new members when they were informed that Dr. Mitchell, the late treasurer, had paid over their entrance fees to Messrs. Harmer and Ruddock on account of the Higham Sounds case, together with the balance left of that fund. The meeting stands adjourned, it being a summoned meeting to receive the auditor's report. Among those present we were very pleased to see Mr. Field, who, like many of our London friends, is a member of this society.—J. Lark, sec.

## IZAAK WALTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

Mr. J. W. Morgan had a splendid take on Thursday last, the 2nd inst., the particulars of which are as follows:—1 chub, 4lb. 1oz.; 1 do., 3lb. 15oz.; 1 do., 3lb. 8oz.; 1 do., 1lb. 14oz.; 1 barbel, 4lb. 3oz.; 4 roach, 4lb. (heaviest 1lb. 12oz.); 7 dace, 3lb. 15oz. (heaviest 13oz.), making a total of 25lb. 5oz., the whole of which were in fine condition. Mr. G. P. Rolt had 10lb. 12oz. of good bream on Friday, the 3rd inst. Mr. H. Butt weighed in dace on the 5th inst., the heaviest one weighing 9½lb. Mr. G. Bliss had some handsome roach on Wednesday, the 8th inst., the heaviest one weighing 1lb. 2½oz. Mr. R. Perrin had a tray of roach on the same day. Mr. G. Rolt will give a prize to be fished for on Wednesday, the 22nd inst., at the Ferry Boat Waters at Tottenham; and Mr. G. Wood will give a prize value 10s. 6d. to be fished for on the same date and place. Bream and roach only to be weighed in for these prizes. Nothing under 8oz. gross weight to take either of the prizes. No competitors to leave London before 5 a.m. on the morning of the competition. As a reminder to the members, there are two special prizes to be fished for on October 13th between Burnt Mill and Harlow; also the 12th inst. is the first day members can weigh in for Mr. T. Ward's prize.—H. B.

## IZAAK WALTON ANGLING ASSOCIATION, STAFFORD.

The first angling contest of this association took place on Monday last, in the waters at Hayford, near Stafford, kindly placed at the disposal of the club for this occasion by Mr. Sproston. The members met at the club house in the morning and proceeded to the rendezvous by train. Sport commenced at 9.30 a.m., and terminated, so far as the contest was concerned, at 12 o'clock noon. Some of the members subsequently adjourned to the river Sow, by the kind permission of the Right Hon. the Earl of Shrewsbury and Talbot, and a fine quantity of fish was exhibited at the club house by Mr. Chesworth. There were eleven prizes to be angled for, and the following gentlemen were the respective winners:—1st, Mr. Harvey; 2nd, Mr. Chesworth; 3rd, Mr. Brown; 4th, Mr. Holmes; 5th, Mr. Gardiner (the president); 6th, Mr. Hadley; 7th, Mr. Holford; 8th, Mr. Sturland; 9th, Mr. Rowley; 10th, Mr. Picking; 11th, Mr. Eley. A special prize was offered for the largest quantity of roach, and this was won by Mr. Harvey. In the evening the members sat down to a substantial repast, supplied by the host, Mr. John Gibson (treasurer of the association), and a most enjoyable evening was spent. The prizes were distributed after dinner by Mr. Charles B. McLaren, M.P., assisted by Mr. George Howell. These gentlemen had, most reluctantly, to leave the company of the members of the association (of which they are both honorary members) at 8 o'clock, having to address a large meeting in the Borough Hall. The duties of umpire and weigher-in at the contest were most efficiently carried out by Mr. N. Holmes, and everything terminated most satisfactorily. The remainder of the evening was spent in songs, and there seems every prospect of the success of this association, which has, although young, met with great encouragement, and bids fair to become a permanent club in the town, which claims the honour of being the birthplace of him after whom they have named the club. The chair was taken by Mr. C. B. McLaren, M.P., and the president, Mr. H. H. Gardiner, in the vice-chair.

## LIVERPOOL ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

We turned out thirty-five strong on the 2nd inst. to compete for several valuable prizes in the little river Gowy, three miles from Chester, and travelled in one of the L. and N. W.'s saloon carriages to "Ye Ancient City," from whence we were conveyed in two waggonettes to the scene of action, through a beautiful country on as lovely an autumn morning as the world has seen. Under such circumstances, with the balmy air fanning our cheeks, the drive was thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated, and everyone felt thankful at being able to avail themselves of so rich a treat, so great a blessing. On arriving at the river side every competitor was soon at work, and the banks of the mimic stream quickly presented an animated appearance. There were both bait fishers and fly fishers, but the latter were in a decided minority. The day turned out a most pleasant one, though the wind was somewhat chilly ; but, as it kept fair with the sun shining brightly, this was scarcely noticed. At the time appointed (6 p.m.) for the homeward journey, the whole party took their seats in the conveyances and were driven through the gloaming to Chester, thence in the saloon to Liverpool, where all arrived in capital trim for the sundry refreshments that were gladly and freely partaken of. The weighing in was at the club house, and on the creels being emptied it was soon apparent that the results of the day's efforts were very meagre indeed. Messrs. Pearson and Fearnett most carefully weighed in the various catches, with the following result :—W. Davies, 1 : R. Roberts, 2 ; E. W. Boulding, 3 ; J. Lofthouse, 4 ; J. Rawsthorne, special prize for gudgeon, 5. At the meeting held afterwards a circular from the National Fish Culture Association was read and cordially approved of, and a resolution unanimously passed that, "The Liverpool Angling Association enrol itself a member of the N.F.C.A., and that the hon. sec. obtain from the treasurer the requisite fee of one guinea, and forward the same to Mr. W. O. Chambers without delay." It was also resolved that the winding up competition of the season take place in the river Vyrnwy, at Llanymynech on the 23rd inst., the party to travel overnight as before. The usual circular for this, with full particulars, will be sent out to the members in due time. In my account of "Perch Fishing in Ellesmere Lake," in last week's Fishing Gazette, the printer has put Mr. "Seaman" instead of Mr. "Leaman."—R. Woolfall, hon. sec.

## LINCOLN ANGLING SOCIETY.

Only a few members went out on October 5th to various places, and met with the following sport :—Mr. Embleton, a jack weighing 3lb. 3oz., and a few roach from Uxbridge ; Mr. Bingle, some fine roach, weighing in all 2¾lb., from West Drayton ; and Mr. Sheen last Wednesday brought in a very nice show of roach, and a jack weighing close upon 2lb. More members will go out on October 12th, and I trust they will bring in some good shows of fish.—H. Bingle, sec.

## LIVERPOOL CENTRAL ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

The members of this association held their last competition of the season on that favourite resort of Liverpool anglers, the Vyrnwy, at Llanymynech, on the 29th September. There was a fair attendance and the weather was all that could be desired, and the result a most enjoyable one. The following is the list of prize winners :—First, Mr. Smith, 5lb. of chub, heaviest fish, 1lb. 4oz. ; second, Mr. G. McKee, with chub 2lb. 1oz. ; third, Mr. R. Poston, heaviest fish, perch, 1lb. 12oz. ; fourth, Mr. J. Howarth, heaviest roach, 12oz. All the fish taken were in grand condition ; but, unfortunately, the water became discoloured early in the afternoon, or the baskets would have been much heavier. Still, all present enjoyed themselves thoroughly, and were unanimous in saying the out was one of the pleasantest they had had this season.—W. V. Narracott.

## MARLOW THAMES ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

The annual committee meeting was held at the Complete Angler on the 4th inst. Mr. T. H. Wright was in the chair, and he was supported by Major J. Simpson-Carson and Mr. C. M. Foottit. Letters were read from the National Fish Culture Association, and it was thought that as the Marlow Association had so many opportunities of obtaining fish-stock upon better terms than could possibly be offered by the National Association, and as the activity of the officers rendered assistance in obtaining the fish unnecessary, the Marlow Association could not see its way clear to avail itself of the offers made.—Letters of a friendly nature were read from the promoters of the National Fish Culture Association, from the Editor of the Fishing Gazette, Mr. T. Spreckley and other gentlemen unable to attend. The bailiffs reported that over 500 trout had been captured, about 100 of which were killable. The hon. secretaries reported that a conference of the executives of the up-river associations had been held at the instance of the Marlow Association, at which friendly relations were established between the executives present, representing Reading, Henley, Medmenham, Marlow, Maidenhead, and Windsor, and at which excursions of interest were discussed, and the Parliamentary report upon angling was considered. It was stated that a general improvement had taken place in the affairs of the association, and that a greater weight of large fish had been turned in than had ever been the case before. It was also reported that three new and most respectable fishermen had been added to the list of Marlow professionals. A decided decrease of complaints as to the character and behaviour of the fishermen had been noticed, and there had been a considerable increase in the number of members, with a large increase in the number of anglers, who altogether had been more successful this year in their fishing than in previous seasons. Thanks were voted to the chair, and the party having been joined by the vicar, Dr. Shore, Mr. J. S. Kirkpatrick, and Mr. Maskell, adjourned to a very excellent dinner at the Angler Hotel. A novel feature was introduced on the menu cards, in the shape of the portraits of the hon. sec. and hon. treasurer, which were declared unique and very good.—Marlow Buzz.

## PECKHAM BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

The club match fished on the —th inst. resulted as follows :—T. Turner, first ; W. H. Page, second ; and T. Phipps, third. Fifteen members of this society will take part in the South London match at Amberley. A match will be fished on the 19th for the cup, from St. Margaret's Lock to Rye House. Train leaves Liverpool-street at 8 o'clock. The dinner to commemorate the founding of this society will take place on Monday, Nov. 3rd ; A. Brodie, Esq., president, in the chair. The cases of fish belonging to Messrs. Gafney and Watkins, recently in the possession of the Anglers' Pride, are now to be seen in the club room. Four bream weighing 17½lb. are fish one can be proud of.—Gadfly.

## THE PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

On Monday evening last the usual weekly meeting of this society was held at Ashley's Hotel, Covent-garden, and there was an exceedingly good attendance of members. Amongst those present were Messrs. Fennings, Sachs, Gillatt, Lemann, Blamey, Goodger, Foreman, Pattisson, Bennett, Inderwick, Huggett, Wheatstone, Meyer, Blundell, Gray, Lander (hon. sec.), Booker, Wheeldon, Jesse, C. C. Blundell, Harden, Adlington, Dr. Brunton, Rev. J. Sumner, &c., &c. Mr. Blamey was unanimously voted to the chair. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. A ballot took place on the nomination of Mr. G. J. Hodson, proposed by Mr. Marston, seconded by Dr. Brunton, and the committee recommended him for election ; in the result he was unanimously elected a member of this society. It was incidentally mentioned that Mr. Hodson is a first-class fly fisher. It was announced definitely that a ball will take place this season, to be called "The Piscatorial Society's Ball," and several gentlemen have consented to become stewards. Members of the society wishing to become stewards are requested to forward their names to the hon. sec. It was further announced that in future on competition evenings the leisure time (if any) will be devoted to harmony, &c. Mr. Blamey related some of his latest experiences in barbel fishing. He fished one swim (which had been previously baited) for three days. The first day he had a good take. The second day, although he fished patiently and well the whole day long from early morning till late in the evening, he never got a single touch. He put in more bait, determined not to give in, and on the third day took more fish than on the first day. Could any member present give any reason for the fish refusing to feed on the second day ? Several members on previous occasions had had similar experiences, and the question was discussed by Messrs. Pattisson, Wheatstone, Sachs, Wheeldon, and Rev. G. Sumner. No good reason could be given. The chairman announced that the annual supper will take place in these rooms on the 20th inst.—tickets 3s. 6d. each. In order that proper provision may be made, members who intend being present will oblige by forwarding their names, and the number of seats required, to the hon. sec. on as early a day as possible. It is expected there will be a full attendance. Members' vocal friends will be appreciated. The Rev. G. Sumner has been fly fishing for dace in the tidal Thames with considerable success. He refreshed himself at the Star and Garter Hotel with a glass of stout—charge 6d., which he considered excessive. Mr. Fennings called attention to the reports of our society in the daily press, and thanked Mr. Wheeldon for his exertions in behalf of this society. The Chairman rose and proposed the health of the successful anglers, Messrs. Fennings and Huggett, who both had trays of fish on the tables. Mr. Fennings said he had been fishing that morning at Deeping St. James's. The average depth of the river at the present time was not more than 1ft., and the deepest holes not more than 3ft. The Welland was a good river, especially for fly. Mr. Huggett thanked the gentlemen for their wishes. He showed a few chub, but they were difficult of capture, there being so little stream. The Chairman next proposed the usual toast of "Success to the Piscatorial Society," which was duly responded to. Mr. Wheatstone proposed "The health of the Chairman," who gracefully replied, and the business of the meeting was brought to a close. Our hon. sec. (Mr. J. Lander) was again with us this evening, but I regret to report his health is not re-established.—T. H.

## RODNEY PISCATORIALS.

On the 5th Mr. R. Smith visited Tunbridge. He managed to get a few bream and roach by wandering about for them. He could not fish his favourite place on account of the inky state of the water and the number of dead fish lying about. "In one place I saw about a bushel of gudgeon all of a heap, to say nothing about the big bream and roach." Messrs. Chantry and Grant visited Wateringbury, but they only managed to get some roach. C. Grant, jun., had some nice dace from Ponder's End. On the 8th it was decided that the October competition take place on the 26th at a place on the Thames within 30 miles of London. Members wishing to know the place must attend the society's house on the meeting night previous to the outing. The prizes for competition are given by our worthy hostess.—Pixie.

## ROYAL GEORGE ANGLING SOCIETY.

I have no angling items to mention this week (although we had arranged for an outing to Goring) in consequence of the sudden death of our secretary, Mr. C. W. W. Bernhardt, for some years a member of the above society. He was in his usual place on Tuesday night, September 30th, and appeared to be as well as he was in the habit of looking (he always suffered more or less from rheumatic gout), but the next evening he was seized with a fit of paralysis and expired within an hour, without uttering a word, leaving, I am sorry to state, three children and a wife in such a condition that she will not be able to assist them or herself for some considerable time, and they are in great need of help. In order to increase the subscription list already started by the members, the smallest sum will be received (and thankfully acknowledged in the Fishing Gazette) by W. H. Rider (chairman), 14, Wells-street, Oxford-street, W., or at the society's headquarters as above.

## SOUTH LONDON UNITED.

The committee of the above met on the 9th inst. to decide as to how the competition of the 12th should be carried out. Ninety-eight tickets have been sold. The prizes will remain as stated on tickets, and notices sent round to the societies entitled to compete. Start for swims as tickets for the same are drawn for, and commence fishing as soon as possible up to 4.45. Fish only weighed according to Thames rules. Messrs. Allen and Gafney will start on Saturday afternoon in order to mark out swims. The next return visit will go to the Deptford United Brothers, The Druid's Head, Church-street, Deptford Broadway, on Thursday, the 16th inst. All members of this unity who can make it convenient to attend on that evening are requested to attend.—Pixie.

## STOKE NEWINGTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

Very moderate shows of fish the last week or two with us, Messrs. Martin, Webb, Harris, Whitmore, Watkins, and Gretton weighing in small quantities of jack, bream, and roach—Mr. C. Martin having the best catch, 6lb. 4½oz. On the 28th ult., eight members had a trip to Dagenham Lake by road, and although a most enjoyable day was spent the sport was very poor. Plenty of small fish were taken, but few weighable ones, Mr. W. Webb being first with 1lb. 11¾oz. ; Mr. C. Martin second with 1lb. 2½oz. On the 5th inst., Mr. Thos. Harris had some nice roach from the Stort ; Mr. T. Millington, bream and roach from Pulborough. At our last meeting we had a visit from our old friend, Mr. R. Ghurney, who very kindly gave a prize to be fished for by the club. Three prizes, presented by Messrs. John Davis, T. Gretton, and C. Martin, will be fished for on the 26th inst. ; conditions to be named at the usual club meeting. The musical society at this establishment has commenced, and holds its meeting every Thursday evening. Any angling friends paying a visit on these occasions will be heartily welcomed by the proprietor, Mr. P. Godfrey.—T. Gretton.

## THE UXBRIDGE ROVERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

On the 5th inst., one jack, taken by Mr. R. Hawkins in the Canal at Cowley, weight 11lb. 2oz. ; also some fine roach, the largest ¾lb., by R. May.—T. Skillin, sec.

## UNITED BROTHERS, DEPTFORD.

The members of the above society fished a jack and perch match on October 5th, and had some very good sport amongst the perch. Mr. W. Tyler, first prize ; Mr. Penton, second prize ; Mr. Deangate, third prize. Other members had fish. The next visit on the South London list will be to the above society, on Thursday, the 16th inst., at the Druid's Head, Church-street, Deptford. I hope to see a good muster Commence 8.30 sharp.—H. T.

## WALTONIANS.

Oct. 5th, Mr. Phillips had a fine show of pike ; in all, 46lb. 8½oz.—one fish, 17lb. 11oz. ; another, 16lb. 3oz. Several other members weighed in, but no takes worthy of special mention.—A. J. Marriott.

## WALWORTH PISCATORIALS.

The result of the competition of the 9th is as follows :—1st, Mr. Beckett ; 2nd, Mr. Delhaye ; 3rd, Mr. Crisp ; 4th, Mr. Gilbert ; 5th, Mr. Boalch. Fish exhibited consisted of dace, roach, and jack, the gross weight going 33lb. 2½oz. Fish taken during the week about 36lb. Among them was 15lb. of nice perch, taken by Mr. Brodie from Tring on the 7th. Mr. Grigg has forwarded to Mr. Lancaster several nice perch and roach for preservation. The same when finished will show what the waters at Tring can produce. The next competition will take place on the 25th of October, for prizes given by Messrs. Holland and Piolane, the when and how to be decided on the Thursday evening previous to that date.—Pixie.

## WELLINGTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

On the 30th ult. Mr. Hopkins weighed in a barbel of 1lb. 15oz. ; Mr. Jenner, barbel, 3lb. 5¾oz. ; Mr. Brand, roach and dace, 8lb. 10oz. October 5th, Mr. Rowen, two jack, 9lb. 3½oz., the largest 6lb. 7oz. ; Mr. Hopkins, roach 5lb. 15oz., dace 2lb. 2½oz., and barbel 9lb. 13oz.—total, 17lb. 14½oz. ; and Mr. Newbury, barbel and roach, 4lb. 1½oz. On Wednesday we had a very crowded attendance and spent a very enjoyable evening, principally in harmony. Several gentlemen of the Busy B's gave us the pleasure of their company.—W. W. Alexander.

George James Eaton, of Starkholmes, Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required, from gentlemen who can fish, to prove whether they may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices : Point Flies 2s. 6d. per Dozen ; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—(Advt.)

## "FROM GRAVE TO GAY."*

"From Grave to Gay" is the title of a dainty little volume of charming verse by Mr. H. Cholmondeley-Pennell, author of "Puck on Pegasus" and other poetical works, and well known to our readers through his angling writings. It is an open secret that Mr. Pennell is now engaged upon a *magnum opus* on fish and fishing for Messrs. Longmans. What we have gleaned of its design, coupled with the experience of Mr. Pennell's previous works on the subject, leads us to anticipate a most comprehensive, practical, and valuable addition to angling literature.

In the little work under notice we have looked in vain for any lines over which "Piscatoribus sacrum" might be written, and the only sense of disappointment an angling reader will have is that Mr. Pennell has not included some angling verse. Let us hope that when he resaddles Pegasus, that mythological charger will assume his other form of *piscis volans.*

When in his lighter, or, as he himself calls it, "gay" vein, Mr. Pennell frequently reminds us of those delightful flights for which Herrick and Sir John Suckling or Carew are now chiefly remembered—short poems, having a charming idea as their foundation, and whether the idea be of fact or fancy is all the same; it is equally well painted. But Mr. Pennell can also touch a deeper note, as witness the following lines:—

(From "The Thread of Life.")

Unsearchable depths of a mother's heart!
Unfathom'd ocean by line or chart!
Can you gauge me, I say, one thousandth part
Of the feelings that stir within it?
What a freight that little existence bears
Of pallid smiles and tremulous tears,
Of joys never breathed into mortal ears,
Griefs that the callous world never hears,
Suffering that only the more endears,
And love that would reach into endless years,
Snuff'd out, it maybe, in a minute!

Would you look on a mother in all her pride?
Her radiant, dazzling, glorious pride?
Then seek yon garret—leaden eyed—
And thrust the mould'ring panel aside;
The door that has nothing to lock it;
And the walls are tatter'd, and damp, and drear,
And the light has a quivering gleam, like fear;
For the hand of sickness is heavy here,
And the lamp burns low in the socket!
'Mid rags and want and misery piled
A woman is watching her stricken child
With a love so tender, a look so mild,
That the little suff'ring babe has smiled—
A smile that is strangely fair!
And lo! in that chamber, poverty-dyed,
A mother in all her dazzling pride—
A glorious mother is there!

We have much pleasure in recommending Mr. Pennell's poems to our readers, because we are sure they will have pleasure in reading them—even in those "vers de société," written for a fashionable and frivolous public, he does not forget the axiom that a true poem or picture is ever, and must be ever, true to nature.

## CLOSE OF THE ANGLING SEASON ON THE TAY.

The angling season on the river Tay was brought to a close yesterday. The season has been a very successful one, and during the past two months excellent sport has been got. During the spring and earlier part of summer, in consequence of a protracted drought, the river was running very low, and during that time the captures were of moderate dimensions. About the middle of May the river rose rapidly again, and fish of good quality became very plentiful. Fish were also very numerous in the various tributaries of the Tay. The lochs of Perthshire—especially Lochs Tummel, Rannoch, and Ericht—afforded splendid sport to anglers during the summer. The Tummel, one of the largest tributaries of the Tay, was extensively fished during the season. In May last Mr. Archibald Young, Inspector of Fisheries, prepared a report with reference to the construction of a salmon ladder at the Falls of Tummel. Since then the matter has been taken up favourably by the Tay District Fishery Board, and it is to be hoped that the proposal will speedily be carried out. The area of rivers and lochs that would be opened up by the suggested ladder would be about one-fifth of the whole amount of water in Scotland at present barred against the ascent of salmon by unpassable waterfalls. It would be a grand, and there is no doubt a successful, experiment to inaugurate the opening up of this vast extent of loch and river by commencing with the Falls of Tummel.

In the beginning of June a trout, measuring 27in. in length, 15½in. in breadth, and weighing 7½lb., was caught in Loch Rannoch. About the same time a salmon weighing 60lb. was captured at Kinfauns, a few miles below Perth. In the beginning of July the Tummel was stated to be yielding better than it had done for several seasons past. In the River Earn, another tributary of the Tay, although the sport during the earlier part of the season was not particularly good, the captures during the past two months have been very satisfactory, and, as the season on this river does not close till the 31st inst., it is expected that the remaining part of the season will be exceedingly good.

## A DAY'S FISHING AT WALTON.

A very jolly party of us, six in number, left Wimbledon about one o'clock the other morning. The waning moon gave us sufficient light to see our way very comfortably, and, having with us a friend of inimitable humour, who must always be known as the "lively gentle," kept us in roars of laughter, which must have roused up more than one slumberer on the way. Arriving at the Swan Hotel, Walton, about 4 o'clock, some time before daybreak, we had not long to wait before the worthy proprietor was with us, and at this early hour our horses were taken charge of and comfortably housed, and in a surprisingly short space of time we were enjoying hot coffee and other good things, peppered with the wit of the "lively gentle." We had previously telegraphed to the proprietor of the Swan to engage us the necessary punts and men. When daylight burst upon us, the veteran, Dick Walford, made his appearance and notified that all was ready. Another glass and off we went. Dick, with two of us, took up position in Walton Deep, which he had previously baited. We had been fixed a short time when the float signalled a nibble. "Strike," says Dick, and had him—a nice bream of about 2lb.; another bite, another bream; and before the sun rose we had eleven splendid fish. The biting suddenly ceased, from what cause we could not tell—perhaps from the presence of Mr. Pike, who is very numerous in this part of the river. We then moved our quarters to another good place, "the Tumbling Bay." Here we had good sport with roach, and caught a few good ones; but, as the day advanced, the sport declined. We returned to the Swan and had a few hours' nap; we arose about three, had a splendid dinner, and resumed our fishing. But the sport was not good, except for small roach and dace, which bit very freely. The continued traffic of boats disturbed the large fish. I have been down there many times lately, and find the same thing. There is no time to catch big fish, except in the early morning, when every fish in the river seems to be feeding, and those who wish good fishing cannot do better than go to Walton overnight. Send to the landlord of the Swan Hotel, to save any hitch or disappointment, he is a thorough business man, and takes care of his visitors, and looks well after their wants; and, moreover, it saves a lot of trouble. We intend giving Walton Deeps another turn shortly, and may have a few lines to write you on the subject of pike fishing there.

Wimbledon. H. G.

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* "From Grave to Gay," a volume of selections from the complete poems of H. Cholmondeley-Pennell. London: Longmans, Green and Co. 1884.

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The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1884.

## NATIONAL FISH CULTURE ASSOCIATION.

A MEETING of the Council of the National Fish Culture Association was held at its offices at the Exhibition Ground, South Kensington, on Tuesday last, under the presidency of the Marquis of Exeter. Among those present were Mr. Wm. Senior, Mr. Henry Ffennell, Mr. R. B. Marston, Mr. Alfred Jardine, Mr. T. J. Mann, Mr. T. Andrews, Rev. J. J. Manley, and Mr. H. Lee.

The Secretary, Mr. W. Oldham Chambers, announced that Lord Walsingham had forwarded two hundred brace of exceedingly fine golden tench to the Aquarium, and had promised more if they were required. His Lordship had also expressed his willingness to become a member of the Council of the Association. The Duke of Bedford had contributed twelve golden orfe and some valuable specimens of *Cyprinus rex Cyprinorum*. His Grace had now become a life member. It was further announced that Lord Donoughmore had joined the Association. The Secretary next read a report of the Sub-Committee lately appointed to inspect a suitable site for a fish culture establishment, which strongly recommended a property in the neighbourhood of Uxbridge.

The Marquis of Exeter, in moving the adoption of the report, stated that he had inspected the *locale* with the members of the Sub-Committee, and found it to be just what the Association required. He thought it fully met all the desiderata of the Association, the property being situated in close proximity to the rivers Calne and Misbourne, which were teeming with fish. The Sub-Committee had inspected various other sites, but could only recommend this one for the required purposes. After a lengthened discussion, it was unanimously resolved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and instructions given to the Aquarium Committee to carry it out.

## POACHING AT OXFORD AND ON THE LEA.

THE Oxford Angling Society is to be congratulated on the recent convictions of poachers in their district. A little more punishment of the kind will convince the netting fraternity that it will pay them much better to employ their time in gaining their living in an honest manner. It is sincerely to be hoped that Oxford anglers will not relax their efforts, and that the Oxford magistrates will continue to enforce the law against those who, while doing themselves little or no good—as witness the wretched condition in which they and their families exist—do an immense amount of harm to the interests of Oxford. As Mr. Thomas Spreckley, President of the Thames Angling Preservation Society, says, the fishing in the neighbourhood of Oxford might be the best, or among the best, in the kingdom, if the fish were protected from the poachers. If the fishing at Oxford is protected, the hotels will benefit by the visits of anglers, and also the tradesmen who supply the hotels. Those who keep boats and fishing punts will benefit—indeed, it is difficult to say who would not benefit, directly or indirectly, by the influx of angling visitors which must take place if the fishing improves.

Lea anglers are to be congratulated on the capture of the poachers who were heavily fined last Tuesday, and their net destroyed. A net in a comparatively small stream like the Lea can do an immense amount of damage. In fact, anglers in all parts of the country can adopt no more efficient method of improving their fishing than by using every endeavour to put an end to the wholesale poaching by means of nets of any kind.

## SHORE FISHING.—No. III.

By E. G.

THE baits for the style of angling I have been endeavouring to describe are very numerous. The following are the best: Lug-worms, rag-worms, live and dead sand eels, prawns and shrimps, strips of squid, cuttle fish or octopus, soft crabs, mackerel, herrings, pilchards, sprats, sand smelts, and the worm in the soldier crab. To bait: Pass the hook twice or three times through the lug-worm, crosswise; rag-worms, if small, should be hooked only once through the head; if large, run the hook a little way down them, and bring the point out. The new "Sliced Hook" would do well for this, as the head of the worm might be made to rest on the point of the slice. If live sand eels can be got, there is no better bait for all kinds of fish. The plan of baiting described by Mr. Wilcocks is the best. Put the hook in at the mouth and out of the gills; then hook the fish lightly across the throat. If the sand eel is dead, use two hooks, the upper one the smaller. Put the larger hook in at the gills, and bring it out as low down as possible; then pass the upper hook through the nose. Get the bait as straight as you can, as unless you have a swivel just above it, it will twist up your gut when drawn back against the tide. Prawns and shrimps, if alive, should be hooked through the tail (two or three of the latter, if small, may be used); if dead, run the hook down them from the head. Cuttle-fish, squid, or octopus must be cleaned and skinned, then for the ordinary-sized hooks cut off strips about 3in. by ¾in. at the broad end, tapering off to a point; hook the bait through the broad end. It is not a bad plan to use a lug worm or mussel with this. Of course, if you are using very large hooks, put on a big bait 4in. to 5in. long, and proportionately wide. Mackerel, &c., &c., should have the backbone taken out, and then be cut in strips diagonally. In using fish-bait, be very careful to keep it in the shade until used, or it will get so soft that the flesh will fall off from the skin. Pass the hook through the thick end of the strip.

Trawlers, dredgers, and men who have crab and lobster pots get large quantities of soldier crabs. These are pretty generally known to all seaside visitors; but the knowledge that the soldier has a lodger is confined to a few. A large worm (Nereis) takes up its abode in the extreme end of the whelk-shell, and (according to Gosse) steals the crab's victuals. When he has cut it up, and is just conveying it to his mouth, the Nereis slips out under him, grabs the morsel, and retires to his apartment behind the crab's tail. In "The Salt Water Aquarium," there is a very interesting account of this annelid. But however interesting the worm may be to the naturalist, he is no less so to the fisherman, being a very choice bait. The length of a large specimen will be, when extended, some 4in. to 5in., and half an inch in width. It is amazing how so large a worm can find room in the small end of a whelk-shell. Crack the shell with great care: the worm will be found in the last quarter of an inch of the shell. The tail of the soldier crab is a good bait in deep water; but I have never done much good with it along shore.

Soft green crabs are very good. They may be found under weed or stones in harbours, or in the rock pools outside. They are taken well by bass and flounders. In some places fishermen put old pots, kettles, &c., as hides for them, and so can always get a supply. If, however, there is no one who makes a practice of catching them, an offer of coppers to the boys will generally be found effective in producing a quantity. I have omitted one very good bait—viz., a live flat fish. In any sandy or muddy creek, harbour, or bay, any amount of small flounders may be taken with a shrimp net or small-meshed landing net. They run from the size of a sixpence upwards. Get some about 1½in. to 2in. across; hook them on by the nose, as you would a minnow, and they will live a long time, unless they find a tomb in the maw of a bass. Mussels are good bait, but are best used in conjunction with a strip of squid, mackerel, or any bright fish. The oniscus, or sea-louse, as some call it, is very plentiful in some places, and is taken by all kinds of fish. It may be found under stones in harbours, and also among rocks on the shore about high-water mark. In shape it resembles the common wood-louse, but is much larger, sometimes being an inch and a half long. Use a small, but strong hook, and pass it through the tail. Two will make a good bait. They are best kept in a tin box with a little damp seaweed. Snails and large black slugs will kill well in deep water, and in the absence of other bait may be used along shore. They are most affected by whiting pout. The common lob-worm and brandling are taken by sea fish; but they are very troublesome baits to use, as they turn white in a few minutes in the salt water, and are then useless, and must be renewed. If you should see any fish break the water or play on the surface, take off your float tackle and put on a spinning bait. If the water is clear, use a single gut trace with brass swivels. Steel ones are no use: after once using they will become too rusty to turn. Any artificial bait will do—dace, spoons, Totness minnows, tassel baits; in fact, anything that spins well. There are a great variety of rubber baits made for salt-water spinning, which are cheaper and more durable than the metal ones, and quite as effective. For these, write for catalogue to C. and R. Brooks, fishing-tackle makers, Stonehouse, Devonshire, who will also supply the sliding floats and other tackle mentioned in these articles. A great many other baits for the float tackle may be used, which I will deal with when I come to rock fishing. My next article will be devoted to fly-fishing at the mouths of rivers, and from projecting reefs and headlands in the open sea.

[In my paper of September 6, in the ninth line, for "30ft." read "20ft."; and in the thirtieth, for "30" read "8/o."—E. G.]

## ODDS AND ENDS IN SALMON FISHING.

By GEO. M. KELSON.—No. 3.

IN salmon fishing, after all, when one comes to think of it, there are very few matters upon which we are all agreed. The "ins and outs"—or the art, so to speak—is still only in its infancy, and in this feverish reign and race for honours, considering the average ability of so many members is scarcely up to par, it is not very surprising that one or another of us "kicks over the traces" occasionally in the hope of finding opportunities for originality to develope.

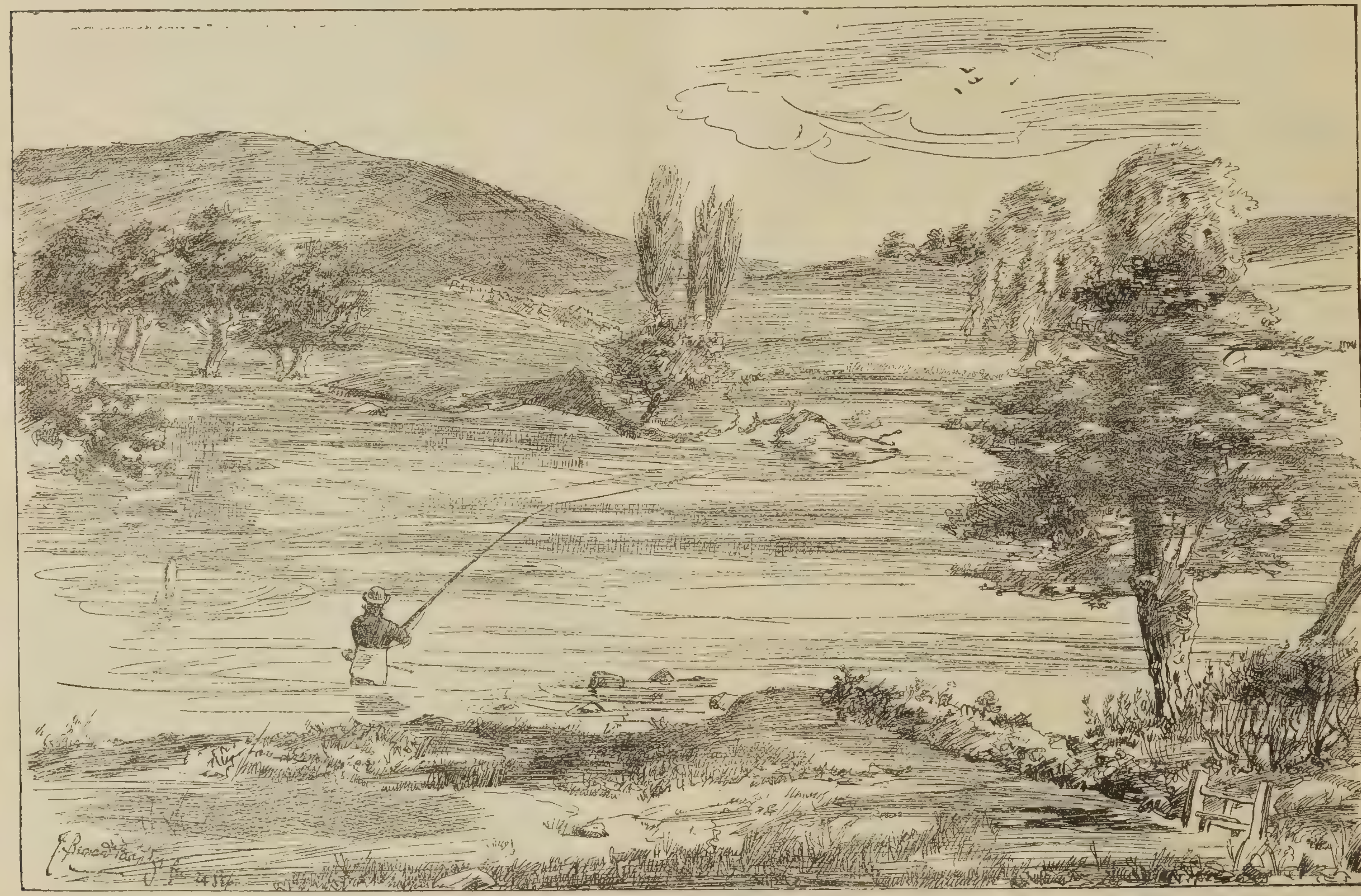
However, if we are really frank in purpose, perhaps we may be turning over a new leaf to some advantage by going against the temper of the age. To be thoroughly orthodox and go with the fashion may be easy enough and all very well, but we are not so likely to see outside the usual limits; and if we happen to reach the front rank at all, it is only the same old story over again—luck.

Let us consider for a moment the infatuation for twisted traces looped on to the line in the "venerable and time-honoured way" with all their unsightly—or, I should say, hideous—knots. Our younger members must be lucky indeed if they are not always hitching up, and, in windy weather, everlastingly unriddling and disentangling.

I venture to suggest, and I think it stands to common sense, that any of us can present the lure much neater and cleaner with these modern and improved casts, married to the line; so prettily plaited and tapering as they are, and having no knots at all; certainly, the tyro would be more likely to avoid such mess and muddle. It seems, somehow or other, to have got abroad that they do not bear so great a strain as the twisted; but that is absurd. I lifted 12lb. with a light three-yard length from Ramsbottom the other day, and I doubt if we could put half that pressure on to a salmon with a rod—even one of Farlow's best greenhearts 18ft. in length; still, I certainly have seen some manufactured very clumsily. By rights they should be regularly and evenly plaited and made with the choicest material. If they stretch much before they are wetted, depend upon it the gut is bad, and perhaps only refuse stuff; but remember, please, that this would easily be set at naught if the workmen were to pull it hard beforehand, while it is in single strands.

These and many other trifling matters are seemingly unimportant, but we cannot forget our schooldays, when we were always being told that "perfection is nothing but a heap of trifles." Anglers above all class of sporting men seem to know intuitively when they are well appointed, and fancy really has a mighty effect upon effort. Indeed, what greater faculty is there of the mind than imagination. Surely it is unceasingly in front of our victories.

By way of change, let us fancy ourselves watching a youth thrashing away down to a likely-looking flat, having waded on to a scour or tongue of gravel jutting out into the stream, the water at once is rough and flowing fast, so fast that, although the path begins but knee deep, he is compelled to step sideways with the utmost care and with one leg well in advance. He endeavours to reach a fish down below at "heads and tails," being especially encouraged so to do from the bank, which, by the bye, he has no chance of making except by the same line of retreat. He is soon up to the top of his waders, and, fortunately, provided with an extra long line upon his reel. The fish immediately takes a rather well-put "Bluebell," and is off down the river "ducks and drakes."



AN INCIDENT IN SALMON FISHING.

I will just say briefly what passed, as the picture happens to be from reality. In a wood, on the opposite side, sat the spectators—they heard and saw all; but the angler being against the wind, and so close on to the noisy splashing water, any advice from that quarter was impossible. The gillie, or rather a wretched boy "from the Bridge," was sitting with the gaff blowing a cloud and a half from a large cigar in the meadow. After the fish had done quite as it liked, and all it could under the circumstances, there was a slight attempt to haul it up the rapid; this naturally failed, for had it even been quite dead there would to all appearances have been no chance whatever that way, particularly with at least three yards of single gut on the line.

The next dodge was to throw the gaff which the angler missed catching, and that was out of sight at once.

Then the boy—who had spent all the brilliancy of his brain in heaping endless and contumely remarks—signed to wind in the fish and lay hold of it, and at last, after several scrambles and grabs, it was so handled, only just and that's all, for in a moment all was gone, save hope—for the rod, unfortunately, went bobbing down stream.

With all that, as luck would have it, the next pool was handy, and headed on that side with huge boulders. There the rod reached and mercifully rested half in, half out of water, and well within arm's length; so that then a fine fresh fish, dead beaten, and scarcely without another struggle, was quickly led ashore.

Now to say what ought to have been done, not positively being on the spot, would hardly be justifiable, and I am inclined to suppose that even if novices were actually told what to do they could not often be expected to do it in such a predicament, therefore the whole question, as far as they are concerned, is beset with difficulty. But we may rest assured that there were ways and means beyond any drawn conclusions. Perhaps the little gaff lately christened the "Aide-de-Camp," to do battle or give the final touch, is what was wanted. Attached and suspended from the top of our waders on the left side, it is never in the way; made of Molucca cane, with special fittings, it cannot come to grief, and if in the course of time the water wears the worm of the screw, there is a new one ready at the other end which is protected by a nut that projects a little, and gives one a splendid hold. Messrs. Bernard and Co., Piccadilly, are the sole manufacturers of this delightful invention, brought out a few years since by Major Philpot, a gentleman up to every wrinkle, and one of our best and most successful salmon anglers.

To hint that we should sometimes ignore the fundamental tenets cherished from our earliest associations might not be altogether approved or appreciated; but no doubt that by giving up the command for a moment—say, while the fish was at rest—to have waded back, pointed the rod below an impassable tree at the entrance, payed out enough line so that it could have been reached by the boy, who might have drawn it entirely off the winch—is a way not altogether impracticable. The angler could then have stepped out, put the line in order, and almost in the twinkling of an eye resumed the attack on fresh and more favourable terms.

After plenty of practical experiment old salmon fishermen under difficulty are often stirred by deep and knowing impulse; any idea that strikes them when pushed to extremes—indeed, any suggestion that they advance then is sure to be full of wholesome promise and teem with soundness of principle. And so I have heard of wrapping up the hand in a pocket-handkerchief, for if the fish is hooked in the upper jaw, which is more often than not, it comes up when played out with its mouth open; the plan then, if you can manage it, is to take hold of the lower jaw and put your thumb in its mouth—the little sharp teeth are sure to cling tightly to the linen, and this makes the business so much easier.

You see, there are so many things to contend against that are beyond the physical power of the uninitiated; it requires a deal of practice to stand against a good push of water, and, supposing this fish had been "boned," what could anyone have done? But even then stonegrubbers or jiggering fish are often mastered by able anglers who know what's what. The dodge is, the moment you feel them shaking their head, to give line, as you can always depend the hook is in a bone, or uncomfortably close there; and, should it be actually inserted through one, they break it in double quick time, unless the point of the rod be lowered immediately.

It is always better not to gaff but to gravel these fellows, if possible, and, when within distance of a sandy, shelving bank, you run hard with them down the river, their head being turned that way, you can invariably drag them out yards away from the water without much risk.

In suitable places where such favourable opportunities are afforded, if the angler is suffering from any acute attack of austere virtue (should such be), he need never remove the gaff from its sheath; and does not it follow that any other fish could be so landed? We can always turn the head of a salmon by getting below; but it is unwise to encourage a novice in this rather dangerous experiment, unless it is certain the bed of the river is free from snags, boulders, &c.

I think "dancers" are the most difficult of all to manage, and in our "profession," as some are pleased to call it, it is only now and then we meet with them. I may say that in the whole course of my adventures, I have never seen more than half-a-dozen.

I give an illustration of one, and, to my mind, the hardest battle I ever fought, with the odds no less than three times, as I thought, considerably in my favour.

Though the sketch does not profess to be a faithful representation of the spot; still the stile, the poplars and the old wall on the opposite side, and the dead, troublesome tree with its horrid arms extended and ever skirting the water, may help frequenters of the Usk to recognise this the "Top catch in the withy bed."

Now, when a fish sweeps gently up from the water, having by its decidedly devilish device contrived to settle preliminaries by way of getting the line taut, it stands to reason, if it rests on its tail and shakes its head the right way violently, something or other must go.

When this pool is in trim, the stream is unquestionably fast, and the wading is fearful; precisely so. The catch (rather awkward to command from this side) is in front of the dead tree, as shown, in the water. Well, and perhaps, good; but, directly the fish was hooked, it ran foul there and sulked. However, I let loose some 50 yards of line, after switching it well over, and put the point of the rod down as deep as I could. This had the desired effect, for in winding in I found the fish free and flying up stream. I knew the bottom was dangerous, and so hurried back; the dancing, however, commenced then and there. Now, no boy in his teens would think of holding on then, and out went a few yards of line.

I should mention that the stream is considerably faster just above, and, therefore, I knew there would be no long-continued fight up there; but, long before I had time to think about it, the fish returned to its haunt, fouled again, and took down the river, where, at short intervals, the dignified dance was repeated. After much difficulty I waded back beyond the stile, and, switching the line still farther over, we were freed once more, and "at it" again.

To get below was impossible, either by wading, or down on the bank, and with a new fish of from twenty to five-and-twenty pounds in such water, there was no persuading it up above, or even holding it when it was there.

As a matter of fact, "the more they do—as the saying runs—the quicker they die"; but this one was at the "tip-top of the class," and marvellously well educated. The instant the cancanette was over, down it went and sulked again. There was nothing for it but to put on all the strain one could whenever the opportunity offered.

I quite made up my mind after the second time to hold on and prevent, if possible, any further falling foul. All stuff and nonsense, I admit, for in such a run of water it was entirely out of the question.

Again did he head down, and again was I round the tree, or I should say, "up a tree," and to some tune this time, for the salmon made almost straight for me, only once more to dance and—to smash.

I have often heard it said, "the deeper the intricacies, the deeper the interest"; but in all conscience I ask, where is the guidance of common sense—where the teachings of experience to leave us at rest and to qualify us for such desperate superiority?

As a rule, when not burdened with these stubby obstructions and the course clear, we can bid defiance to such tactics, and no harm happens if we give line, and that, too, without a moment's hesitation.

It is a splendid sight to see these fine fellows fight, even if in the insolence of their strength they do get the better of us; even if they do snatch away, vanish, and go—like a bubble from the palm of our hands—to leave nothing behind but the damp of disappointment.

## THE REANIMATION OF FISH WITH SPIRITS.

The following appears to-day in the *Fish Culture Journal*, published under the auspices of the National Fish Culture Association:—

"The truth of the assertion recently made by an American authority to the effect that brandy acts as an immediate means of revivifying fish on the point of expiration, has been completely and unquestionably vindicated by Mr. W. Oldham Chambers, Secretary of the National Fish Culture Association, who conducted an experiment in the presence of several gentlemen at South Kensington a few days since. Taking two Prussian carp from the tanks of the aquarium, he deposited them in separate dry cans, adorning one with blue ribbon to denote its enforced temperance principles and to distinguish it from the other, which was selected for the administration of spirituous liquors. After a lapse of four hours the fish were placed in water, evident signs of expiration being apparent in both cases. A small quantity of brandy and water was then given to the carp selected for the imbibition of intoxicating liquors through the medium of a feather, and no sooner was the fish replaced in water than it was restored to vigour and strength. The carp enlisted under the banner of the 'blue ribbon league' to all appearances died half an hour after its more fortunate associate, and was taken out of the water and thrown on to the ground. About four hours later, however, the fish was picked up by Mr. Chambers, who observed it by appearance to be *in rigor mortis.* He then at once operated on the seemingly inanimate fish by opening its mouth and pouring a dose of brandy and water down its throat, and again inserting it in the water, when to his utter astonishment he noticed slight signs of animation. For five minutes the unfortunate object of the experiment floated helplessly on its side, when presently, to the still greater astonishment of those who watched the experiment, it gradually asserted itself in the water, and with considerable effort made use of its fins—feebly at first, but afterwards energetically. Both the resuscitated fishes, who show no signs of their late prostration, now swim about with their *confrères* in the tanks as usual.

"The instantaneous reanimation produced to the carp in the first instance was indeed remarkable; but what can be said of the latter, which recovered after remaining out of water for eight hours? Surely this discovery will prove of the greatest utility and value to the National Fish Culture Association in restoring fish that would otherwise perish, and be the means of securing greater longevity amongst them."

[We hope Mr. Chambers will experiment on a fish which dies quickly out of water—like trout, roach, or dace; carp will live for weeks out of water, and the Dutch keep them alive in nets suspended in the air, a little damp moss being put round them. What a capital thing it will be if we can keep our Thames dace alive when pike fishing merely by putting a little brandy into their water. —Ed.]

**Capture of a Large Salmon.**—A salmon, weighing 45lb., and in fine condition, was caught on the 2nd inst. at Bowes fishing station in the Tay, opposite Kinfauns Castle, by Mr. Pitcaithly, Elcho Cottage. It was brought to land in twenty minutes after being struck.

**The Teith.**—Recently Colonel Robertson caught a salmon of 21lb.; Mr. John Ferguson, three of 8lb., 17lb., and 18lb.; Mr. Norman, two of 16lb. and 23lb.; and Mr. W. M'Alpine, a grilse of 6lb. and a fine salmon of 18lb.

George James Eaton, of Starkholmes, Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required, from gentlemen who can fish, to prove whether they may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—(Advt.)

## ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

W.—Several of the best broads have been closed to anglers, and we should, for our part, prefer to try Torcross. A great many pike have been taken there, and it is a very comfortable place according to all accounts.

# CORRESPONDENCE.

[*We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.*]

## PUBLIC ANGLING RIGHTS ON THE UPPER THAMES.

Sir,—I shall be greatly obliged if you will give me an opportunity of publicly criticising the report issued by Mr. Storey-Maskelyne's Select Committee on Thames Preservation. Until recently there were only a few claims to private fisheries on the Upper Thames; but, owing to the report of the committee, which committee was appointed expressly to state the "steps necessary to secure the river as a place of recreation," every inch of the Thames, from Staines upwards, is now, as regards angling, claimed as private. Thus the appointment of the committee, which was made ostensibly in the interests of the public, has had the extraordinary result of placing them in a far worse position than they were before.

Owing to comparatively recent attempts by a few riparian owners to prevent angling in special parts of the river, and also on account of some half dozen interferences with the navigation in backwaters, this committee was appointed. By the very terms of the resolution appointing them, the House of Commons unanimously expressed its opinion that the river Thames should be kept as a place of recreation for the public. On August 14th the committee issued their report. It was to this effect: That when legislation on the subject should take place, the navigation should be declared public all over the river. This presumably settles the case of the half dozen interferences in backwaters. Next they advised that the tow-paths should be bought and converted into public footpaths, concerning which I may remark that the public have always walked along the tow-paths and have met with very little interference. This much and no more can I find in the report at all conducive to the enjoyment of the Upper Thames as a place of public recreation; but I find that the committee recommend all boats to be taxed to provide funds for that by no means public-spirited body—the Thames Conservancy; and that, after saying that "angling has only been interfered with by riparian owners in a few places—at any rate, in modern times," they add that "the public at large have only to know that their rights are imaginary to induce them to be content with the extant system under which permission is freely given," &c. Now, "the extant system" was this: In a few backwaters and mill-tails the public asked for permission to angle, and usually got it; but, as regards the main stream of the river, such a thing as a private or *several* fishery was never heard of. It is very difficult to see what induced the committee to take upon themselves to decide what is, to say the least, a most intricate question of law, and upon which very high legal authorities differ, more especially as their decision is at variance with the object for which they were appointed. Surely a more proper course would have been to have reported the facts so far as really known—viz., that the public had been in the habit of angling without interference in most parts of the river, but that claims to *several* fisheries had been made in certain cases; that angling is, next to boating, the principal recreation of the river; and that it is extremely desirable that the greater portion of the Upper Thames should be, therefore, kept as a public fishery. Following these remarks might have come the recommendation that certain legal machinery be created to inquire into, and adjudicate upon, these claims to *several* fisheries, and that if the fisheries of the whole, or a greater portion, of the Upper Thames should be satisfactorily shown to be *several* or private, that certain portions, more particularly those in the neighbourhood of railway stations, should be declared public by the Legislature, and the owners of such private fisheries should be compensated. Such a report as this would, I contend, have properly carried out the instructions given to the Select Committee by the House of Commons. The committee also say that the relations between the riparian proprietors and the angling public are satisfactory. If they are, why was the committee appointed? And why, after having been appointed, should they issue a report which must make those "relations" highly unsatisfactory? Is it likely that these riparian owners, many of whom have shown the greatest *animus* against the public, will, on feeling certain of being possessed of private fisheries, grant permission to everyone who desires it to angle?—for many thousand persons are in the habit of angling on the Upper Thames. The committee absolutely make no suggestion as to angling; they place the public in a far worse position than they were before, and leave them there. Should the Upper Thames be closed as an angling resort to the public, the lower river—from Staines downwards—could not by any possibility bear the strain put upon it, and would, in a very few years, be depleted of fish.

For the benefit of those who have not studied the question, I would add that the contention of the public is this: that the angling is, in most parts of the river, public, as being vested in the Crown. Strong presumptive evidence of this is the fact that certain undoubted owners of private fisheries hold such fisheries by charter direct from the Crown. Again, no riparian owner can take soil from the bed of the river without a license from the Conservators, and *with* this license *anyone* may do so; thus the soil undoubtedly vests in the Crown. According to the riparians the fisheries are covered by the manors and do not necessarily follow the soil of the river. There have been no legal decisions on this question, yet a committee, consisting for the most part of gentlemen without any legal training, have taken upon themselves to settle the law of a case which none but high legal authorities are competent to decide. Space forbids me going any further into the matter.

I would mention that the Upper Thames is protected by four or five angling associations who, like the Thames Angling Preservation Society, act only in the interests of the public, and are not angling clubs. Under their care the river has, so far as trout fishing is concerned especially, vastly improved. I know one weir-pool where, on any moderately favourable day, six to a dozen and a half nice trout may be taken with the fly. They would mostly be under the legal size (16in.); but I mention this to show how plentiful trout have become. Three years ago a Fishery Preservation Association was formed at Henley. Since then the Association has put over a thousand trout in the river, varying from yearling size to 2lb. in weight; they have also hatched immense quantities of *ova*, and turned into the river about 50,000 fish, of the Loch Leven variety of trout. The work of the Association is done by honorary officers, whose feelings may be imagined when they read in the report that their labour and all the money expended had gone only to benefit a private fishery. The other associations have been equally active.

When Parliament comes to legislate on these matters, it is to be hoped that some other "relations" than those "generally satisfactory" ones which the Select Committee imagine to exist may be arranged between the public and the riparian proprietors. All liberal-minded men will, I think, support the public in this matter. Where riparian owners have been in the habit of excluding the angling public from these waters, and have done so legally, let these places by all means be kept as preserves; but where the public have always angled without let or hindrance, which is over the greater portion of the river, let these parts be declared public fisheries. If any claim to *several* fisheries should crop up to any such parts, a very small sum would fully compensate the owners. It seems hard to believe that under a Liberal Parliament the public should, by action of the Legislature, be excluded from angling on the river above Staines. I trust you will consider the importance of the subject to many thousands of artisans and the middle class of London a sufficient excuse for the length of this letter. My principal object is to show that Parliament cannot, after the terms of its resolution appointing the Select Committee, logically act upon that committee's report—a report which has done so little good and so much serious harm to the public in respect of their rights on the Upper Thames.—I am, &c.,

A Founder and Sometime Hon. Secretary of an Upper Thames Fishery Preservation Association.

## THE RIGHT TO A THAMES SWIM.

Sir,—I observed Mr. Britton's letter in your issue of the 6th inst., but as your editorial note so fully answered him I had no intention of troubling you with a reply. This time my pole was fixed in what is known as the boat-house swim, but it was only left whilst I went away to breakfast, as I had been fishing there earlier, and thought no harm could result from such a proceeding. The rights or wrongs of the case have never yet been determined, but I think it will be a bad time for anglers and fishermen alike if the right to bait and claim a swim by the proper means is made unlawful and liable to be appropriated by any stray angler of Mr. Britton's position who might feel disposed to seize it. No angler could expect to get barbel or bream unless the swim had been baited beforehand, and it has long been the rule and custom acknowledged by all true fishermen above lock that the pole put by the side of the swim is secured against all comers, and no one can claim the swim, but it is left there by common consent and honesty. But that does not appear to be Mr. Britton's idea or system from his letter, as he seems to consider that he has a right to seize any swim it may suit him to fix upon, a view which your editorial note very properly rejects.

With regard to "Fair Play's" letter, appearing in your issue of the 11th inst., alleging that my pole had been fixed and I was fishing in swim for a fortnight, I simply say it is utterly untrue, as all the professional fishermen of Twickenham except two—Mr. C. Miles and Mr. Spiers, his fisherman—have signed a memorandum denying the statements made by "Fair Play," and other fishermen who fish most days on most parts of the river also strenuously deny the truth of "Fair Play's" statements, and protest against such reckless and untruthful language. I a short time since fished a swim for barbel as an experiment for four days, but took up my pole each evening and replaced it in the morning early when I went to bait the swim and fish it, or employed a man to do so for me. The swim is out of the navigable part of the river, and no fisherman, neither before nor since, has fished this identical spot, as most of the anglers who fish at Twickenham fish for roach and dace; very few anglers who come here to fish would care to go barbel fishing entirely, as they might for a day or two after baiting get nothing. This being an exceptional year in the tideway, they might have been more successful, but it would be all a chance. I took from this swim two tench, two dozen very fine dace, and two perch. Mr. Wright, fishing in the same swim, took six tench and a few dace, all taken Trenting. Now, as this swim can only be fished with any chance of success in this style, and there are few men who come to fish who adopt this style of fishing, what difference did my taking the swim make to the general body of anglers, whether I fished this swim four days or four months? The few fish taken from this swim for so many days' baiting would not satisfy many anglers. I don't complain of my sport or the expenses of baiting; but to get up two hours earlier than most fishermen expect to do for a day's fishing, it would be hard lines if I left my position for an hour, intending to return, and should have the swim taken from me, or begrudge me of my success if I were fortunate enough to get good sport. You may gather from the foregoing that "Fair Play's" next complaint of several fishermen bringing at fares, and having no chance of getting a swim on account of my pole, is equally misrepresented. I may have been away, as stated by "Fair Play," for a short time; but I should never think of removing my pole unless it was in the navigable part of the river—then I should put some person to keep an eye on it to see that it was not in any one's way, which I did on the very morning referred to by Mr. Britton.

"Fair Play's" experience of the river and fishermen generally is very vague, as he complains of the evil consequences of my example, whilst every man who has the slightest knowledge of the habits of Twickenham fishermen knows very well that if he is anxious to get a good day's fishing and would like to obtain a certain swim, he either employs someone to take the swim he fancies for him or does so himself—that is, if he is anxious to do his best for his customers. Are these men to be blamed for so doing? I say they are to be commended by every right-thinking, energetic angler, and if "Fair Play's" customers do not get good sport on account of his inability to be up early enough, the sooner he alters his indolent habits the better for him and his customers. And assuming "Fair Play" pretends to be a professional, as he states, he probably goes out a few times a year, and imagines when he does every other fisherman must give way to him, and give up their swim to satisfy his jealous disposition. Let "Fair Play" and every other angler, before he rushes into print headlong, ascertain the facts and consider for himself personally before committing them to public criticism, as a more scandalous fabrication has never been put before them. If the remarks made by me in this letter are doubted, I ask Mr. Spreckley, the President of the T.A.P.S., or any independent gentleman who takes an interest in angling matters, to come and see each individual fisherman himself, or ask any gentleman who has the means of knowing. He will then find "Fair Play's" statement to be utterly unfounded, as I trust I have sufficiently explained to you and your readers.

We, the undersigned professional fishermen of Twickenham, beg to say we have not authorised anyone to write to the Fishing Gazette on our behalf, and, further, that Mr. Johnson's pole has not been in any swim as spoken of by "One who Expects Fair Play":—Messrs. R. Coxen, J. Coxen, John Coxen, sen., James Coxen, J. Spong, W. Walker (Two Sawyers), Alfred Perrin (late Two Sawyers), J. Chamberlane, G. Lee, James Moffatt, Edward Finch, S. Cole, John Coxen, jun., Pert Hammerton, James Darbin, J. Anesey, G. Coxen, S. Mesley, W. Hammerton (waterman), J. Munro (waterman).

I should be obliged to you to insert this letter.—I am &c.,

Twickenham, Oct. 14th. W. Johnson.

[This letter from Mr. Johnson comes in, curiously enough, just as we are off to fish a Thames swim which has been baited for three days at considerable expense. We do not expect to find any other angler has taken that swim, though it has only been marked by a pole probably.—Ed.]

Sir,—You were good enough to insert in your impression of last week my opinion regarding the above, and as I now think the matter is drifting into experienced and impartial hands, I do not intend to venture much more upon the subject, so please forgive me for troubling you a second time. I regret, Mr. Editor, I cannot agree with you in your reply to mine, for I do not think the fixing of a punt duly occupied, and the mere fixing of a pole, to be a method quite opposed to each other for securing a swim, and I feel sure I am not alone in that judgment. Again, Sir, may I ask you, if it is a fair question. Would you care to risk placing your tackle, &c., on the riverside at 7 p.m. at the station you intended fishing, and come down at 10.30 to commence business, as Mr. J. did his pole? I think not; nor do I think bank anglers are in the habit of adopting such a course; hence, I fail to trace the one principle being applied to both classes of fishing.

You also go on to say no argument at present is likely to induce you to alter your view. Now, Sir, I think if one reads the correspondents' letters that follow mine, a distinct change in your opinion will be noted; for, after all, both the other letters carry out my view, although possibly expressed somewhat differently. I have also again read the original letter from W. H. Britton, and do not see the word "insist," as you have it in your last reply to him; and I must say, had I written to you for an opinion on a technical point of fishing law, I should not have expected the Editor of the Fishing Gazette to wander so entirely away from the question asked; for the advice you give that correspondent appears to me as vague as it is unmerited. Trusting you will again give this space in your next issue,—I am, &c.,

50, Clifton Hill, St. John's Wood, N., Oct. 14. Walter Long.

[We said Mr. Britton informed us he had insisted on fishing in a swim already claimed by another angler. Mr. Long says he does not see the word "insist" in Mr. Britton's letter, and hints that it is an unfair construction to put on his words. By his own confession Mr. Britton did have his punt fixed in the swim; he admits his fisherman had "compunction" in putting it there, that he refused to give it up to Mr. Johnson, who had previously, as he thought, secured it in the ordinary way. If this is not "insisting," what is? What advice does Mr. Britton or his friend want? Just what suits their view of the matter doubtless; anything else is "vague, unmerited," &c., &c.—Ed.]

Sir,—In the first place, I think the best thanks of all lovers of angling are due to Mr. Britton for ventilating this vexed question, and also to you, Sir, for allowing it to occupy a prominent part in your issues, although, in common with many, I would have preferred your hearing both sides before introducing your editorial notes. Anyone accused of having fixed a pole up and kept it there for 14 consecutive days in one swim must be an enthusiastic angler, and Mr. Johnson is known to be, not only that, but a staunch supporter of Thames fishing, and, although he generally carries off a valuable prize or two at the Richmond Piscatorials, yet his name is always down for a prize or two, and what is more, no angler returns more fish into their native element. But this is, after all, beside the question, which is, "Has an amateur or professional fisherman the right to place a pole up over night (*without the punt*) and claim that pitch throughout the day or day?" I say, decidedly not. When a fishing match takes place, here or elsewhere, the rule is that a start shall be made from the shore at a certain time, and the man who "shoves" the smartest, gets what he considers the best swim. Up river, say Cookham, Streatley, Maidenhead, Marlow, &c., the customers going out are pretty well known over-night, and as here baiting swims is tolerably universal, the fishermen work together, and there is very seldom a wrangle; but in the tidal waters it is totally different, Take Twickenham (which appears to be the chosen arena for the debate); well, the known swims from the Orleans to Chillingworth's, a distance of about half a mile, number at the most, ten, and there are fourteen punts belonging to fishermen. Walker has five: Coxon four; Miles three. Now, for the sake of argument, suppose these were to combine and send a man over-night to fix 12 poles in pitches; according to your editorial theory they would be perfectly in order. It is generally known that, despite the dearth of water, the fishing in the tidal waters has been the best known for many years, and consequently more punts are to be built this winter for the next campaign. Now, I wish to ask you, Sir, if your theory be adopted, how it is possible for the old-fashioned fishermen, who owning their own punts, are able to accommodate their customers, who either come down without notice or wire in the morning? All fishermen understand a temporary absence for luncheon, shelter from storms, &c.; but I, for one, most emphatically protest against the wholesale system of "poleing" now going on. A punt should be moored, and somebody in it to prove a right to a pitch. Mr. Johnson was going round amongst the professional fishermen of this place on Sunday last getting their signatures to a document to the effect that they had never seen him have his pole up more than five days together (!) instead of fourteen, as "One who Gives and Expects Fair Play" accuses him of. If Mr. J. is well advised he will let the matter drop; and I may as well state that, with a view of avoiding any further unpleasantness, I have written to the Thames Conservancy as to their power of removing obstacles sticking up in the fairway of the river, and asking them to exercise the powers they possess. This appears to be the best way of striking at the root of the evil. As regards barbel swims here, this has been an exceptional year with these fish. I remember a few years ago "Robin Hood," the able Coursing Correspondent of the *Field*, sending Stephen Grant 6,000 worms from Nottingham. They were duly chopped up and dropped in a so-called barbel swim opposite his house, and 'narry a bite the next day. This is the same hole where Alfred Little got his 48 barbel two or three weeks ago! In conclusion, I say let the question be thoroughly threshed out, for the benefit of all parties.—I am, &c., M. B.

Twickenham, Oct. 15.

[We must remind Mr. B. that our advice was *asked;* also that if we waited till we heard both sides of the question we might wait for ever. Mr. Johnson has not begun to answer yet. The postscript to our Sonning river report this week refers to this question. We mention it, as it may be overlooked.—Ed.]

Sir,—In your issue of October 11th you misquote my former letter. I did not insist upon fishing in the swim in question, and thought my letter on the subject sufficiently explicit, as I mentioned the fact of Mr. Johnson coming down about 10.30. Myself and friends fished below.

I think you will agree with me that to advise apologies being given to a person who had threatened one with personal violence, would be rather an extreme view for anyone to accept.

You ask me what I think is to become of the pleasure of Thames angling if the question of swims are to be settled as I settled it? Well, Mr. Editor, I think if private individuals were to exercise a more rigid observance of their real rights, as the fishermen are compelled to do, the pleasure would be greatly enhanced and it would obviate the necessity of seeking your advice and opinion upon one subject and getting it upon another.—I am, &c.,

Putney. W. H. Britton.

[Rather too much, is it not, Mr. Britton, to expect us to have taken into consideration, in answering your question of two weeks ago, matters which you only now bring forward? Your letter of Oct. 4 can only be read as an account of how you took another man's swim, and how he was impertinent, and you gave him your opinion. Now you say you "fished below"—i.e., in another swim, we presume. If you had said that at first, of course we should not have advised you to apologise. We could only advise you on the facts as stated by you at the time, and we defy anyone to read your letter of Oct. 4 otherwise than as showing you had insisted on fishing in another angler's swim.—Ed.]

## EYED DOUBLE SALMON HOOKS.

Sir,—May I ask, does "An Amateur" wish to have any double-eyed hooks? I think I can obtain some, such as the fly I sent you was dressed upon. They are expensive—4s. 6d. a dozen the smaller, 5s. a dozen the larger size. I can, or may, obtain all the intermediate sizes. If these I inclose will suit him, I will do my best to obtain a set of 10 dozen or part of a set such as he requires.

I beg to say I perfectly agree with your remarks, "There is not much of the Wickham Fancy, &c." Few of the modern dressing bear a strong resemblance; and I would add, any departure from an original destroys its identity.—I am, &c.,

6, Jewry-street, Winchester. Geo. Currell.

[We do not like the position of the eye in these hooks. The shape and position of Mr. Hall's eye is by far the best for the salmon fly.—Ed.]

Sir,—In response to your note to "An Amateur's" letter, I inclose a couple of eyed salmon hooks, the remains of some which I got from Messrs. Kelly and Sons, Dublin, some five or six years ago.

You will observe that the eyes are differently formed on the two patterns. That on the larger is the best, though I think it is open to improvement. Hoping to get same with all the latest improvements, I wrote, the other day, to Messrs. Gillett and Co. for some, but was informed that they had not got *any* eyed salmon hooks. I then wrote to the A. and N. Co-operative Stores, and was told that they would be procured for me—this was a fortnight ago, but I havn't got them yet.

There seems to be a prejudice against them, of which I cannot see the reason; flies tied on them are practically everlasting, a lot of trouble is saved, and the bodies can be tied much finer. I think the system should answer specially well for double hooks. Could any of your correspondents tell me where to get—1st, double salmon hooks; 2nd, bronzed salmon hooks?—I am, &c., Green Wren.

[We are much obliged to "Green Wren," and will send the samples on to "An Amateur." They are very good.—Ed.]

## SALMON FLIES ON EYED-HOOKS.

Sir,—With reference to "An Amateur's" remarks in your issue of 11th inst. we inclose for your inspection samples of our *patent cranked-shanked eyed-hooks*, also a "silver doctor" salmon fly dressed on one of them, which give great satisfaction and are much appreciated by anglers, and we have no doubt would meet with the approval of your correspondent, who may obtain them from any respectable fishing tackle dealers.—We are, &c.,

Standard Works, Redditch, Oct. 15th. S. Allcock and Co.

[In some other foot-note we have referred to Messrs. S. Allcock's eyed hooks. This letter came since we wrote the note; but we have only to add the hooks are very nicely made. We think the metal eye should be perfectly smooth and round, or the gut will get cut very soon.—Ed.]

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Sir,—It is quite probable that your correspondent, "An Amateur," will get the *true Limerick* hook salmon sizes eyed from Kelly and Son, of Dublin. They sent me samples, in 1878, of small salmon hooks, with both vertical and horizontal eyes.—I am, &c., Geo. Bankart.

Leicester.

## IMPROVEMENT OF THE EYED-HOOK.

Sir,—It was with great pleasure I read in the Fishing Gazette of last Saturday your foot-note to Mr. Bankart's letter, in which you state, "The hatchet is now buried, and that Mr. Hall and he are again on friendly terms." This is very satisfactory. I have followed their letters with almost painful interest in both the *Field* and Fishing Gazette, and the uppermost wish in my mind has always been "that the unfortunate controversy should have its present happy termination." We as fly fishers are much indebted to both these gentlemen, and if they only now join efforts, I think we shall not be long before we arrive at the very desirable improvements in the shape of the eyed-hook. I quite agree with Mr. Bankart about the present shape.—I am, &c.,

2, Dunster House, Mincing-lane. Thos. J. Hodson.

## ANOTHER FORM OF EYED-HOOK.

Sir,—In common, I have no doubt, with most of your readers, I have followed the correspondence about eyed-hooks for trout flies with the utmost interest, and, whilst acknowledging, in the fullest possible manner, how much fly fishers are indebted to the inventors of the eyed-hook, and especially to Mr. H. S. Hall, I confess that the criticisms of a correspondent in your last number as to the conspicuousness of the eye as at present manufactured strike me as being very much to the purpose, and well worthy of full consideration.

There is no doubt that the large, turned-up eye, as I find it in the hooks which have been supplied to me, *is* conspicuous. Not only so, but the directions given by Mr. Hall, in your paper, for attaching the gut to the casting line, involve an "in-and-out" sort of process, easy enough in the angler's sanctum, but by no means so easy by the side of a trout stream, when perhaps "half a gale" is blowing, or a March wind is reminding the fisherman of the old saying about "all his fingers being thumbs,"—

> "The wind is in his eye, the water is in his boots." . . .

I confess I fail to perceive the advantage, from whatever point of view it is looked at, of the eye being *turned up*. I find that an eye simply like that of a needle gives apparently, at least, an equally good—shall I go so far as to say a much better?—result, whilst the simplest of all forms of fastening—a double half-hitch (if that be the correct word)—makes a knot perfectly straight, of the smallest size, and which, as it only involves the simple "threading of the needle" (so to speak), can be tied with great facility and rapidity under the most unfavourable conditions of wind and weather. I should very much like to hear your opinion, and that of Mr. Hall, on this modification of his eyed-hooks, observing at the same time that I cannot claim any merit whatever for the improvement, if such it should prove to be, as the suggestion was made to me by my preceptor in the "gentle art," Henry Ralph Francis, Esq., M.A., the accomplished author of "The Fly-fisher and his Library," and well known as one of the very best trout fishers that ever threw a fly over the clear trout streams of England.—I am, &c., H. Cholmondeley-Pennell.

P.S.—In order to explain more fully what I mean, I send you a needle with the gut attached as described.

[Although we have never seen a fly dressed on a needle-eyed-hook, the latter have been made for some years past by Messrs. Warner and Sons, of Redditch, Messrs. Milward and Son, Messrs. S. Allcock and Co., Mr. Guise, and other firms. If any of them like to send samples for Mr. Pennell to our care, we will forward them. We do not like any needle-eye which is straight, and for this reason: when Mr. S. Allcock called on us with samples of a needle eyed-hook, some months back, we pointed out that the gut must support the hook, and not hang loosely from it when the gut is held horizontally, and further that the pull should be on a line with the shank, and not at an angle. We bent a soft hook he had with him, so as to give the eye the same slant as Mr. Hall's eye (in his hooks, we mean), and they have done this. To fasten the gut you simply make a slip-knot round the shank after passing it through the eye, and you thus get just as straight a pull as if the gut is whipped to the shank.—Ed.]

## FLOUNDERS AT KINGSTON-ON-THAMES.

Sir,—It may be interesting to some of your readers, more especially to those gentlemen who were instrumental in stocking the Kingston waters with flounders some time back, to know that a member of this society, Mr. H. Adeane, while fishing there a few days back, caught one of the above named fish that weighed exactly 15¼oz., and measured 13in. in length. As far as could be ascertained by various inquiries at Kingston, and further down the river, it appears that a flounder weighing ½lb. has always been considered a good specimen, so that the one now recorded is worthy of special notice, being double the weight. Have you heard of any this size and weight?—I am, &c., H. Thompson.

Hon. Sec. Westbourne Park Piscatorial Society, Oct. 15th.

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Sir,—Mr. Spreckley has arranged to place a considerable quantity of flounders from the tideway into the river Thames at Hampton Court on Wednesday, Oct. 22nd, at 3 o'clock.

Those desirous of witnessing the operation must be at the Mitre Hotel, at Hampton Court, not later than the hour specified. There is a train from Waterloo Station (Hampton Court line) at 1.50.—I am, &c.,

7, Ironmonger-lane, E.C., Oct. 14th. W. H. Brougham, Secretary.

## LOSS OF WEIGHT IN FISH AFTER DEATH.

Sir,—While ledgering from a house-boat at Hampton Broads, on Saturday afternoon, the 4th inst., I caught a chub, which, as I had no steelyard with me, a friend took to the neighbouring town, where it was weighed (at a bootmaker's), and the weight returned at 3lb. 13oz. I took it to Cooper for preservation on the following Monday, when it weighed 3lb. 12oz.

The length was 19½in. On referring to the scale of weights in Pennell's "Angler Naturalist," I find that a chub of 19in. weighs 3lb. 15¼oz., and one of 20in., 4lb. 9½oz. Mine was a deep and broad fish, in fine condition.

I cannot help thinking that there was a mistake about the first weight given. Surely the fish would have wasted more than 1oz. in two days. Will you favour me with your opinion?—I am, &c., A. C.

Gray's Inn.

[We should say that a chub of this size would not lose more than an ounce at this time of the year, when they are, as a rule, in good, firm condition; an ounce, or about half as much liquid as an ordinary dinner port-wine glass holds, looks a good deal when emptied out on a plate or dish. The tables giving relative weight to length are, of course, only approximately correct—or rather correct on the average. After the first 48 hours or so, and until it begins to decompose, a fish loses little or nothing in weight. A flabby, out-of-condition fish will lose more than a firm, good-conditioned one.—Ed.]

## WHARFE GRAYLING FLIES.

Sir,—If "Cinnamon," as he says, has tried Wharfe flies and cannot kill with them, I should say his case was hopeless. I had a letter the other day from a friend giving as a result of two afternoons' fly-fishing on Wharfe during last week in September, eleven grayling, besides six trout (this on a hard-fished length). "Cinnamon" was the best fly. I only gave "Cinnamon" the results of my own experience. It seems his is widely different. I have at different times had 20s. worth of flies from London, &c., and have found them worthless. I have about two dozen in my book tied on hair, which he can have if he cares for them. I certainly miscalled red tag, but that is the only fancy fly I have found to kill well.—I am, &c.,

Orange Partridge.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS ON BEHALF OF THE WIDOW AND FAMILY OF THE LATE S. MORGAN.

Sir,—I beg to acknowledge to this date the sum of £39 6s., including £5 5s. from T. Spreckley, Esq., £3 1s. from T. Crumplen, Esq., £2 2s. from P. Geen, Esq., £2 2s. from the late J. Hervell, Esq., £1 1s. from R. Teale, Esq. (Rye House), and £6 5s. from the *Sporting Life*, the balance from angling societies and lists from private friends and anglers. I am informed that there are other lists from angling societies and friends to come in, which are promised to be forwarded shortly, after which I will acknowledge and give a full account. In the mean time I beg to thank all those kind friends for their liberality in subscribing so handsome a sum.—I am, &c.,

Oct. 15th. R. Ghurney.

## APPARATUS CONNECTED WITH FISH HATCHING WANTED.

Sir,—I shall be very glad if some of your correspondents will be kind enough to tell me where I can get a good slicing or mincing machine that will cut up liver or meat very fine indeed for feeding trout fry as soon as they get out of the alevin stage?

Also where I can obtain the large glass tubes, with a bulb or globe in the lower half of the tube for examining eggs or fry?

We are now erecting a new hatchery, the cost of erecting alone being upwards of £60. Hitherto our hatching operations have been carried on in two places and under difficulties.—I am, &c.,

King's Lynn. H. Bradfield.

[Sorry we did not see the letter.—Ed.]

## A NOTE FROM NOTTINGHAM.

Sir,—Several old hands have been out salmon fishing this week, and several fish have been caught on Monday in the shallow water, one Derby angler getting one 11lb., whilst another got smashed twice through using an old line; with the spinning bait the same angler has killed 20 salmon this season. Mr. Moll, of Castle Donnington, got another nice fish. With the change in the weather and water I expect to hear of some more being taken, as plenty have been seen. Several barbel have been caught at King's Mills. In the lower parts of the river very little has been done this week.

At our club dinner on Saturday it was the general complaint amongst the members that it has been a very bad season. The following is a list of the heaviest fish weighed in:—Barbel 7lb. 4oz., bream 3lb. 10oz., dace 10¼oz., perch 9¼oz. roach 1lb. 5oz., bleak 1¾oz. A. W.

P.S.—Mr. Editor, in my report last week you make Mr. Baker catch his pike at Colwick. If you refer to my letter you will see he got them at Hickling. As Mr. Baker and several of the gentlemen who fish the Colwick water have become subscribers of your paper, you will see that anything but a correct report would never do.

## PSHAW!

Sir,—In your issue of last Saturday you make me write nonsense by leaving out a single word. Speaking of the Winchester trout, I said that they know in a very special manner "'a hawk from a heronshaw' (or young heron)—or, as some interpret the passage, 'a hawk from a heron!'" This on the face of it is nonsense. What I wrote ran thus: "Or as some interpret the passage, 'A hawk from a heron! Pshaw!'" This makes just the difference between "point" and "bosh."

In reference to your note, I may say that I do not like a gut eye for small river flies so well as the loop, for many reasons.

But I am most anxious that the error should be corrected. I believe in the original version it was "a hawk from a handsaw." Then it was altered to heronshaw as being in consonance with hawking for the young heron; whilst one bold dramatist gave it additional "point" by the contemptuous "Pshaw!"—I am, &c., E. M. Tod.

[We must apologise to Mr. Tod for cutting out his "Pshaw." In hurriedly reading his note last week we missed the "point." We forgot last week to advise him to write to Messrs. S. Allcock and Co., of Redditch, for some samples of their patent needle-eyed crank shank. We fancy it would meet his requirements.—Ed.]

## WHAT IS IT?

Sir,—Whilst out at Walton last week my attendant took a fish he called a "Thames rudd." So far as I could judge, it resembled a roach in every respect but one, which was, that the anal fin was very much elongated and similar in shape to that of the bleak. It had not the projecting under jaw of the rudd, and was furnished with teeth in single rows only, one of which (the other unfortunately got damaged) consisted of six teeth. Neither the rudd or bream has that number (see "Pennell's Angler Naturalist," and no roach that ever I saw had a fin suchas I have described, hence the query at the head of this letter.

If you or any of your readers can, through your columns, throw any light on the subject, I shall feel greatly obliged.—I am, &c.,

Regent's Park. E.

[So many fish from other waters have been put into the Thames from time to time that it is impossible to say what is a Thames fish. We should say the fish in question was a hybrid of some kind.—Ed.]

## RUDD.

Sir,—I have caught a rudd, ¾lb., with a minnow, and also an eel spinning with a spoon bait, as well as a salmon. Are not bones attractive to perch? What is the largest rudd known?—I am, &c., G. P.

Navan.

## A CORRECTION.

Sir,—In your issue of last week there is a mistake in the weight of one of the jack: it should be 15lb., not 5lb. I do not think I made the mistake.—I am, &c.,

S. Renaut.

The Old White Hart, Boro' High-street, S.E.

[The printer regrets to say that it was his mistake.—Ed.]

SALMON & TROUT-FISHING.

CHAS. FARLOW & Co.,
191, STRAND, London, W.C.,
MANUFACTURERS OF FIRST-CLASS RODS AND TACKLE,
SALMON AND TROUT FLIES, SUITABLE FOR
ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD.
Mahseer Tackle in Great Variety.
Makers of Split Cane Rods.
Improved Folding Trout Landing Nets
(Very Light).
New Patent Lever Salmon Winch
(Can be regulated to any stiffness at will).
PENNELL'S TACKLE KEPT IN STOCK.

CATALOGUES GRATIS. PRIZE MEDALS. IMPORTERS OF SILKWORM GUT.

GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY.

RIVER THAMES.—The Great Western Railway, having Stations on the Banks of the River at Brentford, Windsor, Taplow, Maidenhead, Cookham, Bourne-end, Great Marlow, Henley, Reading-Pangbourne, Goring, Moulsford, Wallingford, &c., affords unequalled facilities to those desirous of visiting it for Fishing and Other Purposes.

ANGELRS' TICKETS.—Cheap Third-class Return Tickets, available for three days, are issued at Paddington, Weatbourne-park, and Kensington (Addison-road), to Stations within 50 miles of London to members of "The Angler's Association," and "The Central Association of London Angling Clubs," who present their Cards of Membership at the time of taking their tickets.

CHEAP DAY EXCURSIONS.—Cheap Day Excursion Tickets are issued daily by certain specified trains until October 31st, from Paddington, Westbourne-park, Hammersmith, Kensington (Addison-road), and Uxbridge-road, and certain Stations on the Metropolitan and District Railways to

| | s. d. | | s. d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Windsor | 2 6 | Cookham<br>Bourne-end<br>Great Marlow<br>Henley | 3 6 |
| Taplow<br>Maidenhead | 3 0 | | |

For Further Particulars see Company's Time Bills.
J. GRIERSON, General Manager.

SANDOWN PARK CLUB RACES,
ESHER, SATURDAY, 18th OCTOBER.

SOUTH-WESTERN RAILWAY.—CHEAP TRAINS up to 10 a.m., and SPECIAL TRAINS from Waterloo, Vauxhall, and Clapham Junction (Kensington Line in connection) from 10 a.m., returning from Esher after the Races.

The Special First-Class Train, for Members of the Club only, starts from No. 6 Platform at Waterloo at 12.0. The last Special Train will leave Waterloo at 1.0 p.m.

The Ordinary Trains between London and Esher will be suspended from 10.0 a.m. to 1.0 p.m., but Special Trains will run at Special Fares. Also from Esher to London from 4.0 to 5.30 p.m.

Passengers holding Cheap Return Tickets cannot return till after 5.30 p.m. For Fares, see Bills.

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# RIVER REPORTS.

## TIME OF HIGH WATER IN THE THAMES.

To find the time of high water in the Thames at any of the following places, to the time of high water at London Bridge (given below).

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Add | 30 | minutes for | Chelsea. |
| | 40 | ,, | Putney. |
| | 45 | ,, | Hammersmith. |
| | 50 | ,, | Barnes. |
| | 55 | ,, | Kew. |
| | 75 | ,, | Richmond. |
| | 80 | ,, | Twickenham. |
| | 85 | ,, | Teddington. |

Example :—If it is high water at 2 o'clock at London Bridge, it will be high water at Teddington about 3.25, or eighty-five minutes later ; but it must be remembered that a strong wind accelerates or retards the tide very much.

For Times of High Water at London Bridge.

| | | | Morning. | Afternoon. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Saturday, | October | 18 | 1.15 | 1.34 |
| Sunday, | ,, | 19 | 1.53 | 2.10 |
| Monday, | ,, | 20 | 2.27 | 2.44 |
| Tuesday, | ,, | 21 | 3.0 | 3.16 |
| Wednesday, | ,, | 22 | 3.33 | 3.48 |
| Thursday, | ,, | 23 | 4.5 | 4.21 |
| Friday, | ,, | 24 | 4.37 | 4.54 |

Note.—New Moon October 19.

## THE LOWER THAMES.

### General Remarks.

There can be no doubt the result of the rainfall will have a beneficial effect on the river, and the strong probability of a good push of water coming down will have a tendency to disturb the jack and perch in their present retired quarters. The last few weeks have been distinguished by the large quantity of barbel that have been taken, and wherever anglers have adopted the necessary steps of previously baiting the swims the results have been strikingly satisfactory. There has also been some good bream caught and some good days made, notably those of Mr. Alfred Mackrill fishing with the veteran George Hone at Walton. The gudgeon have not been sought after this season to the same extent as usual, and yet from the reports of John Johnson, sen., at Kingston, those he has taken have been very fine and in goodly numbers. A day's gudgeon fishing is not to be despised : they give plenty of sport, and are very nice eating when properly cooked. Some anglers will not fish for them, as they are small : they go on the principle of George Hone, "Big 'uns or none." The report from the tideway is as follows :—"There is no difference in the water or the takes of fish : but some of the Richmond fishermen have not been out so many times the last few days as they would like to. The weather has been very cold lately on the water. The barbel are going off now, and the perch appear to be coming on at Teddington." Mr. Spreckley intends to take up another cargo of flounders from the tidal waters, and according to present arrangements they will be put in at Hampton Court at three o'clock on Wednesday afternoon next. There is a considerable falling off in the attendance of anglers, and if this rain continues it will improve everything.

### Angling Results.

**Richmond.**—Christopher Brown, in three days, 42lb. weight of roach and dace and one barbel. F. Brown, in four days, 48lb. and three barbel. H. Wheeler, in two days, 31lb. and one barbel. Henry Mansell, in two days, 50lb. and three barbel. Job Brain, in five days, 90lb. Henry Platt, in three days, 22lb. and five barbel. Henry Howard, in six days, 120lb. and one barbel.

**Twickenham.**—Henry Spiers, in three days, thirty-seven dozen of roach and dace. John Spong, in three days, 60lb. and one barbel. Pert Hammerton, in three days and one half day, 65lb. and one barbel. Joseph Dobbin, in one day, eight barbel (two put back) and nine dozen of roach and dace ; and in four other days, thirty dozen. James Coxen, in four days, seventy-three dozen and one barbel. Richard Coxen, in four days, 40lb. and four barbel. George Coxen, in the same time, 44lb. and eight barbel. F. Wiggins, a fine barbel of 7lb. 11oz. Samuel Cole, in six days, 90lb. of roach and dace ; and Edward Finch, in five days, 80lb.

**Teddington.**—Joseph Baldwin, in four days, twenty dozen of roach and dace, one and a half brace of perch, and three barbel. Benjamin Stevens, in three days, twenty-five dozen of roach and dace ; and Charles Baldwin, in four days, twenty-five dozen, two and a half brace of good perch, and one barbel.

**Kingston.**—John Johnson, sen., in four days, 15 barbel—the largest 4½lb.—one dozen of fine roach, and fifty dozen of gudgeon. Luke Francis, in one day, sixteen dozen of roach and dace, and a couple of bream. The bank anglers at Kingston, Surbiton, and Thames Ditton have been doing well amongst barbel, bream, chub, perch, roach, dace, and gudgeon.

**Hampton Court.**—Charles Davis, in one day, two chub of 3lb. each. Thomas Wheeler, in one day and a half day, four dozen of roach. Thomas Milbourne, in one day, nine brace of fine perch, several of the fish weighing 1lb. each. At "Tagg's Island Fishery" there has been taken ten dozen of roach, dace, and gudgeon.

**Sunbury.**—Edward Clarke, jun., two jack—the largest 3lb., twenty-five brace of perch, thirty dozen of gudgeon, and one dozen of fine roach, as the result of four days. H. Clarke, in one day, six brace of perch and nine dozen of gudgeon. The bank anglers are estimated to have taken in this neighbourhood not less than forty dozen of roach, dace, and gudgeon, in addition to perch, chub, barbel, and bream. The fishermen are hoping, after the rain, to see some customers, as there are plenty of fish.

**Walton.**—R. Watford, one day, four dozen of roach and dace, five dozen of gudgeon, one perch, and one chub ; another day, two barbel, two bream, and two dozen of roach and dace ; and another day, four bream and one chub. George Hone, in one day, seven and a half brace of perch. John Hone, one day, four barbel and two dozen of roach ; and, another day, three barbel and four bream.

**Halliford.**—W. S. Rosewell, in one day, five jack.

**Weybridge.**—J. Upsdell, in one day, five jack weighing 26lb. ; and Herbert Curr, in two days, twelve dozen of roaeh and dace.

**Shepperton.**—James Haslett, in one day, with Mr. G. F. Bainbridge, two jack, one perch, and a chub of 4¾lb ; another day, in two hours, three chub ; another day, three barbel and one brace of perch ; and, another day, five barbel and two chub.

**Chertsey.**—John Poulter, in one day, three barbel and three chub.

**Staines.**—Charles Hone, one day, fourteen barbel and three jack ; another day six barbel ; and, another day, eight jack, two weighing 6lb. each, and four barbel. John Keene, jun, in three days, fifteen dozen of roach and one barbel. John Keene, sen., in two days, two dozen of roach and dace and seven barbel. G. Osman, one day, six dozen of roach and dace ; and, another day, one brace of jack.

## UPPER THAMES.

Although rain has been falling fairly continuously for the past eight or nine days, the river does not seem to be affected by it, and keeps on the even brightness of its career. The weeds, I am pleased to say, are beginning to flag, and a few frosty nights will settle their upright manner, and make jack-fishing enjoyable and remunerative in the way of sport. At Pangbourne I hear that Mr. Whetstone, in about two hours, on Monday last, captured 27lb. of jack, and thus won the Shentonian Thames Piscatorial Club prize. He was lucky, in such water especially, as many other warriors bold were on the war-path ! At Purley a 3lb. jack has been picked up choked by a roach of ½lb., which was found by E. Sheppard protruding from the fish's mouth. In the Henley and Medmenham districts jack and barbel have been well to the fore, Neal and Bob Young especially leading their patrons to success. Harley boasts of three jack this week taken by Mr. Astor and friend. Those gentlemen are out to-day, but as yet I have not heard of any success. Thursday evening.—Jack will be now the coming fish, perch also will begin to herd, but frosts are required a bit for the latter fresh-water soles. Weather simply perfect for pleasant autumn outing.—Marlow Buzz.

### Thames (Datchet).

The good autumnal sport which should have been here among the roach and barbel is almost despaired of, and the water as low as ever. A jack or two might be got in the morning, and three or four roach in the evening. Mr. Lock, High-street, Eton, has had one or two goes among the perch, and has been fairly successful. Their appetite depends on the atmosphere. If it is a frosty morning, or a cold rough day, you will get perch. What a pretty sight I saw at Windsor yesterday ; 84 trout, 13in. and 14in. long, turned in at the expense of the Windsor and Eton Preservation Society. I have had two turns with patrons at the jack, and have managed to hook a fish each turn, but bad luck, they got off, one a large one ; but amends were made to-day ; out with Mr. Whitfield, Eton, with a beauty 17lb.—G. Lumsden.

### Thames (Goring).

Water low and clear. My best day four jack, largest 8lb., and two dozen of perch.—J. Rush.

### Sonning.

Water still very low and bright. Several have been out ; they have got a few roach, the largest ¾lb. Another party got a jack 12lb. ; and on Monday two men in a punt got two jack, one 6lb. the other 4lb. Mr. Coptan got two nice chub. There have been a few barbel, nothing of any size ; they got a nice lot of perch down by the Elle Buck, wehre an old tree had lain some time. The weeds are beginning to get rather nasty. There are several good jack to be seen moving about. You can see some trout, just by my place, under the bridge. Mr. Steed and Son have just come in ; been fishing in my water all the day ; got over four dozen of roach, largest ¾lb. They saw a nice jack : they tried to get him, but he was one too many for them.—W. Hall.

P.S.—I think it quite time there was a stop to putting a ryepeck in. I went out one day to a place I fished the day before. When I got there the next day, there stuck a ryepeck, and no one fishing. About a hundred yards up I saw a punt, with three men fishing. I watched them for some hours. They then went to the place where the pole was, and left another where they had been ; so it was the whole of the day. I am very pleased the subject has been brought forward in your paper.

### Ancholme District.

There has been a great falling off in the number of anglers during the past week, owing to the advent of cold and tempestuous weather. The wind has been mainly in the north, but to-day it is much milder. When the weeds have rotted down a little, I should advise anglers to try the water above Harlem Hill Lock. Here there is a good sprinkling of pike, and the water is more lightly fished than any other portion of the river.—Thomas Ford, Caistor.

### The Coquet (Weldon Bridge).

River in good trim ; an immense lot of salmon up.—Frederick Brown.

[Are they not Bull trout ?—Ed.]

### The Dee and Don (Aberdeenshire).

The weather has at last changed, and with the rain in the end of last week, the rivers have risen to a considerable height, so that the angler has now hopes that the season, at least the end of it, may, after all, turn out much better than was expected. The fish are practically swarming up, and as the water is in first-class ply, some excellent work has been done, especially on the Dee, and there seems every likelihood that the rivers will be in a good fishable condition till the end of the season. The flies most successful on the Dee since the commencement of the spate have been "grey heron" and "ackroyd." Mr. Smith, saddler and fishing-tackle maker, Ballater, reports :—On the Invercauld Arms Hotel water, during the past week, — Henderson, Esq., had seven fish from 7lb. to 12lb ; John Sturton, sen., one weighing 8lb. ; John Sturton, jun., four from 7lb. to 9lb. ; James Bruce, Esq., one of 14lb., and on the Morven water the same gentleman killed six fish ranging from 7lb. to 10lb. ; Colonel J. S. Skene also had three fish of 8lb., 9lb., and 10lb. on the Hotel water. Mr. Smith informs us that the fish are getting very black. Messrs. George Blacklaws and Sons, Kincardine O'Neil, send us the following report for the week :—W. Lamond, Esq., on Norton House water, had one of 24lb. and one 10½lb. On Borrowstone section, Walter Evans, Esq., Derby, landed two fish of 14lb. and 15lb. On Carlogie, Stewart Farquhar, Esq., one 7½lb. and another 9lb. ; and on Ballogie water, Frederick Pickop, Esq., landed one of 14lb. The Durris water has, during the past week, afforded William Knowles, Esq., London, splendid sport, he having, up till Tuesday forenoon, landed no less than 12 fish, scaling from 7½lb. to 31lb. On Crathes and Kinneskie, the sport has been very fair, General Keane, R. B. White, Esq., and — Smith, Esq., having got six fish from 26lb. to 15lb. in weight. J. T. Hay, Esq., on the Blackhall water, had two fish ; and — Farley, Esq., one at Cairnton. On the Park section, — Potter, Esq., landed one of 16lb. on Monday. On Cutler House section, R. W. Lyall, Esq., got five salmon from 11lb. to 21lb. ; and — Gordon, Esq., two weighing 10lb. and 14lb. On Blair's water, on Friday last week, one of 19lb. was got. We have received no report from the Don, as the water is only getting into fishable condition ; but we hope that by next week's publication there may be some accounts of successful angling.—W. M.

### The Dove.

We have had another favourable week on this river. The weather has continued its open character, and the water has been in beautiful condition, there being that nice woodland shade in the liquid which rodsters so much like to see. The falling leaves are, however, just now proving rather troublesome to anglers both on the surface and the bottom, but this is always the case at this time of the year, especially on the Derbyshire rivers, which are noted for the superincumbent timber by which many of their banks are lined. The grayling have been rising with considerable freedom during the week, and the most destructive flies have been the claret bumble and the October dun. These lures were killing well last week, and it is the same this. The slight frosts we have had at night have stirred both the grayling and pike up considerably, in fact, the latter are feeding better just now than they have done for some months past. The live minnow seems to have operated with success, though I also hear of fair sport with the Gregory, the Derby killer, the archimedean, and other spinning baits. The grayling dishes have realised 5½ brace each to the expert fly-fishers. Roach and dace are taking the maggot eagerly on the bottom, while chub and bream appear to be affecting the cockspur worm the most freely.—The Splodger.

### The Earn (Perthshire).

This tributary of the Tay is now swarming with fish, and splendid sport has been reported. On Wednesday, Mr. Dickson, Drummond Arms Hotel, Crieff, caught a salmon weighing 7lb. Mr. T. Cappell fished the Earn on Thursday, and killed a fine fish of 18lb. On the same day a fish of similar weight was secured by Mr. Stewart, of Lawers. Mr. James Reed, on the Auchterarder House water, on Thursday, killed a salmon weighing 11½lb., and four grilse weighing 7½lb., 7lb., 6¾lb., and 6½llb. respectively. On the following day, Mr. Hew Reid, on the same water, killed a salmon of 10lb., and a grilse of 7lb. On Saturday, Mr. Moncur had a salmon of 10lb., Mr. D. Broadley one weighing 21lb., and Mr. P. Christie one weighing 9lb. On the Drummond Castle, Mr. Duncan Forbes had four fish, and Mr. Greenhill two fish. On Saturday, Mr. Henry Curr, Pitkellony House, killed a fine salmon weighing 24lb. On the same day, Mr. McKenzie, Drummond Arms Hotel, Crieff, landed a salmon of 25lb.—P. M. C. G.

### Eden (Carlisle).

A fair number of fish have been killed during the last few days. On Saturday, Oct. 11th, Mr. John Scott landed one of 18lb. ; Wm. Smith, two ; and T. Warwick, two. On Monday Sergt. Fox had a 24-pounder ; Mr. Waters, one about 20lb. ; and two others came to grass at Grimsdale. All the above were killed in the Angling Association waters near Carlisle. On Tuesday Major French killed a nice fish at the Lammer-house Pool, and a fish looking like 30lb. was landed on the opposite side. Mr. Hodgson, of Newby Grange, has had three good fish in the last day or two ; Mr. J. W. Stubbs, one at Warwick ; and Mr. Murchie, one. The prospect for the next few days is not very good, especially in the lower waters. Very few fish are showing. They have no doubt pushed on to the spawning grounds, and we want another spate to bring up a fresh supply.—Silver Grey.

### Ilfracombe.

Sea Fishing.—During the last few days those fishing from the boats have caught some fine conger, the average of each boat being about 60lb. per tide. Some large pout have been caught by those fishing from the pier-head and etty with rod and handlines. Weather at present very unsettled.—E. Comer.

### Lakes of Killarney.

There has been very little fishing these last few months owing to the low water ; last week, we had some good freshes and broken weather ; the trout fishing was splendid sport while the soft west wind held, then it turned north-west with cold showers of hail, and they would not take at all, only some brown and dusky yellow flies tied on No. 8 Limerick hooks. On 10th inst., Tim M'Carthy, two salmon with the large trout fly, and three and a half dozen bream trout ; Dan Cournane, three dozen trout ; Daniel Twomey, two and a half dozen trout. 12th inst., Mr. B. Bernerd got four salmon on Flesk and three salmon since then ; Mr. D. C. Coltsman, jun., five salmon on the upper part of the Flesk ; Mr. J. C. Coltsman, seven salmon for three days ; Callaghan McCarthy, three salmon on Flesk. On the 14th, Mr. D. C. Coltsman, two salmon 16lb. The season closes here on the 16th of October, which ends our fishing until the springers come on.—Tim McCarthy, Fisherman.

### Lea (Tottenham).

The colder weather at the end of last week, and the commencement of this, sharpened the appetite of the jack, and brought them well on the feed. Mr. Bell killed five, the two largest weighing respectively 3¾lb. and 3½lb. A barbel of 4¼lb. also fell to the same angler's rod ; Mr. Culfe killed two jack, 4¼lb. and 2¼lb ; Mr. Goddard two, 4¼lb. and 3¼lb. ; Mr. Cox one, 5lb. A gentleman on the 10th, with gentles, got some capital roach from the Copper Mill stream, several of them going ¾lb. Messrs. Sibley and Williams also got some good fish from the same stream. Mr. Bennett, whipping, with very small olive dun fly, killed three dozen dace on Tuesday, and four dozen dace and one chub on Thursday. Water slightly improved.—Hackles Red.

### Leicester.

There has been a great improvement in the fishing this week, in the Leicester Society's waters the roach and perch having been well on the feed. Messrs. Bird and Golding have shown some large takes of perch, averaging from 10lb. to 12lb. per day, all good fish. Chub fishing has also improved, several large fish having been taken during the last few days, Mr. Lee, as usual, weighing in some fine specimens of this species. Pike fishing has also been fairly good, a number weighing from 5lb. to 8lb. being caught. On Thursday, Mr. Hardy, among a lot of pike, weighed in one scaling 8lb. Weather favourable, and water in good condition.—Alert.

### Lodden.

During the past week the weather has been exceedingly cold ; sharp frosts a night, leaving ice half-an-inch thick on the duck ponds, which the young ducks seemed scarcely to understand, and the poor little martins have died by the hundred. The weather is much milder now ; but not a martin is to be seen. No doubt the stronger birds have gone southward for the winter. The river is still very low and bright ; but sport is everything one could wish for ; plenty of pike, chub, perch, roach, and dace ; chub and roach exceedingly fine. Yesterday (Thursday) myself and son landed, in less than two hours, several jack of the following weights : 6lb., 4½lb., 3lb., 2lb., 2lb., and 1lb. Four chub, average 3lb. each ; forty roach, many over 1lb. each ; one perch, ¾lb., and several dace. Eels are conspicuous by their absence. Trout are numerous and fine, heading up stream to the spawning grounds, and from their good and rotund looks, a good spawning season may be anticipated. My stock fish (trout) are looking superb. It has been quite a summer day to-day with scarcely any wind ; wind S.S.W.—Frank Gosden,

### Lugg and Arrow (Leominster).

Both these streams are now slightly coloured, and have risen about a foot since the heavy storms which have visited this part. There have been but few visitors to either of the streams this week, and but few fish have been landed. The best fly is the green insect or the willow at present. On Monday, the water near to Aymestry was fished, and a small dish of grayling were taken with the maggot. A few nice fish were taken in the water, near Kingsland, with the green insect. In the Arrow, at Eardisland, a gentleman fished with the worm and took four small grayling. The water near Ivington was tried, on Tuesday, with the fly, and a few nice grayling were taken. In the Lugg, the same day, a nice dish of grayling were taken by a gentleman who was fishing with the willow. Fishing very quiet in the Stanton water. A few fish were caught near to Ford's Bridge with the grasshopper. The Pinsley is now slightly coloured, and there has been scarcely any fishing had in it.—Gwynne.

### Medway (Tunbridge).

Water in first-class condition, but I have not heard of many good catches. One gentleman about the end of the week above the town had a good basket of bream as well as chub, above 3lb. All fish should feed well now.—Ye Medway Water Rat.

### The Ouse (Huntingdon).

The water is still very bright ; nothing doing with the roach or bream ; jack are coming on very nicely. Three were taken last week, one 7½lb., one 4lb., the other I don't know the weight. I was out with Squire Powell on the 16th, when he took one about 3½lb., and lost four through some mishap or another. One, I believe, was a fine fish ; he left his mark behind, such a mark I've not seen for some time. The bait was gored as if done with a large knife. He was using some very fine dace, which I believe are the best bait. There is every prospect of good pike fishing during the coming season, for there are plenty of fish. On the 6th of August I caught a person illegally fishing with night lines, who gave his wrong address. He gave his name Charles Bedford, 27, Calthorpe-street, Clerkenwell ; but he has not been seen since the 7th of August. If he is a member of any angling club, it is to be hoped it will be investigated by the club authorities and he be expelled from the club for illegal practices.—H. Rout.

### The Ribble and Hodder.

We have had a very poor fishing season. The rivers have been so low through the dry weather, there has been very little fishing, and really nothing to report this month, which ought to be the best time for salmon fishing. We have had some gentlemen from Manchester, and one from Southport, staying here, but they have only caught a few sprods and trout. It has been raining all day, and the salmon are coming up. If it keeps on and makes a flood, I expect there will be some good sport next week.—E. Dugdale.

### The Spey.

For the past few days anglers on the Spey have had very good sport. The weather on Thursday was stormy, with frequent showers of hail and snow. On the Aberlour section, Mr. Chalres Grant, Schoolhouse, killed a salmon weighing 21lb. On the same water Mr. Charles Hendry, Tillicoultry, caught a fish 24lb. weight, and Sergeant Jamieson secured a grilse weighing 6lb. On the Easter Elchies water, on the 7th inst., Mr. McKinnon, fisherman to the Hon. R. P. Bruce, M.P., killed three salmon. On the Inverfiddoch section, on the 7th, Mr. James Cumming, Craiglachie, killed a fish 15lb. weight, and on the 8th, one of 11lb. On the Aberlour House upper water, Mr. Thomas Fanning, fisherman to Mr. John Thomson, The Parsonage, Aberlour, on the 8th had a salmon of 19lb. weight, and, on the 14th, two salmon of 18lb. and 19lb. On the Rothes water, Mr. John Dallas, on the 13th, killed a salmon weighing 30lb. On the Arndilly water, on the 7th, Mr. P. A. Myburgh, Q.C., killed a salmon weighing 12lb ; Mr. Robert, Myburgh, a salmon of 27lb. ; Mr. George Sheach, fisherman, four fish, weighing respectively 25, 15, 9, and 6lb., and on the 8th, two salmon 14lb. and 23lb weight. On the Pilcroy Lodge water, on the 6th, Mr. Daun, gamekeeper, killed a fish 6½lb. weight ; Mr. Charles Cruickshanks, fisherman, had three salmon weighing 6½lb., 10½lb, and 30lb., and, on the 9th, Mr. Porter Huntly two grilse, 8lb. and 5lb. weight. On the Loggan water last week Messrs. Joseph Gillott and party killed five salmon weighing 15lb., 18lb., 18lb., 20lb., and 22¾lb. respectively ; on the same water, Mr. Watt, gamekeeper, on the 13th, killed two fish, and Mr. Stewart, fisherman, on the 14th, had a salmon 17lb. weight. On the Arkenway water, on the 1st, Capt. Haynes killed 12 trout weighing from 1lb. to 2½lb ; on the 3rd, a salmon 11lb. weight and a grilse of 6lb. ; on the 4th, 24 yellow trout ; on the 7th, 4 salmon weighing respectively 8lb., 16lb., 17lb., and 18lb., and 108 trout ; and on the 13th, three salmon weighing 10lb., 22lb., and 23lb., and 12 yellow trout and finnocks. On the Aberlour section, Mr. Thomas Morrison caught a grilse weighing 5lb, ; Mr. James Gordon 5 finnocks, 8 yellow trout, and a grilse ; Mr. John Laing, 5 finnocks, 1 yellow trout, and a grilse; Mr. John Tennent, three finnocks ; Mr. William Grant, 2 finnocks ; Mr. Charles Hendry, 2 yellow trout 4½lb. weight ; Mr. James Wilson, Edinburgh, 5 finnock, 2 yellow trout, and a salmon 12lb. weight ; Mr. John Hendry, Benrinne's Cottage, 11 finnocks ; Capt. McCowan, Aberlour, 12 yellow trout ; Mr. Lewis Inkson, 30 yellow trout. On the Rothes section, Mr. John Dallas landed a salmon weighing 30lb.—P. McG.

## The Tay and its Tributaries.

During the latter part of last week the weather was stormy, with frequent showers of rain. The following are reports of sport got on the Tay for the four days previous to the close of the rod-fishing on Friday, and from these it is evident that the last week has proved the most successful that has been experienced for many years. On Friday the river rose several feet, and was very unfavourable for fishing all forenoon, but it cleared up sufficiently in the afternoon to enable the fish to see the fly, and a good many fish were killed in the different beats. Large numbers of fish were secured from the bank, Mr. P. D. Malloch, Perth, being most successful, capturing ten fish, weighing respectively 25, 20, 19, 18, 17, 17, 14, 11, 9, and 8lb., being the best take of salmon caught from the bank for many years. No signs of disease have been observed either on the Upper or Lower waters. The following are details of the sport:—On Derculich water on Wednesday, the keeper caught a nice salmon of 15lb., and on Thursday a newly run fish of 22lb. On the Ballechin water on Wednesday, the keeper caught two salmon weighing 18lb. and 10lb. respectively; and on the same day, Mr. Walker, keeper, caught a salmon weighing 11lb. in the Findynate Water. These waters, as also Pitcastle—Mr. Guthrie Lornie's—have fished well during the season. On the Findynate, Cluny, Killiechassie, Castle Menzies, and Breadalbane Waters the takes have been disappointing. The river was very low for a long period, and although plenty of salmon were observed they would not take. Trout fishing was good throughout the season. On the Lyon, Loch, and Dochart, small tribularies of the Tay, the fishing was better than usual. Fishing on Dalguise Water for a short time on Thursday forenoon, Mr. Durrant-Steuart, of Dalguise, captured a salmon weighing 10lb. In another pool on the same water, Mr. David Hodge, Dundee, on the same day, killed a fine clear run salmon of 18lb. The rising of the river in the afternoon put a stop to the sport. On Murthly Water, on Friday, Mr. J. E. Millais killed five beautiful fish, and Mr. Gray made a similar capture on this water. Mechleour Water yielded five fish to Mr. Evan M'Gregor on Wednesday. On Cargill Water, on Thursday, a good number of fish were killed by the keepers at Drummour. On Thursday, eight fish were killed on the Stobhall Beat. On Taymouth water on Tuesday Mr. C. A. Murray and two friends killed the extraordinary number of twenty-eight salmon, weighing 470lb., the largest fish being 40lb. The fish on this day were rising in all directions in this water. Major Curtis and Mrs. McGlynn had two nice fish in Burnmouth Water; and Sir W. Elliot and Mr. Kelsall had five fish in Thistle Bridge Water on Tuesday. On Monday Mr. Field's party had sixteen fish and grilse in Cargill Water, and five fish and grilse in Burnmouth Water. On Tuesday, on Upper Cargill, Capt. Morris had twelve fish and grilse casting from the boat—the best day's sport for one rod this season. The whole of this capture consisted of very heavy fish. On the same day two gentlemen, casting in Stobhall Beat, had nineteen fish and grilse. On Wednesday three fish were killed at Cargill, and two at Burnmouth. The river was in bad order on Wednesday. On Thursday Mr. Panly and Mrs. Eastwood fished Cargill, and killed seven fish and grilse—all of heavy weight. Mr. Fletcher and another rod fished Stobhall, and had six fish and grilse. Mr. Paulon, Murthly, had a fish of 38lb. on the same beat. The river got in bad ply in the afternoon, owingto the heavy rains. On Friday Mr. Fletcher fished Cargill Water and killed seven heavy fish and three grilse. He had splendid sport for the few hours' fishing. Mr. Pauly, on Burnmouth Beat, had one fish and one grilse. On Monday Lord Stormont and party killed four beautiful salmon in the Red Gorton water. On Tuesday Sir William Elliot fished the Benchill water and had two fish, one of which was an excellent specimen, in capital condition, and weighed 42lb. On the 9th Sir William had two fish on the same water.—P. McG.

## Teme (Tenbury).

This stream, after the heavy rains, accompanied with snow, which fell in this district at the latter end of last week, has risen, and the water slightly coloured. There was no fishing done on Friday and Saturday, the weather being too rough. On Monday, the weather being fine, a gentleman visited the water with the green insect and took a few fish, and a few were caught with the worm. The water was tried on Tuesday by a gentleman, who had very bad luck, only taking two small grayling with the maggot. There has been but little doing in the Association waters this week. A few fish have been caught near Little Hereford with the willow. The Kyre, Rea, and Ledwyche are all slightly coloured, and there has been no fishing had in them this week.—Worcester.

## Teme (Ludlow).

The weather was so bad from wind, snow, and rain during the end of last week, that it was almost impossible to visit the waters. The rain which came down incessantly on Thursday caused all the streams to rise, but not to any considerable extent. By Monday they had cleared themselves, and it being a bright day, several fishermen visited the rivers, most of whom used the green insect; one gentleman secured four and a half brace of grayling from the Teme. On Tuesday a few nice fish were secured. An angler up the Corve caught two and a half brace of grayling on Tuesday. The Clun has risen slightly, and so has the Ony, both being rather stained. Nothing doing in the Ledwyche.—S. Ludlow.

## Teme (Worcestershire).

I promised to give some further instructions how to take the grayling in my last note. I dwelt upon the fly. I will now give my advice when using grubs, gentles, or worms—all of these baits are used with great success when the streams are slightly stained. A light cane rod, three joints or four, will do. Let it be 3ft. 6in. or even 4ft. each joint, with a fine top not too stiff, one that will give to the fish when hooked, though he be but a half-pounder. The same line as used for a fly-line will do, that is, a London patent, the gut as fine as can be, hook No. 10, short in the shank, the shot about 8in. or 10in. from the hook. When fishing with the gentle or worm upon a ford, I prefer fishing without a float. I cast my bait near about where I see or expect to find a fish, and the stream takes down the shot, dragging on the gravel. From the crop of my rod to the shots I keep a tight line. By that means I can feel the fish. I then slightly raise the point of my rod and strike the fish. Then if carefully played in the stream, you will soon be able to place your prize in your creel. The Teme is low and fine, and the grayling are on the fords. Mr. Russell, of Powick Mills, and myself tried the fly near Stanford, and we met with some capital sport. I furnished Mr. Russell with three flies, as it was his first turn with the grayling. He used the same flies all the day and landed 12 brace of grayling, returning 16 fish being under 8in. long. The best brace out of the four he kept was 1lb. 4oz. I landed 30 fish and kept 14, near the same size as Mr. R.'s. We kept close to the instructions I recommended in my last note to the Fishing Gazette. I am going with A. V. Holland to-morrow.—J. A. Griffin.

[Received too late for last week.—Ed.]

## Torridge (Torrington).

River now in good order for fishing. There was a flood on Monday, and scores of salmon were showing at the Weir. Lots of peal and salmon have been taken this week, mostly with the improved Devon bait. I fished the free water yesterday, and hooked six fish, and saved four, the largest, 2½lb. On Tuesday I fished four runs, and took two fish, 2¼lb. and 2½lb. Only another month left for fishing this season. Weather mild.—Practical Angler.

## The Trent (Nottingham).

The river still remains very low and clear, but salmon anglers have been busy during the week, especially at Kings Mill and Weston. On Monday five very good fish were caught with the worm inclusive of one (15½lb.) by Mr. R. West, of Nottingham. On Tuesday six were hooked, with the result that two were brought to bank. At Willington Mr. H. Coxon, of the town named, has taken a nice lot of chub, roach, and dace. Good barbel have been secured in "Fitchett's Hole." The members of the Northern St. George's Association celebrated their half-yearly dinner on Thursday evening at the Ram Hotel, and last night (Friday) the Wellingtonians held high festival.—The Man at the Clubs.

## Trent (Alrewas).

Since the last report the weather has been very cold, wind N.E., and few, if any, fishermen out, and no report has come to hand of anything worth noticing. At the time of writing, the weather has completely changed, with a warm south-westerly wind, and fish ought to be freely on the move, particularly grayling.—Anon.

## Trent (Newark).

Sport during the past week has been of such a meagre character that it is scarcely worth paper to report it. A few roach and dace have been killed with cockspurs and gentles, and a few bream with tail end of lob. A very few chub have been had, and an odd jack or two is about the extent of the sport in this district, so far as I can learn. Water is very low and clear. I had a walk a few miles down the river to-day, and tried a few likely places, spinning for jack; but not a single run did I get. I saw two or three anglers about, and on asking them if they could account for the bad sport lately, one said, "Water too low and clear"; another, "The vast lot of flannel weed on the bottom"; another said, "Wind has been shifting about in all points of the compass this last few days." And as for myself, I am inclined to think that all three reasons combined have had something to do with it. One of the Newark Angling Clubs had a fishing contest last week (Saturday) in the Witham, and according to the report in our local paper, it produced a rather startling result, as far as the weighing in was concerned. The second prize was won with thirty-seven fish, producing the extraordinary total of 1lb. 8oz. for the lot. Then we had fifteen fish weighing 12oz., thirteen fish 6¾oz., fifteen fish 2¾oz., thirteen fish 1½oz., fourteen fish weighing 1oz. the lot, and so on *ad infinitum*. Shade of Izaak Walton! Fancy fourteen fish weighing 1oz.! Talk about "Brougham's babies"; why, at that rate a microscope will be a necessary article in an angler's outfit.—The Trent Otter.

## Walton-on-Thames.

The fishermen have been very little engaged this week, consequently few fish taken, although we have had several good days for fishing. A gentleman, with Dick Watford, caught a nice lot of barbel last evening in a very short time. The perch fishing is getting very good here: a gentleman from the Swan Hotel killed a good dish yesterday with live bait. The voracity of the perch is surprising—two of them, under ½lb. in weight, were taken with good-sized gudgeons upon a pike paternoster. Both pike and perch fishing will improve now, and more or less sport with live bait may be relied upon. The proprietor of the Swan Hotel has introduced a very killing kind of perch tackle for use with a float; anglers coming to Walton should call to see it and take a pattern, for it is a capital method of catching these fish, and a great improvement upon the tackle generally used. As I write, I hear of another good take of barbel in the deeps, but have no details.—Goldfinch.

P.S.—I hear the proprietor of the Swan Hotel, Walton, has arranged to provide anglers with live bait, which will save them a lot of trouble, as they can now get gudgeon, dace, or minnows fresh on arrival.

## The Wharfe (Yorkshire).

I am pleased to be able to report rather better news this week, the cold frosty nights having destroyed all the worthless midges and brought the grayling on the feed. I had a day upon the Wharfe last Saturday, and began the legitimate grayling season auspiciously; I killed nine beauties, hooked another six which escaped, got smashed twice and caught six trout besides, which, of course, were promptly returned unharmed; this piece of good sport was positively refreshing after the awful experiences of recent date. I regret very much to have to announce the death of another fine old sportsman, I allude to Mr. Ed. Bond, of Burley House, Leeds, who passed away on the evening of Tuesday, Oct. 14th; his name has far more than a mere local interest, as hundreds of anglers can testify, and his name will be familiar to many more who have read that most charming of books "My Life as an Angler," written by Mr. Henderson, of Durham. My copy of that work was presented to me by Mr. Bond, and very much more do I now value it on that account. I can only briefly allude to his death to-day owing to want of time, but hope to give an extended obituary notice in your next issue.—Francis M. Walbran.

## Wye and Derwent.

Both of the above rivers have been in capital order for grayling fly-fishing the whole of the past week, and baskets from four to nine brace per angler have been daily made, chiefly with bumbles, ash dun, furnace, and lean flies. Pike have been well on the feed lately, as many as four and upwards have been daily killed, chiefly by trolling with small dace and gudgeons. There has also been a trout of 4lb. killed very lately with the maggot in Mr. Lowe's field near the Lea in the Derwent. The fish was in splendid condition, and is being preserved. The bottom-fishers have killed some fine grayling, chub, perch, roach, and dace, with maggots and cockspur worms, by swimming the bait in the Nottingham style. Weather to-night (Thursday) looks very black with thunder-clouds hanging all around us. Rain expected.—Geo. Jas. Eaton.

## CLOSE OF THE ROD FISHING IN THE FORTH DISTRICT.

Wednesday night saw the close of the rod fishing season in the river Forth and tributaries, which has, on the whole, hardly come up to what was expected when the nets were taken off on the 25th of August. Although there were plenty of fish in the lower waters, the long-protracted drought in the end of August and part of September, kept the river very low, and prevented the fish from getting forward until the best of the season was over. The late heavy rains, however, were the means of flooding the Forth to the extent of several feet, which allowed a large number of fish to get to the upper waters, where some good sport has been obtained during the last few days. The following are some of the most successful anglers, along with their several catches: On Monday, Mr. James Mitchell, Stirling, had a salmon of 30lb. from the Forth above Stirling; Mr. Crockart, Blairgowrie, and Mr. Crockart, Stirling, landed a salmon of 19lb., and two grilse; Major Hannay, Stirling Castle, had a salmon of 28lb.; and Mr. Xie, Bridge of Allan, one of 15lb.; Captain Bribber, Stirling Castle, Mr. Campbell, Lorne Inn, Sterling; Mr. Murray, Stirling; and Lindsay, Sterling, had each a grilse from the same water. On the same day, Mr. Bayne, joiner, Keir, landed a beauty of 30lb. weight from the Teith near Keir. On Tuesday, the Messrs. Crockart had a grilse from the Forth above Stirling; Mr. Campbell, one grilse; Mr. Lindsay, a salmon of 16lb.; and Mr. Hadaway, Glasgow, one of 28lb. On Tuesday, Mr. Scotland, Airdrie, had a salmon of 21lb.; Mr. Campbell, a grilse of 5lb.; and Mr. Halliday, Stirling, from the Teith at Blair-Drummond, a fine salmon of 30lb. The largest fish caught in the district for many years was got by Mr. Halliday from the Teith at Blair-Drummond on Friday last, and weighed 44lb. In addition to this immense fish, the same veteran angler has caught salmon of the following weights during the season, viz.:—37lb., 35lb., 33lb., and two of 32lb., besides others of less weight. Several of the fish are now getting very lean and lanky; but we are glad to learn that there is no appearance of any disease as yet, although there were symptoms of it by this time last year.—P. McG.

**Angling Competition.**—The autumn competition of the Coldstream (Berwickshire) Angling Club took place on Thursday, fishing being confined to the Tweed. There was a good muster of competitors, but the day being unfavourable for good sport all the baskets were light, the heaviest not exceeding 4lb. The following were the prize-winners:—1st, James Lamb, 3lb. 8oz.; 2nd, John Guthrie; 3rd, George Guthrie; 4th, John Batten; 5th, John Tait; 6th, James Edmond. Special Prizes—1st, John Guthrie; 2nd, James Edmond. Extra Prizes—1st, John Guthrie; 2nd, J. Lamb; 3rd, George Guthrie; 4th, J. Tait. The extra prizes were presented by Mr John Collingwood, Cornhill House.

## AUTUMN FLIES FOR THE YORKSHIRE STREAMS.

By Francis M. Walbran.

There are many anglers, and enthusiasts, too, who put aside their rods at the end of August and devote the remainder of the year to other field sports, never looking at them again until the hedges are once more bursting into leaf and Mother Earth is once more donning her new season's garment of verdant green; but, as far as my experience goes, September and October are generally capital months for the fly fisher, and during the first named of them there is nothing more attractive in the way of sport than to make up a really good dish of trout and grayling mingled. What a splendid contrast these two handsome fish make when laid side by side, and how gratified you feel at the exclamations of your friends as you turn them out from your panniers at the conclusion of your day's sport.

But September is now past and gone, so we must allow the trout to have a rest, after a season during which they have had it all their own way, and now comes the time when the happy resident upon the banks of a grayling stream must look out his finest casts and run over his stock of flies specially adapted for this class of angling. Our earnest hope is that the fates may be propitious, and that having failed to score successfully with the trout, we may be able to take our revenge out of the grayling.

On the rivers Yore and Wharfe almost all the local fishermen employ single horsehair for fly fishing, and if you can only obtain it round, clear, and strong there is certainly nothing to beat it for grayling fishing. This fish when hooked indulges in such a variety of fantastic gyrations that a cast made from finely-drawn gut, after taking a fish or two, becomes so frayed and ravelled that it is more conspicuous than hair, to say nothing about the danger of breakage at the frayed portion. One of the best anglers in the county recently told me that he experienced such difficulty in procuring really good hair that he was obliged to have recourse to drawn gut. From September to the end of the year fly fishing for grayling may be practiced for a few hours in the middle of the day, providing the weather and water are favourable; perhaps the best plan being to "swim the worm" or maggot in the early part of the morning, put on fly as soon as you see the fish stir after surface food, and then about three o'clock in the afternoon have recourse again to worm or the "gardenia," as our worthy Editor euphoniously terms it. A dozen patterns of flies are amply sufficient, and in the subsequent list I have selected four winged patterns (which must always be used as *top* droppers) and eight spiders, which may be relied on for either the Yore or Wharfe.

### 1st.—Dark Olive Bloa.

Wings: Inside of water hen's wing.
Body: Lead-coloured silk.
Legs: Dark olive or black hackle.
Tail: Three small rabbit's whiskers.

This fly is one of Jackson's patterns, and if dressed small upon a No. 0 hook is a capital grayling fly. I have used it upon cold, dull autumn days with great success.

### 2nd.—The Apple-Green Dun.

Wings: Inside of waterhen's wing.
Body: Gosling green silk, waxed.
Legs: Grizzled hackle.
Tail: Three small rabbit's whiskers.

This fly is a great favourite upon the Derbyshire Wye, and is taken well in September by both trout and grayling. I obtained the pattern from Hensburg, the river watcher at Bakewell, and since then have used it successfully upon both Yore and Wharfe.

### 3rd.—The House Fly.

Wings: Lark's quill feather.
Body: Light-brown silk, ribbed with drab ostrich herl.
Legs: Grizzled hackle.

During October this fly gets weak and drops on the water in considerable numbers; the grayling then take them with avidity.

### 4th.—Small Olive Bloa.

Wings: Starling's quill feather, stained in onion dye.
Bony: Yellow silk, waxed.
Legs: Olive stained hackle.
Tail: Two strands of the same.

Another of Jackson's patterns, and a good killer on likely days to the end of the season. Judson's olive dye, *largely diluted*, will answer very well for staining the feather and hackles.

### 5th.—The Small Willow Fly.

Body: Light brown silk and a little mole's fur, hackled with feather from inside a snipe's wing or a small grizzled hackle.

This fly answers best on a dull, mizzling sort of day, and is a sure killer on eddying flats fringed with willow trees, from frequenting which this fly obtains its name.

### 6th.—Dark Grey Midge.

Body: Olive-coloured silk, and hackled with a dark grey partridge feather. Hook No. 0.

According to Jackson, this fly is one of the last out upon the water. He mentions in his work that in the year 1851, on December 16th and 17th, he killed eleven large grayling, mostly with this fly.

### 7th.—The Blue Midge.

Body: Lead-coloured silk, hackled with feather from a landrail's *back*. Hook No. 0.

Taken on the same class of days as mentioned suitable for No. 5.

### 8th.—The Peacock Blue.

Body: Gosling green silk, ribbed with gold wire, very finely hackled with a feather from the breast of a love bird. Hook No. 0.

The above is a fancy title that I have given to a pattern given to me many years ago by an angler who is now no more. He used to kill a great many grayling with it in the autumn, and, when I have read accounts in this paper about the good catches made by the "green insect," I used to think that it must be the same thing as my dead friend's pattern, but it appears from recent correspondence that it is not. I can vouch, however, for its killing properties, and think that it must be taken for some of the small larvæ or beetles bred among the decaying weeds and leaves of autumn. It must be fished at point, as it is almost invariably taken under water.

### 9th.—The Smoke Fly.

Body: Bronzy-green peacock's herl, with an Andalusian cock's hackle wound neatly over it. Hook No. 0.

This is a standard Wharfedale fly. Some of the local anglers dress it from the fine feather taken from a chicken's ruff; but I prefer the above pattern, and one of the most practised fly fishers on the lower Wharfe confirms my opinion. It really is identical with the Derbyshire "Little Chap."

### 10th.—Orange Partridge.

Body: Orange silk, waxed, and hackled with the brown mottled feather of a partridge.

Although this appears, at first sight, the most plain and insignificant pattern that I have given, I am by no means sure that it is not the best. There are many first-rate anglers in Wharfedale who *always* have their favourite "Orange Partridge" on the cast, and, considering that it is a fairly correct general imitation of all the mottled winged browns, I am not surprised at their partiality to this pattern; anyhow, it always kills its share of fish in a season's fishing on either Wharfe or Yore.

### 11th.—The Cinnamon Fly.

Body: Dull orange-coloured silk, with a little mohair of the same shade worked in, hackled with a feather from a brown owl or a landrail.

As this fly comes out strongly on fine September evenings just before dusk, and being rather a large insect, it may be dressed on a No. 1 hook, which is a size larger than is usually employed on the Wharfe, and rather more hackle may also be used. It also takes well on wet, windy days. I prefer the owl's feather myself.

### 12th.—The Honey-dun Bumble.

Body: Peacock's herl, ribbed with orange floss silk, yellow tying silk, with a pure honey-dun hen's hackle wrapped neatly on.

This list would certainly have not been complete without this excellent pattern. From September to the close of the season no better fly can be thrown for grayling. The variety of bumbles that can be formed from different combinations of silks, herl, and hackles is almost endless; but, in my opinion, the above and No. 9 are quite enough for any river.

In conclusion, I may remark that, in order to fish successfully for grayling, your flies must be dressed small, on the finest of drawn gut or single hair, with a cast to match. And a last word of advice: never be in a hurry to land your fish when hooked, as a grayling's mouth is so excessively tender, that if you handle him at all roughly, the hold is almost certain to give way. Many a good fish have I lost through neglect of this precaution, and many have been the anathemas that I have showered upon my own head afterwards. I find the best plan to adopt is the following:—As soon as ever you hook your fish, let him take out as much line as he likes—the more the better, as the weight of it is bound to tell in the end; then gradually bring him down stream into a favourable landing-place and net him. If you follow this plan, you will be surprised at the few fish that escape.

With the twelve patterns that I have given above, the angler need not fear to visit any of the Yorkshire rivers, and, if he finds his basket empty at the finish of the day's sport, he may at once conclude one of two things—viz., either that the grayling are not in the humour to feed at all, or that the fault rests with himself.

[Dr. Brunton, in his "Essay on Grayling Fishing," mentions that it is a good plan in fly-fishing for grayling to put about 8in. of fine round elastic between the gut cast and the reel-line. The Doctor has tried this plan, and found it answer admirably.—Ed.]

## NOTES FROM BOWLKER'S "ART OF ANGLING."

(From the Edition of 1814.)

"Remember that the wit and invention of man were given for greater purposes than to ensnare silly fish, and that, however delightful angling may appear, it ceases to be innocent when used otherwise than as a mere recreation." [From Introduction.]

Bowlker's commencement of his work reads like a quotation from the Book of Common Prayer:—"Whoever would become a complete angler, let him use all natural or artificial baits in such seasons, at such times, places, and waters as Nature hath provided and ordained them, and as reason must best inform him."

*Bowlker and the Salmon Disease.*—"When salmon have spawned, they grow out of season, are weak and flaggy, break out in filthy scabs all over their bodies, loathsome to the sight, and very unwholesome to feed on.

*Grasshopper Fishing for Grayling.*—Foster, in his "Scientific Angler," says Wheatley invented this style of fishing, but it was evidently known to Bowlker. "He is to be taken with a cabbage-grub, grasshopper, or cod-bait, either natural or artificial. This method of fishing is to sink and draw as the hook is leaded upon the shank, either for the natural or artificial, and might be used in standing waters, as well as bubbles, curls, or streams, being a very killing way."

*On Snaring Pike.*—"When you have spied a Pike, fix your eyes steadfastly upon him, without looking off him, which will make him lie the stiller. . . . The keeping your eye as much as you can on the pike will cause him to look on you the more, and mind the gin less."

*Bowlker on the Roach.*—"The Roach is a leather-mouthed fish, *has no teeth* (!); his eyes, fins, and tail are of a red colour, and is a very bony fish. The roach is a healthful fish, not subject to any disease, from whence comes the proverb, '*As sound as a Roach.*' . . . There is another excellent bait for roach in the winter, which is a white worm with a red head, about the size of a cod-bait or caddis, to be found after the plough tail, upon heath or sandy ground, or turning up the greensward of fresh land. I, myself, have taken with this bait, in the river Trent, thirty pounds weight in a morning. . . . When you use this bait, throw into the place you intend to fish stewed malt or fresh grains."

## NOTICES OF FISHING TACKLE, &c.

Mr. Henry Richardson, who carries on business at the sign of Ye Plucky Perch, 77, Finsbury-pavement, London, called the other day to show us a new winch-fitting patented by a firm at Reading, for which he is the London agent. It has the great merit of simplicity: The brass ring next the butt is fastened to a spring inside the rod, which presses it towards the other ring. To fix the winch you press back the lower ring, fix the winch under both rings, and the spring then presses the lower ring forward over the winch-plate, and holds it firmly. The only suggestion we have to make is that the spiral spring inside the rod should be made rust-proof. Our readers who may be in the neighbourhood of Moorgate-street Station should pay a visit to Mr. Richardson's shop, and country anglers would do well to write for his price list.

## USEFUL FISHING KNOTS.

Several of our readers having asked us to give an illustration of the method we recommend for fastening gut together and putting on the dropper flies, we have pleasure in doing so.

Fig. 1.—In this figure the single knots, A and B, represent the ordinary, and, as we think, by far the best manner of fastening lengths of gut together, whether for traces, fly casts, or float or ledger lines. It is so simple that the illustration needs but little explanation. The end of the strand A is knotted once over the strand B, and the end of the strand B is knotted once over the strand A. The knots being pulled quite tight the strands are pulled, and the knots slide together; but if you wish to fasten a dropper fly to the collar, make a double knot in the end of the gut 3 inches from the fly, and before you pull the single knots together insert the double knot between the strands as shown in the drawing, and then pull the knots together. When all is tight the ends of gut are cut off neatly close to the knots (if the latter is very fine about 1-16th of an inch should be left). It will be seen that the dropper stands out well at right-angles to the line. In making knots on gut the latter should *always be well soaked in water or else held in the mouth for some time until soft.* Fig. 1 represents a fastening known to most anglers of any experience; but we give it, of course, for the benefit of those who do not know it.

Fig. 1.

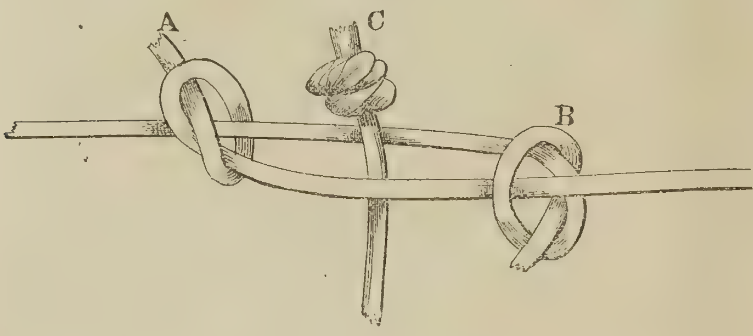
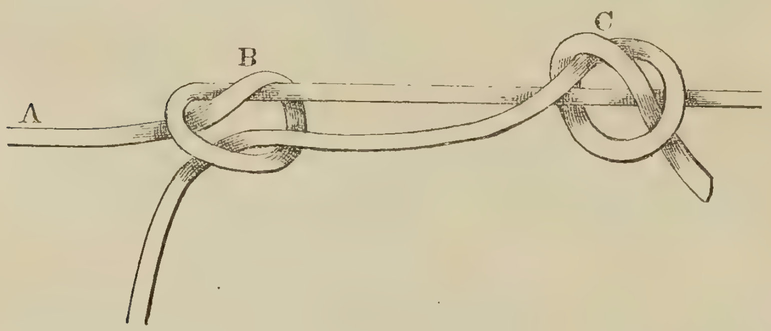


Fig. 2 is an illustration of a knot which we use for fastening hooks on gut to a gut line when we use a second hook above the bottom one, or when we want to put a dropper on to very fine gut. It is an idea of our own, and we have never seen it illustrated or described; but from experience we can recommend our readers to give it a trial. It is extremely strong, and as only two single knots are employed, it is the neatest that can be employed. To make it, put a single knot B in the middle of a strand of the gut line A, then pass the end of the hook, or fly length of gut C, through the knot B, and make a single knot in it C including the gut line A, pull the knots tight, first one and then the other, and then pull the two knots so that C slides down to B, and cut off the projecting end. Mr. Tod would, we think, find this an excellent plan for making his loop to get the double gut on which he fastens his flies as described last week, as two single knots must be neater than when the gut is doubled before the knot is made—as will be seen at once if a rather coarse piece of string is used to make the experiment.

Fig. 2.



## SALMON ANGLING ON THE TWEED.

The success which attended the efforts of the salmon angler last week has, we are glad to say, continued in a very marked degree. The weather became unsettled on Friday last, and rain falling heavily both the Tweed and Teviot came down in flood to the extent of 1½ft. This rise brought up a large number of salmon from the sea, and now all the pools in the middle and upper reaches of the rivers are pretty well stocked with clean-run fish. Trout anglers, too, have had a fair good time of it, many baskets of 3½lb. to 8½lb. having been killed. The following are the salmon takes since our last report:—Thursday. Oct. 9: On the Mertoun water, the Hon. H. Brougham, London, killed four salmon, three of which weighed 16lb., 16lb., and 18lb. Friday, Oct. 10: Hon. H. Brougham, on the above water, four salmon—18lb., 20lb., 23lb., and 25lb. Saturday, Oct. 11: The river came down to-day, consequently angling was somewhat interfered with. On the Ednam House water Mr. James Gibson had one of 20lb.; on the Carham water Mr. A. Hay Gordon, Liverpool, had two fish—one of 16lb. and one of 19lb.—while Mr. Gosling had one of 22lb.; on Birgham Dub Mr. A. Denison had two salmon, the heaviest being 26lb. Monday, Oct. 13: On the Ednam House upper water Mr. Drummond had good sport, killing four fish—5lb., 9lb., 16lb., and 18lb.; on the Sprouston water Mr. Balfour, Paradise, had one of 17lb. Tuesday, Oct. 14: On the Carham water Mr. Gordon had a grilse of 6lb.; on the Ednam House lower water Mr. Drummond killed two salmon, weighing 8lb. and 9lb. respectively. Wednesday, Oct. 15: Captain Fairfax, R.N. (H.M.S. *Monarch*), Ravenswood, one fish of 29lb. On the Mertoun water, the Hon. H. Brougham, three fish, 24lb., 25lb., and 27lb. On the Carham water, Mr. A. Hay Gordon had four, 6lb., 10lb., 11lb., and 12lb. respectively. On the Ednam House water, Mr. Drummond two, 21lb. and 22lb.; Mr. Whatman, Paradise House, Kelso, one of 20lb. on the Sprouston water; and Mr. Balfour, on the same water, killed five fish, two of 9lb. each, and three of 18lb. each. On the Earl of Home's water, Mr. Jas. Moffat had good sport, two of his fish weighing 26lb. and 38lb., the latter being the heaviest salmon killed during the back-end season so far as it has gone.—W. Maxwheel, Kelso.

# CLUB REPORTS.

### AMICABLE BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

On the 12th inst., Mr. Moore one jack from the Lea; Mr. Partrick, roach. The members are requested to attend on Wednesday next, October 22nd, to make the final arrangements respecting the roaming match to take place in the river Lea, on the 26th inst., from the Fish and Eels to the gate above the Black Pool, for fourteen prizes.—J. Worledge, sec.

### ANGLERS' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

Since my last report, I beg to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of 5s. donation from Mr. Towell, of Charing-cross.—R. Ghurney, sec.

### BATTERSEA FRIENDLY ANGLING CLUB.

On October 12th, Mr. T. Smith, fishing at Weybridge, weighed in a nice brace of jack, 4lb. 3oz. and 5lb. 2¼oz.; also a nice chub going 3lb 12oz. Mr. H. Ford, a nice show of dace and roach from Staines. On October 19th, a pegged-down match at Windsor. On Tuesday last, the members of the Clapham Junction Angling Club paid our members a return visit, when a most enjoyable evening was spent. Chairman, Mr. G. Mumford; vice, H. Martin. Mr. J. Dodds officiated at the piano. A few of the performers' names are appended. According to the list of talent present, if everybody had sung the meeting would have broken up on Thursday morning Messrs. A. Blackburn, H. Martin, R. Welman, W. Johnson, C. Hedges, Moore, E. Heighton, and others followed until a late hour.—A. T. Sampson, hon sec.

### BROMPTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

Very few members have weighed in any fish lately. On the 5th, Mr. E. Saunders, bream, and C. Saunders, bream and jack; on the 12th, Mr. E. Saunders, jack. Members are requested to attend next Wednesday, 22nd, to decide for the day's outing.—W. Dutton, sec.

### CITY OF LONDON ANGLING SOCIETY.

A few of our members fished a pegged-down match on the 5th inst., in the Grand Junction Canal, at Cowley, only one prize being taken; the fortunate member was Mr. Plumstead, sen. We all got fish, but returned them to their native element to grow larger. Mr. Nitz weighed in bream from Pulborough. On the 12th inst., only three members went out, two weighing in—viz., Mr. Nitz, a small jack, from Pulborough, 2lb. 5oz.; and Mr. Castell, roach, chub, and gudgeon, from Burnt Mill, 2lb.—Cas.

### CLAPTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The ordinary weekly meeting was held on Monday last, Mr. H. J. Tibbatts in the chair. The minutes of the preceding meeting were signed, and general business transacted. In answer to the question as to an "outing," the secretary stated that it had been thought prudent to postpone such a meeting till the weather promised better for jack fishing, as the waters at St. Margaret's would be in better trim later on when the weeds were down. Mr. Tregenza had a small jack from these waters on the preceding Saturday, and Mr. G. Colls weighed in three nice jack and barbel from Staines. A most interesting leading article appeared in the *Morning Post* of Thursday last specially relating to the river Lea. The writer describes it as containing fish "almost beyond belief," and that "there is no better river in England for bottom fishing than the river Lea." But the purport of the leader is to draw attention to the just punishments awarded to the two poachers, "Brandy Hearne" and Tyrrell, the former £5 fine or two months, and an additional fine of £5 for assaulting T. Verdun, the water bailiff, through whose efforts the poachers were captured. I wrote you of this capture when it occurred a few weeks ago, and it is very gratifying to notice so important an organ as the *Morning Post* writing down the river poachers of the Lea. We are well "on" the poachers; would that we were as well "on" the "polluters." "Receivers" are in all cases considered as bad as the thieves. We are on the track of some wholesale receivers of the fish from the "Lea." Although we rent "preserved waters" on this river, still there are many "fishey spots" in the open river known and frequented by several of our members, and for them, as well as for the general body of brother anglers, the Clapton Angling Society has done, and will continue to do, good service in the preservation of the fish of the Lea.—Henry Howse, hon. sec.

### GLOBE ANGLING SOCIETY.

The greater portion of our members were out on the 12th inst., but owing to the severity of the weather their sport was very limited. The following are those most successful:—Messrs. W. Brown, one jack 3lb. 13oz., one chub 1lb., roach 8oz.; G. Brown, one jack 2lb. 8oz., roach 1lb.; H. Lake, one bream 1lb. 11oz., and 6lb. of splendid roach.; W. Whatcott, 6lb. 13oz. of roach of the same description, dace 5oz.; F. Lawrence, roach and dace 1lb. Mr. Alexander Payne was unanimously elected a member on our last meeting night, and another gentleman proposed. Our next smoking concert will take place on Wednesday evening next, the 22nd inst. Chair taken at 8.30 p.m.—J. J. Holmes, sec.

### GOLDEN BARBEL.

On the 5th inst. Mr. Green had some nice roach from the Thames; Mr. Chapman exhibited chub, roach, and dace from the Colne, some of the dace weighing 8oz. each: Mr. Hall had roach from the Arun. On the 7th inst. Messrs. Stoner and J. J. Jones had a nice lot of roach, chub, and dace from the Thames; Mr. F. Kemp and Friend Clarke visited the tidal water, and managed to get 28lb. of roach and dace. On the 12th inst. Mr. Green had roach from the Thames, and Mr. Chapman chub and perch from the Colne. On the 14th inst. Mr. J. J. Jones had some roach from the Colne. Notice to those members who were unable to attend on the 14th inst.: That the next competition will take place at Windsor on the 26th inst. Members wishing to compete are requested to send in their names to Mr. J. Roach.—Pixie.

### GREENWICH ANGLING SOCIETY.

At our usual meeting last Thursday week Mr. H. Ware weighed in some splendid perch, and Mr. E. Eldridge a jack. Members are requested to attend more regularly. —J. Ware.

### GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

The ordinary weekly meeting of the above society was held on Tuesday evening, at the Mason's Hall Tavern, Mason's Avenue, Basinghall-street, Capt. Alfred in the chair. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed, and Mr. A. F. Meaden was unanimously elected a member of the society. A notice was read from the Central Association, calling a special general meeting of the delegates for Friday evening next. Dr. Lloyd read a very admirable paper entitled "Angling as a Sport," for which, on the motion of Mr. Chambers, seconded by Mr. Bentley, a hearty vote of thanks was unanimously accorded to him. "The Health of the Visitors," proposed in flattering terms by the chairman, was coupled with the name of Mr. Short, of the Clapton Angling Society, a frequent visitor to the Gresham, who made a suitable reply. Notwithstanding the unfavourable state of the water and weather, some very good fish were shown for the roach competition, Mr. Thomas obtaining 1st prize with a remarkably good tray; this gentleman also exhibited a very fine catch of dace. The 2nd prize was taken by Mr. King, of Windsor, who weighed in a very handsome take. The healths of the successful anglers were duly proposed and responded to. During the later portion of the evening the duties of the chair were undertaken by Mr. Parker, to whom and Capt. Alfred a vote of thanks having been passed, the meeting, which was an exceedingly well-attended one, was closed in the usual manner.—H.

### GREAT YARMOUTH PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

A special meeting was held on the 14th inst., the chair being taken by Capt. Blake, vice-president ; vice, Mr. C. K. Lamb. The first business consisted of arranging for the finishing competition of the season for bottom fishing, which it was finally arranged should be on Thursday, the 30th inst., three prizes being in abeyance, but which was supplemented by Mr. Bunn, the successful competitor in the last, offering the society a prize, which, it is needless to say, was duly accepted ; likewise the offer of £1 1s. for fishing tackle, by the vice-president, for jack fishing in a contest in November. The next business was the secretary's request that a committee be appointed to assist him in checking all accounts, &c., belonging to the society, and to make certain alterations in the matter of receipts and payments in future. Capt. Blake made the following proposition, which was duly seconded and unanimously carried :—That, in consequence of the important responsibility this society owes to the various subscribers to the Heigham Sounds Fund, and to the members of the society who have paid this year's subscriptions, the following gentlemen to be forthwith appointed a committee of inspection to check all monies, &c., passing through the hands of the treasurer and secretary, and to have full power to collect all monies now due to the Fund or society, reporting the result of their labours to the society in general on any meeting of the society. The following gentlemen were duly appointed :—Messrs. C. K. Lamb, Barrett, C. H. Harrison, Pretty, Lark, and secretary. Three of the above to constitute a quorum on any occasion it may be requisite. The secretary also called attention to the fact that perch in a great measure prefer one of their own specie to other food, as one of 3in. in length was found in one caught by Mr. Hutchinson at Fritton, weighing 1¼lb., which makes the second report of such an occurrence, the other occurring in front of Cantley red house. It seems strange, because at Fritton there are roach, rudd, and gudgeon, and it clearly shows the bait that should be used for large perch.—J. Lark, sec.

### HIGHBURY ANGLING SOCIETY.

During the last two or three weeks the members of this society have well sustained their reputation in producing some very excellent specimen fish from various waters, and among the most prominent may be mentioned Mr. Frank Temple, Mr. Devonshire, Mr. Lewis, Mr. Howell, jun., Mr. Edwards, Mr. Anthony, Mr. Champ, Mr. McDermott, Mr. K. Middleton, Mr. Shipley, Mr. White, Mr. Higley, Mr. E. Wheatley, Mr. C. Otway, and Mr. C. Rose. We compete for twelve prizes on the 19th inst. from the Thames, and a large muster intend going out.—J. E. Wheatley, sec.

### IZAAK WALTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

Two special prizes were fished for on the 12th inst. in the Stort, at Burnt Mill, Mr. R. Perrin taking the first and Mr. B. Crook the second. The two special prizes, given by Messrs. G. Rolt and G. Wood, are to be fished for on Wednesday next, at Tottenham. For particulars see last week's issue of the Fishing Gazette. Mr. G. Wood had a tray of nice roach from the Lea on the 15th inst.—H. B.

### LINCOLN ANGLING SOCIETY.

Our members went out on the 12th inst., and a pretty good show of roach and bream were brought in, the principal best angler being Mr. Sheen. Weybridge was the place selected.—H. Bingle, sec.

### LIVERPOOL ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

We are now located at the Canton Hotel, 14, Victoria-street, Liverpool, where all letters and communications must in future be addressed. When the final moment of parting from our birthplace came, it brought an amount of keen regret to the hearts of those who for five years had made the Strawberry Hotel their resort that could not have been credited. Here we had passed our infancy ; here we had grown to manhood ; here we had met on numberless pleasant occasions ; and here we had grown to maturity and strength. What wonder, then, that to a good few the wrench of severance was in a measure painful ? And although Mr. W. Jones was at times a little erratic and perverse, he had a kind heart, and this was often and often displayed—to the writer more especially. And his good wishes and help were invariably with his children, as I may term the members of the Liverpool Angling Association, and he was ever ready to sacrifice his own interests for the good of the cause. He is no mean angler himself, and has more than once taken high honours ; and his better half, too—a help meet for him and the pastime he loves so well—was always eager and willing to make each one as comfortable as possible, and her generosity was never failing. My warmest thanks are due to Mrs. Jones, and I give them freely and truthfully. And Miss Kate—what can I say about her ? At times disdainful, but in the main attractive and lovable, sometimes pouting with her rosebud of a mouth, but mostly merry and gay. Farewell, Strawberry Hotel ; many are the happy nights I have passed under its roof during the last six years ; sorry am I that necessity compels us to abandon thy time-honoured surroundings. But I shall never forget thee and those I have met within thy walls, and memory will ever cherish a fond and green remembrance of many pleasant and social gatherings under thy roof. Members, remember 4.15 prompt on Wednesday afternoon next, the 23rd, at Lime-street Station.—R. Woolfall, hon. sec.

### THE NEWARK PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

On Saturday afternoon the members of this association held a special competition in the Witham, at Bennington, for a handsome prize, kindly given by Mr. James Wragg, of the Queen's Head Inn, Scotland-street, Sheffield, with a view of promoting the interests of the "gentle art" in Newark. Twenty-seven competitors, members of the association and those who had fished in Mr. Wragg's matches during the last three years' availed themselves of the opportunity of competing for the valuable prize, supplemented by various minor prizes. Excepting the winner, the "takes" of fish ran small, minnows being predominant in most of the catches weighed in.

[Fancy minnows being allowed to weigh in !—Ed.]

### THE PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The Shentonian or Thames Pike Competition of this society took place on Monday last, and it certainly proved to be one of the most popular competitions of the year. The spacious room was well filled with members, and it was particularly remarked that several were present who rarely attend. There were also several visitors. Amongst the members present were Messrs. Gillatt, Lemann, Goodger, Meyer, Jesse, Hodson, Huggett, Perelli Rocco, Booker, Bennett, Sparrow, Blundell, H. B. Brown, Fennings, Clegg, C. C. Blunden, H. H. Brown, Attwell, Russell, Butler, Batt, Bird, Adlington, Arter, Gray, Lander (hon. sec.), Foreman, Harden, Pattisson, Wheatstone, Robinson, Dr. Brimton, Dr. Coates, Rev. G. Sumner, &c. Amongst the visitors were Messrs. Watson, Aldridge, &c. Messrs. Lemann was unanimously voted to the chair. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. Mr. Lecluse has weighed in one jack during the past week from Goring, 8lb. Messrs. Norman, Harrisson, and H. B. Brown have weighed in 32lb. 10oz. of roach from Deeping St. James, all taken with artificial fly, each fish 6oz. and over. Mr. Brown explained on behalf of himself and Mr. Harrisson that the Welland was a very prolific river, and abundance of good roach therein. Up to the present time the artificial fly has been the most successful of the baits used this season. The accommodation was good and the charges moderate. Mr. Perelli Rocco kindly announced his intention of lending a piano for the evening of the supper, and hoped that Mr. King would attend as accompanyist. The chairman proposed, and Mr. Huggett seconded, a vote of thanks to Mr. Rocco for his kindness, which was unanimously responded to with cheers and wishes for his better health. Mr. Meyer, fishing at Staines with Hone on Saturday last, took eight pike. He had nine runs, and secured eight fish, the largest nearly 6lb., and two others nearly 5lb. each, and was congratulated upon taking eight pike from the Thames for a day's fishing. He also took some barbel, but they were small, and the cool weather seemed to have taken all the fight out of them. Our supper takes place on Monday evening next, and will be well attended. Messrs. Foreman and Harden hope to have a show of pike on that day. The supper will be served at 8.30. After supper, the rest of the evening will be devoted to music, singing, &c. About 11 p.m., all the competitors for the pike competition had arrived from the various places, and a fine show of Thames pike graced our tables. Mr. Wheatstone took the first prize with five pike weighing 24lb. 12oz., and also the prize for the largest fish of the competition. Mr. Robinson took the second prize with two pike, 8lb. 4oz. Mr. Huggett showed one pike 4lb. 4oz., and Mr. Foreman one pike 3¼lb. There were several other members who caught fish, which, at the time of capture, no doubt weighed 3lb., but Mr. Gray, who always insists on full weight, could not pass them. Altogether, with Mr. Meyer's three best fish, there were twelve pike upon the table, not one under 3lb., and several between 5lb. and 6lb., which, for Thames fishing, was considered a most satisfactory result. The health of the prize winners and successful anglers, Messrs. Wheatstone and Robinson, was proposed amidst loud cheers. Mr. Wheatstone replying, said that the water was really so bright that he did not expect to get a single fish. Strange to say, all his fish were taken with roach on snap tackle; the pike seemed to refuse to have anything to do with dace. He took them all in one place—in the reach above Mapledurham Lock. Mr. Robinson, who was obliged to leave early, explained that he took his fish at Lechlade, the water being somewhat coloured. Mr. Foreman was glad to see the great and increasing interest taken in the competition, and he attributed the great popularity of the present one to the fact of the fish having to come from the Thames only, and the chances of the competitors being more equal than where the prizes are offered for fish taken in any public water. The Chairman proposed "The Continued Prosperity of the Piscatorial Society," which was most heartily responded to. Mr. Goodger proposed "The Health of Mr. Lemann" (the chairman), and remarked how efficiently he had carried out the duties of the evening. Mr. Lemann replied, and the business of the evening terminated about 12 p.m.—T. H.

### PECKHAM BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

Messrs. Turner and Gardham upheld the honour of the club in the South London United match by taking third and fourth prizes. It was a very rough day —in fact, I believe, if "Pixie" had taken "Madam" down on that occasion she would never wish to go again. Charles White had a nice show of perch from Godfrey's water at West Drayton. A match on the 19th at St. Margaret's ; train leaves Liverpool-street at 8 a.m. The tickets for the dinner are now ready ; early application requested, as the number is limited.—Gadfly.

### RICHMOND PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

A large number of members attended the weekly meeting of this society on Wednesday evening, Mr. A. J. Little in the chair, Mr. Dickenson the vice-chairman. A letter was read from Mr. Andrews, of Guildford, announcing that some of the trout ordered by the society would be forwarded the next day, and the chairman announced to turn in the fish in the afternoon, after the flood tide water had run off, several members promising to attend. It was announced that the roach competition would take place in the Thames on Wednesday, the 29th inst., and a pike competition on Wednesday, 26th November ; also on the names for three prizes in each competition. The smoking concert was to take place on Wednesday, 12th November. Mr. Taman introduced his resolution referring to the desirability of up-river associations and societies amalgamating for the purpose of forwarding angling matters, more particularly with reference to the action of the Select Committee of the House of Commons upon angling rights and privileges above Staines, and the hon. sec. was directed to communicate with the secretary of the Maidenhead Association. In the discussion that followed, it was thought that this proposition might lead to the formation of an Anglers' Parliament for quarterly meetings, for the consideration of matters affecting anglers and fishing generally.—G. H. Hester, hon. sec.

### RODNEY PISCATORIALS.

Mr. Flower saved us from a blank on the 12th with perch from Roydon. Mr. Grant, jun., had a lively time with something large at Ponder's End ; either a barbel or else a chub, he had on for some time, but failed to bring his opponent on shore ; his rod breaking placed him *hors de combat*. Members intending to compete in the October competition are requested to send in their names on or before the 22nd to —Pixie.

### ROYAL GEORGE ANGLING SOCIETY.

Our vice-chairman, with his usual forethought, knowing that any other fishing would be useless considering the state of the river, offered a prize for the gross lot of gudgeon taken from the bank on Oct. 5, on condition that not less than eight members went out for it. Mr. Longland gave a second, Mr. Hughes a third. I went to the station, and found over the number. Off we went. On arriving at our destination each one set to work with a will (a will that only anglers possess), but wind and rain was so bad that several gave it up after a few hours as a bad job. Mr. Holden (not by any means on "old 'un") came in No. 1, although it was almost a tie between him and Mr. Sinclair—I don't think there was ½oz. difference. Of course, Mr. Sinclair took second, Mr. Palmer third. Mr. Wood brought home a fine show of roach from the Thames last week, one going close on a pound lot. He lives in hopes of getting a lot more from the same spot as soon as some rain falls, I know another member in the same hopeful condition, and his name is—W. H. Rider.

### SOCIETY OF CAXTONIAN ANGLERS.

The annual competition for the society's silver cup took place on Thursday, Oct. 2nd, in the Thames, in the vicinity of Twickenham, and was numerously attended by the members. The prize was for the largest roach, which was taken by Mr. George Head (who fished with Mansell, of Richmond). The members afterwards assembled at the club house, The Falcon, Gough-square, Fleet-street, partook of the first monthly supper of the season, and spent a very enjoyable evening. The gross weight of fish taken during the day and exhibited at the club house was nearly 200lb. weight.—A. B.

### THE SOUTH-EASTERN ANGLING SOCIETY.

On the 5th inst., eleven of our members fished for their special prizes in cash, at Pangbourne, with the following result :—Mr. G. Sharman, 11¾oz. perch, 1st prize ; Mr. H. Bayley, 7¾oz. perch, 2nd ; Mr. T. Keeble, 5¾oz. roach, 3rd ; Mr. J. W. Smith also weighing in roach 4¼oz., none others being successful. On the 12th inst., some half a dozen members were out, but having small shows did not trouble the undersigned to weigh in. Mr. T. Keeble was out again on the 15th inst., and weighed in some nice fish consisting of barbel, jack, perch, roach and dace, in all 28½lb., from Staines. On the 14th inst., at our meeting, one new member made and one proposed. I would ask all our members to attend the next meeting in force—club-room newly decorated, and again at home.—T. H. H. Weston, sec.

### SOUTH LONDON UNITED.

On the 12th inst. over 100 of the members of the above visited Amberley, 98 of whom competed for six prizes in a "pegged down" from Houghton Bridge to the Railway Bridge at Bury : the result is as follows :—1st, Mr. Davis, A. and H. ; 2nd, Mr. Andrews, W. ; 3rd, Mr. Fernier, P.B. ; 4th, Mr. Garnam, P.B. ; 5th, Mr. Jenner, W. ; 6th, Mr. Liston, A. and H. Messrs. T. Wright, Gilman, Lock, Wright, and Frost also had fish. The swims were marked out by Messrs. Allen and Gafney, and considering the number and the distance, gave great satisfaction, and it was not their fault if the majority did not get fish ; for the day was right, the water was right, and the weather was right ; but the fish were all wrong, for very few of them would feed, and that was only for a short time in the morning, and just as it was time to leave off. I caught a gudgeon.—Pixie.

## WELLINGTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

On the 12th inst., thirteen of our members fished in the South London Visiting List Competition at Amberley, and succeeded in winning two prizes: Mr. Andrews, second prize, with 1lb. 14½oz., and Mr. Jenner the fifth, with 7¾oz. We also fished for three other prizes concurrently with the above, the winners being Mr. Andrews first, Mr. Jenner second, and Mr. Herbert Sloper third. Mr. Harris weighed in jack, 7lb. 14oz., from the Medway, and Mr. Palmer a ½lb. carp.—W. W. ALEXANDER, sec.

## FISH BREEDING IN 1705.

THE following extracts are from a curious little book entitled "England's Interest, or the Gentleman and Farmer's Friend," by Sir J. More, third edition, 1705:—

"It is unknown but to such as have made Tryal what a great Profit may be made by breeding of Carp, especially near the City of London, or within reach of any Eminent City or Town in England Inhabited by the Nobility or Gentry. The Pond for the Carp is no great Charge in making; the stocking of it with fish much less, and the looking after it no Charge at all, it being only the Expence of Idle Hours.

"As for the Scituation of the Pond, we will suppose it near London, on the River of Thames: Let your Pond be of an Acre of Land, Planted with Willows in different places, but not all round it. Let it not be in every place of an equal depth, but in some places deeper than in other, that the fish may lye there and keep themselves warm in hard winters. Make an Aqueduct, either by an arch or by Wooden or Leaden Pipes, to convey the water from the Thames into your pond, so that the Tide may Ebb and Flow in Your Pond, as it does in the River. By this means you may have a Breed of Carps the same of those of the River, so much applauded by Curious Palates; and who knows, but if you put a Quantity of the Thames Flounders (which are now killed so very small) into these Ponds, but they may thrive and grow to a large size?

"The Female Carp will be Eight or Nine Year before she will Multiply, therefore you must stock your Ponds with Carp of that Age, or else it will be too long before you come to have any Profit of your Ponds; and in every Pond you must put in several Females, lest one should dye.

"The Male Carp must be three ot four years old, and to every Female you must put 12 or more Males. A Pond of an Acre will feed every year 200 Carps of three Years old, 300 of two Years old, and 400 of one Year old.

"If you have a Design to make them very Fat, and grow very Large, you may remove them from your Ponds, and put them into Pits and Puddles in Pastures, or into deep Ditches in Meadows; where, by a short continuance, they will grow to a great Bigness. You must draw your Pond about Alholland Tide; you must kill all that are above three years old, except the Breeding Females, then put the rest that are three years, two years, and one year old, into the Pond, as many of them as it will feed. This must be done every Year, and Constant Care must be taken to keep the Females in sufficient Number for Breeding; for sometimes the Females will dye soon after they have Spawn'd. The Female must never be Kill'd, but kept from Year to Year, and a Female well kept will be in heart 40 or 50 Years.

"There is no part of the Kingdom free from Thieves; there are *Poachers* for Fish, as well as for Hares and Conies; and therefore you must take care of those People, for if they draw your Ponds they will make no distinction betwixt Males and Females, betwixt Breeders and Store-fish, they'll take 'em as they rise, for they are all profit to 'em. The Method of Staking Ponds will *not* do in this Case—where Men make a profit of breeding Fish. The Stakes will hinder the Thieves from drawing your Ponds, and it will you also, who must be able to come at your Fish, as Occasion shall require. Ponds are generally Staked by Gentlemen who breed Fish only for the Diversion of the Angle, and they know where abouts the Stakes are, and how to dip their Line clear of them.

"But your best way to preserve Your Carps is to make Home Ponds pretty deep, and bring them near Your house at Winter. You may put five or 600 Carps in a Pond of twelve foot square, where they will lye Warm in the Rigorous Winter; for 'tis to be noted that a Carp never Feeds but in the summer season.

"The same Order may almost be observed in Ponds for other sorts of Fish, only they are not to be removed. In your Ponds for Pike and Jacks, you must put in Roach and Dace, on which the Pike will feed. The large Roach which grown too big for the prey will be a good profit in the Market, especially those bred in the Ponds near the Thames, into which the tide flows. You may put Pearch into these Ponds, which are a Profitable Fish, and on which the Pike cannot feed, by Reason the Pearch have Prickles on their Heads, Backs, and Fins, which hinder the Pikes from gorging them."

[The time of greatest fecundity of carp is when they are three or four years old. We should think that 600 carp in a pond 12ft. square would indeed "lye warm in the Rigorous Winter!"—ED.]

FISHING RODS—AND TACKLE.

BULMER'S "FISHING GAZETTE" GOSSAMER GUT LINES,

Three yards, 8d. each.

"We want nothing better than his finest, on which we have this season killed a 2lb. trout, a 2lb. tench, a 2lb. eel, and a 4lb. pike, and that, too, on a stiff rod. In fact, with fair play, it will take any average trout that will take a fly out of the May-fly season."—FISHING GAZETTE Notice, September 18, 1883.

See also notices in the FISHING GAZETTE for Dec. 17, 1881; June 28th, 1882; July 1, 1882; and March 8th, 1884.

LINES.—Gut, 3 yards, 3d., 4d., and 6d.; FISHING GAZETTE Gossamer Gut, Tapered, 8d. each; Best 8-plait Silk Line, 25 yards, 1s., 1s. 3d., and 1s. 6d.; prepared ditto, 20 yards, 1s.; stout, 1d. a yard; Good Gut, 12in., 1s. a hank, about 100 strips, 14in., 1s. 6d.; Gossamer Gut, 12in., 3s. 6d.; 14in., 4s. 6d.

HOOKS.—Crystal, and all other Hooks on Best Gut or Hair, 6d. doz.; on Gossamer Gut to Match Lines, 8d. per doz. Eel hooks, 6d. 100. Kendal, 1s. 100. Double Jack Hooks to Gimp, 1½d. each, 1s. 3d. dozen; Treble ditto, 2d. each. Pennel Snaps, 2½d.; Jardine, 3½d. each; Gut or Gimp Spinning Flights, 6d. each; Spoon Baits (Jack's size), 9d. each; Gut and Gimp Traces, 6d. each, FISHING GAZETTE Gut and Gimp Traces, used with or without a lead, 4 swivels, 10d.; ditto Twisted Gut, stout or fine, 1s. each; 3in. Jack Float, 6d.

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HEATON'S PATENT REELS, "Strike from the Winch," and Heaton's Patent Screw-joint Ferrule, capped up to ⅝in., 1s. 6d.

Rods made to order or fitted with screw-joint ferrules.

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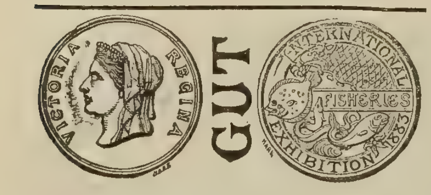

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THE NOTTINGHAM STYLE.

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20 Page Catalogue post free to any address.
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BEST TROUT FLIES, 2s. per doz.
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From W. C. WILKINSON, F.R.C.S., Spalding:—
"I consider it invaluable in phthisis and spasmodic cough; the benefit is very marked indeed."

Sold in bottles, 1s. 1½d., 2s. 9d., and 4s. 6d., by all Chemists.

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A Pamphlet, with full particulars, on application.

FRANCIS RAVENSCROFT, Manager.
*March 31st, 1884.*

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'SAVED MY LIFE,'
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THE AUTOMATIC PERFECT SAND EEL.

PATENT (9,064).

A most killing Bait for Salmon (in an Estuary), also for Sea Trout, Pollock, Bass, &c.
Sizes:—3¼in., 1s.; 4¼in., 1s. 6d.; 5in., 2s. each.
"Simply perfect in shape and colouring."—Ed. FISHING GAZETEE.
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IMPROVEMENT ON AUTOMATIC SWIMMING BAIT (Patent).

Viz., can be made also to spin by simply bending the tail-end. The nearest approach to life ever produced.
Trout sizes:—1½in., 1¾in., 2in., 2½in., 2s. 6d. each.
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"We do not remember to have seen a more life-like deception, especially when in the water, and the fins are working."—Ed.

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HOGE'S HOREHOUND HONEY

Hawthorn Lodge
Finchley New Road
N.W.
March 30. 1883.

Gentlemen— I have much pleasure in stating that I consider your "Horehound Honey" the most wonderful remedy I have ever tried, possessing properties which are nothing short of marvellous for the cure of affections of the throat and chest. I shall never be without a bottle of "Horehound Honey".

Yours very truly
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SUPPLIED BY ALL CHEMISTS 1/1½ PR BOTTLE.

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Communications relating to the Literary Department, Fishing Tackle for Notice, Books for Review, &c. must be addressed to the Editor of the FISHING GAZETTE, No. 12, Fetter Lane, London, E.C.

Contributions are solicited, but the Editor will not undertake to return rejected MSS. unless accompanied with a stamped addressed envelope.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only, and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith. Unless this rule be adhered to, no notice will be taken of such communications.

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# The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1884.

## BRANDY AS A FISH REVIVER.

MR. W. OLDHAM CHAMBERS, Secretary of the National Fish Culture Association, sends us a letter, which we publish this week, in which he says he has carried out our suggestion that he should experiment on fish which die quickly out of water, and that the restorative effect of a little spirit is equally marked ; in fact, a dace becomes as mad as a March hare after a dose of brandy. We can imagine nothing more likely to shock the feelings of any respectable pike than to see an inebriated dace come rolling into his premises ; he would be compelled to make an example of such a graceless intruder.

All pike anglers know how dead and dull the dace get in very cold weather, and they should remember Mr. Chambers's recipe.

## "WANTED," BY THE NATIONAL FISH CULTURE ASSOCIATION.

WE beg to draw the attention of our readers to the advertisement of the above Association in our columns this week, and we hope any who may be able to do so will kindly help the Association by giving the Secretary, Mr. Chambers, particulars of any places they know which might suit.

## TROUT FISHING ON AN IRISH STREAM.

By H. W. PEARD, M.B.

"WHY tarry the wheels of his chariot ?" These, or some similar words, would have expressed my thoughts on a bright and breezy morning at the end of the first week in March last, while I was waiting for a friend who had promised faithfully to join me at 10 a.m., but who was now late by some 20 minutes. With profuse apologies for unpunctuality, Colonel W—— at length arrived, and, my trap having been ready for some time, off we started. The scene of our intended sport was the river Bride, one of the largest tributaries of the Southern Blackwater. This is a pretty river, and particularly well suited for trout—indeed, I know none better if it were only decently preserved ; but, I am sorry to say, for seven miles of the best of it one cannot find a single bailiff. One might as well look along its banks for the four-leafed shamrock, and with about the same success ! The result of this is obvious. The wretched salmon who are venturesome enough to run up are gaffed and stroke-hauled without mercy. (I am not sure that even burning does not sometimes go on at night.) The larger trout are occasionally swept out of a good hole with a net, and numerous unlicensed fishermen fish and carry gaffs with impunity. Nevertheless, I do not altogether despair ; these rod fishermen are, at best, but coarse "brethren of the angle," and clumsy in their method of fishing, and in the manufacture of their flies and tackle. I have often got a few trout with neat flies on the finest gut, when the streams had been thrashed by three or four other rods, and, on such occasions, I feel infinitely better pleased with myself than when I have caught much heavier baskets in better preserved, or, rather, in less hacked, waters. We arrived at a certain wooden foot-bridge at about 10.40 a.m., and, on inquiry, I found we were in luck, and that no one had as yet been seen fishing that morning. Colonel W—— fishes well and carefully, but I had the advantage of knowing every yard of the river, whereas he was a complete stranger to it ; also I fished with a 14ft. greenheart rod, of Castleconnell pattern, that I could put a fly well under the opposite bank with, while he had a 10ft. cane rod, made in the north of England, and rather stiff to please me. I put up a cast of flies for the worthy Colonel the same as my own, and started him off from the wooden bridge, while I walked half a mile up the river before beginning. The flies were : Tail fly, the Grey Coughlan ; first dropper, a pale blue Dun ; and, lastly, a fly called the Coshtheen. The Blue Dun is well known to the reader, but I doubt that one in ten knows the Grey Coughlan, or one in twenty the Coshtheen, so I shall describe them. The Grey Coughlan is one of the ephemeral (order *Neuroptera*) which makes its appearance on the water some weeks before the Brown Coughlan, which is the Irish name for the March Brown. The best way to dress this fly, and to make an almost exact imitation of the natural insect, is this : First, having tied a small hook (No. 1 Hutchinson) to a length of the finest gut, tie in a couple of long whisks from a spotted brown Mallard feather for a tail, then the end of a little bit of lemon-yellow tying-silk ; now make a nice, slightly tapered, but thin body of chocolate-brown floss silk, and rib it four times with the aforesaid yellow silk. Make the legs of a pale mottled grey hen's hackle, add a little "cocky-up" wing of light starling's quill, finish off in the orthodox way, and you have a killing fly. The Coshtheen is the Irish name of the little blue titmouse. The fly is one (order *Diptera*) which appears on the water on fine bright days in March and part of April, and when well imitated is a capital fly. Tie it as follows : Tip and one-third of the body of deep, dull orange floss silk (a brown orange I think describes the proper shade), the rest of the body a bright blue floss silk or mohair (I like mohair best) ; legs, a dull blue feather from the titmouse's tail wound on as a hackle ; wings made nicely double from pale starling's quill feather, and tied so as to lie down very flat ; hook No. 1 or 2 long. While walking up the river, I saw some trout rising at the Grey Coughlans which were flitting about in considerable numbers. I began at a very rapid stream, and very soon stuck and killed a lively half-pound trout with the tail fly, and at the tail of the stream another a little smaller. On I hurried to the next stream—an equally good one —but, to my disgust, I did not even get a rise. I saw the seal of a large otter by the bank on some soft sand, so his having been there early that morning may have frightened the fish. I believe the harm chiefly done by otters is not so much in killing the trout as in frightening them. Otters prefer eels to anything else, and, when there are plenty of those to be had, they do not care much for hunting the trout. All the same, I wish the otters were a less numerous body—we have biped poachers in plenty, and to spare ! A noble earl does keep a pack of otter hounds "not a hundred miles away," but his visits are few and far between, and it is on very rare occasions that an otter is killed on this unfortunate river I regret to say. On I fished with varying success ; here and there a small trout, but nothing much over a quarter-pound, until, at length, I came to a turn of the river, called the "luggeen," where there is a deep hole. This is a good spot for salmon early in the year, so I changed my casting line and put up a small Jock Scott. In less than half-a-dozen throws I hooked a fish and off he went down the stream, taking out about 40 yards of line. I got in most of it again, and was congratulating myself, and thinking I could gaff him in a few moments, when he gave another run and a jump, and took the fly with him to the bottom of the luggeen, where he may be still for aught I know. On examining the end of my line I found that the loop to which the fly was tied had cracked across. It is a great mistake when varnishing the head of a fly to let the varnish get on the loop of gut, for it prevents the gut from becoming soft in the water, and renders it liable to crack off, if, indeed, the spirit of the varnish has not some effect in rotting it. Well, I tried the luggeen again with with another fly—an Orange Grouse ; but, although I rose two fish, I did not hook either, and had to go back to the trout fishing. I now took off my two droppers, as they were not doing any good, and put up a single dropper instead —a fly called here a Grey Dun : tail, two whisks of mallard ; body of grey hare's ear fur, picked out with a needle and left rough ; legs, a black hen's hackle ; wings, starling quill feather. This change was a good one, for now the trout *(varium et mutabile semper trutta)* disdained my tail fly, and devoted all their admiration to the Grey Dun, so that I again made a change, and gave it the more honourable position of point fly, and dispensed with any dropper. Presently I came up to where my friend was fishing, and found that he, too, had some trout, but he found his short rod a nuisance, as he could not get out a long enough line to fish some good spots under the opposite bank, which, at this place, was steep and bushy down to the water's edge. Good spots they were, for I caught a couple of trout, fishing beyond his reach, one of them over a pound. I got a couple of pulls, too, that made my mouth water, but that was all the notice they took of my "line of invitation,"—just returned with thanks, or without any more likely. Colonel W—— now hooked a good fish, but he broke off, after, however, giving him some fine play. He told me that several others had behaved in the same way, and he began to think at last that his rod was too stiff, and bore too hard on the mouths of the fish. Soon after this he had better luck, and I landed a nice trout of about 12oz. for him. The breeze now freshened up considerably, and we got a few trout on the flats, but nothing of any size ; and presently they stopped rising altogether, so we left off fishing for that day, having between us three dozen and four trout, weighing about eight and a half pounds. Another day we did somewhat better, but I have already trespassed and exceeded the limits of your forbearance.

## SALMON FISHING NOTES.

RETURNING at the end of last week from an expedition combining the pleasures of tramping the roots and stubbles for partridges, and of whipping a favourite old pool for salmon, I found the numbers of the FISHING GAZETTE which had appeared during my absence awaiting me. In one of them I notice a letter from Major Traherne upon never striking a salmon. My own principle is always to strike a salmon at the moment when an instinct, born of practice, tells me to do so—sometimes before I feel him, sometimes after ; but when such a well-known fisherman tells us that it is best never to strike, great deference must be paid to his advice. Firstly, let me explain the rules I employ as to striking founded partly upon the instructions of authorities, partly upon experience—the best of teachers. Afterwards, I will describe a peculiar method of rising to the fly which the salmon adopted during my recent expedition, and will ask Major Traherne whether he would have stuck to his system of never striking under those circumstances. Let me here remark that I consider that the way in which the fly is thrown has a good deal to do with the rule as to striking. Some men throw almost straight down stream, or, at any rate, at an angle of forty-five, or less ; and in this case, as the stream keeps the line taut from the beginning, there is less necessity to strike. Personally, I always throw straight across the stream when possible, believing that, as my original instructor—one of the best fishermen in England—impressed upon me, twice as many salmon rise to the fly as it comes dancing across them as rise when it is being worked straight up and down stream. With this method of throwing, especially if you are coaxing a fish out of a curling backwater on the opposite side, some bagging of the line is unavoidable, as the line, in the stream, travels faster than the fly against the backwater. In this case, therefore, I generally strike quietly as soon as I see the fish rise or feel the slightest tug ; for I do not believe that a salmon would thus hook himself by his own weight before he had time to feel the nature of the fly and spit it out. Many fisherman object to throwing straight across, on account of this bagging of the line ; but I am convinced that more fish are risen by it, and that few need be lost or missed if struck at the proper time. Of course, at all times the salmon angler must fish with his head, and keep his presence of mind, so as not, for instance, to strike before his fish has actually taken the fly, but is only following it with a wary rush through shallow water. This is a moment when a young hand, seeing the rush, and not waiting for the final roll, is very apt to strike too soon, and thus snatch the fly from in front of the eager fish. I once saw a case where an over-excited beginner thus snatched away the fly too soon seven consecutive times, and at the eighth caught his fish ; nine fish out of ten would have sulked long before.

When the fly has got round straight down stream, and the line is taut, I give a fish plenty of time when he rises boldly, though always striking to insure the hook penetrating over the barb. I have tried both single and double-hooks, and have no decided preference for either.

Now I will pass on to the experiences of my past three weeks' fishing, and, for that purpose, will describe the nature of the pool to which I devoted my attention in the intervals of partridge shooting. At this favourite spot, the river makes a short turn, running round a slight corner into a long pool below 20ft. deep. On the inside of the turn there is a long gravel bed, from which it is most convenient to fish, both on account of wading, and for the playing and landing of the fish. On the opposite side, both the bed of the stream and the bank is a mass of rocks and boulders, amidst which backwaters curl round close to the shore. For 50 yards above the pool the stream runs fast and shallow, until, thrown from each bank, it forms a V-shaped rapid, breaking at its point into rippling and jumping water, which deepens to the ledge of the pool, where it again runs smoothly, curling round into oily backwaters on each side. Now, last year, from this one pool I took 45 salmon, and a large majority of them were taken, rising boldly and well, either in the V-shaped stream, or the backwaters at its side. When I went down recently to try a fly over the beloved old spot, I naturally fished most carefully over the ledge where the water ran smooth and fast, looking expectantly for the rush and rise. But, no! the fish have changed their habit, and I found that this season their favourite place was right below where the water ran deep just before the pool. This I could have forgiven them, if they had risen in their old bold style, with a good salmon-like wallow, or quiet porpoise-like dive; but instead of this, all the indication of his presence that a fish, big or small, would give was a slight tug under water, like a chub. Of course, in all seasons a salmon will occasionally rise thus, but here it was the invariable rule. Mr. Francis Francis, in his book on angling, gives the advice on these occasions "to strike instantly," and this I found the only way by which I could hook a fish. If there was much slack line, or I did not instantly strike, the fish was gone in a moment, making a slight derisive boil as he went. Even with immediate striking, I lost a heart-breaking number of fish before the first rush was done, and only managed to land six fish. It was some comfort to learn from a local friend that it was the same thing all down the river, and that he had heard of seven fish being missed and lost at one pool in a morning; but yet it was terribly trying to temper and language that the fish should be thus disposed during the short time that I could leave the smuts of London to try my luck amongst them. I should like to hear how Major Traherne would have acted under these circumstances, and whether he would not, at any rate temporarily, have adopted the plan of striking? Of course, I used the smallest of flies, and wish that I had seen Mr. Kelson's plan of a few shot upon the cast before I started, as I should certainly have tried it, seeing that the fish were taking so deep. When fishing for shy fish with small flies, not knowing at the time of the rise whether it be a 25lb. salmon or a 4lb. grilse, surely it is best to strike; for if it be the 4lb. grilse, will he hook himself by his own weight?

As to striking from the winch, I do not actually do so, because mine has but a slight check; but I practically produce the same result by holding my line lightly between my fingers, not beneath my hand. It seems to me that the whole matter and question of striking a salmon is a question of individual discretion at the moment of rising the fish, and that there can be no hard-and-fast rule to govern the subject.
VINCENS.

## THAMES FLOUNDERS.

It is now exactly twenty years since the first attempt was made by the Thames Angling Preservation Society to re-introduce the flounders into the river above the locks, when five thousand were purchased by the Committee and turned into the Thames between Moulsey and Sunbury. This was again repeated about six years afterwards, and nothing has been done since until last year, when, through the visits amongst the netsmen by Mr. Thomas Spreckley, the men expressed a desire to contribute some five thousand small flounders to be put in the river above Teddington Lock, with the idea they would thrive in those waters, and then drop down as larger fish, and thereby improve the character of the flounder fishery below. With the energy of Mr. Spreckley, he very soon made an important point in this movement, and not only accepted the offer of the netsmen, but established the best of feeling amongst them, and so zealously has he laboured in their interest, he is now in their entire confidence; and not only so, but wherever it was necessary, he has vindicated the law, and during the present season has obtained several convictions for taking unsizable flounders, thereby giving proof that the taking of such small fry for sale is against the interest of the men themselves. Indeed, the very men who were the offenders in those cases are now to be found amongst those ready to contribute the small fry for introduction in the upper waters. About twelve months ago Mr. Spreckley took up five thousand flounders to the Kingston water, which was then noticed by the press. The result this year has been so eminently satisfactory, that Mr. Spreckley, in his visits and labours amongst them, found they were ready to contribute again, and it was arranged for Wednesday last to convey them to the neighbourhood of Hampton Court. Accordingly, Mr. Spreckley met the men and flounders at Putney, and in one of the large peter boats some seven thousand flounders were taken up the river by the Thames Conservancy steam-launch *Brent*, kindly lent for the occasion, under the entire command of Mr. Spreckley. On the arrival at Richmond, a difficulty was experienced in getting up the river, through the lowness of the water. About two thousand of the fish were put in here and there between Richmond and Kingston, and the remainder of the seven thousand were put in the Thames just above Hampton Court Bridge, where the bed of the river is of a purely sandy nature, as suitable for the fish to propagate in, many of them being already in spawn. This was done in the presence of Messrs. T. Spreckley, W. H. Brougham, T. R. Sachs, Alfred Nuthall (Mayor of Kingston), James Temple, Henry Ffennell, H. B. Bromhead, B. Perelli-Rocco, R. B. Matthews, &c., &c. At the request of Mr. Spreckley, Mr. T. R. Sachs, one of the oldest members of the Thames Angling Preservation Society, introduced the five thousand youngsters into the Thames, and Mr. Sachs was well entitled to this graceful compliment. This ended a very satisfactory day, and full of hope for good results. Mr. T. Spreckley and Mr. W. H. Brougham, on their return home, paid a visit to the Richmond Piscatorial Society, this being the evening of the weekly meeting under the presidency of Mr. A. J. Little, who is a most valuable ally to Mr. Spreckley in the preservation of the Thames fishery. There was a very large muster of members, and in addressing them on the removal of the flounders, Mr. Spreckley made some thoroughly practical remarks, as showing how each of of the members could assist his Society in the preservation of their dear old river.

George James Eaton, of Starkholmes, Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required, from gentlemen who can fish, to prove whether they may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—(Advt.)

## ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

E. B. A.—We do not like or use the plan of threading the gimp under the skin of the bait. We feel certain Mr. Jardine's live snap-tackle is much better than the one you propose.

T. McC. is evidently not aware that it is illegal to use salmon roe as bait, and very properly so.

T. B.—We think you will find the nearest fishing is in the Surrey Canal. There is a lake of 4 or 5 acres near Norwood Junction, which contains fish—pike, perch, roach, &c. They charge you so much per day, 2s. 6d. for jack and 1s. for perch and roach, we think.

Ireland (Clonmel).—Will answer your query next week; it only comes in just as we go to press.

G. (Great Marlow).—If you put the hooks of the paternoster on with a very small loop round the main line of the "pater," and a shot nipped on above and below, the bait can then swim round without entangling so much as if you use a slip-knot. You can make a very fine "pater" in this way.

Lobworm.—We hope to have a note on lobs, &c., and barbel fishing next week.

# CORRESPONDENCE.

[*We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.*]

## THE QUESTION AS TO "STRIKING" A SALMON.

Sir,—I have read Mr. Thomas's remarks in the Fishing Gazette of the 4th inst. on my letter about striking a salmon, and am glad to know that there is some-one who takes an interest in this question. If Mr. Thomas will refer to my letter he will find that what I stated related almost entirely to fishing with single hooks. All I said about double hooks was "that I had not been successful with them, and that perhaps this was in consequence of my not having adopted Mr. Kelson's plan of striking from the winch." My experience of double hooks dated long before Mr. Kelson's articles on this subject were published in the Fishing Gazette, and I have not given his plan a trial because I am convinced in my own mind that the point of the hook cannot be driven in over the barb with a reel as easy running as I consider should be used, and that this can only be done by using a very stiff-running reel which I think is a great disadvantage in many ways.

I should be very sorry to contradict anyone who did not agree with me, and last of all a man of such experience as Mr. Kelson, with whom I agree on most subjects connected with salmon fishing; but I differ from him in this one, and merely state my opinion for what it is worth.

Mr. Thomas, after alluding to the mode of proceeding I advocate when a salmon rises, says: "Are salmon, then, the only fish that can discern between an artificial fly and a real bait when in the mouth? Trout, grilse, sewin, and other species of salmonidæ will instantly reject an artificial fly unless struck, and my impression is that a salmon will do the same."

I quite agree with Mr. Thomas in so far as that a salmon will instantly eject an artificial fly when he finds out it is not natural food; but I cannot agree with him that it is necessary to strike in order to hook him. On the contrary, it is my opinion that to strike would defeat this object. A fish very often rises at a fly with his mouth wide open, and if he is struck at the chances are that the fly will be snatched away before he has had time to close his mouth on it, which he might have done if the hand had been held steady, and the chances of hooking him would then be far greater. I will take it for granted that in either case the point of the hook has come into contact with some part of the mouth, and then the question arises as to whether it is advisable in order to fix the barb of the hook to hold the hand steady as I have recommended, or to strike as soon as the fish rises before it is felt that he is hooked. Mr. Thomas says: "I should never think of striking any kind of fish by a jerk. It invariably ends in loss of tackle, fish, and temper." I am pleased to think that he agrees with me so far, and that a jerk is to be avoided; but he says he considers that the long pull I advocate is a strike, and here I differ from him, and maintain that to strike or hit a fish, as Mr. Kelson calls it, is to give the point of the rod a sudden upward jerk, and this definition of the word is accepted, to the best of my belief, as the correct one by the majority of anglers.

Mr. Thomas acknowledges that he strikes a salmon, and very hard too, on certain occasions; but as he strikes without a jerk, and evidently does not adopt the plan of holding the hand steady when a fish rises, or giving a long, steady pull or two when necessary, to fix the barb of a large hook, he must have some method of striking hitherto unknown, and if he would explain how it is done I shall be very much obliged to him. I quite agree with him that it is a very important question and should like to know what some other anglers have to say on the subject.—I am, &c.,

Junior United Service Club, October 19th. John P. Traherne.

[We think Major Traherne has very clearly defined the difference between the long, steady pull which he advocates, and the "strike" as it is usually understood.—Ed.]

Sir,—Major Traherne, in your number of Sept. 20th, asks for the opinion of "some old anglers" as to striking a salmon when he rises at the fly. When I first began salmon fishing—I will not say how many years ago—from ignorance of the manner in which a salmon rises at the fly, I used to strike, and thereby often missed many a fish, and the first time I got hold of a big fish I broke the top joint of my rod (landing my fish, however, by good luck). Since then, except under very peculiar circumstances, and then only with the greatest caution, I have never struck a salmon; and I put this question to one of the oldest, best, and most successful salmon fishers on the Tweed, and his answer was "*Never.*" When fishing with treble gut and big flies strong enough to hold a whale, it perhaps does not signify whether you job at a fish or not; but if fishing with single gut and fine tackle, you will probably lose a good deal of it should you strike a heavy fish even when striking from the winch. The salmon's rise (so different from the trout's) does not necessitate a strike. In the act of taking the fly he turns downwards, and his very weight is sufficient to fix the hook. Like Major Traherne, I have often landed a fish so slightly hooked, that, had I struck, the hold must have given way. If your correspondent, Mr. Thomas, will carefully observe the difference between a salmon and a trout rise, he will see the reason why it is necessary to strike the one and not the other.—I am, &c., Silver Doctor.

P.S.—In using the word "strike," I use it in the sense employed when speaking of trout fishing.

## FISHING AT NEWARK.

Sir,—I with many others in this district read our Gazette with much pleasure, but feel very dissatisfied to see that other fishing districts have their doings faithfully reported week by week while the account you give of Newark is most unreliable.

Only last week we read of four barbel being caught, one of which weighed 12lb. Why, sir, your correspondent need not have gone far to assure himself of the fact that the total weight was a little over the 12lb., and this is not by any means a solitary instance: it is rarely a week passes but some such inaccuracy appears. We are told this week, "The sport has been of such a meagre character, it was scarcely worth reporting." There is no doubt that the season has been a bad one for us, but last week was anything but the worst—any quantity of dace and bream could have been caught by any fair angler. About 10 stone of bream was taken; and one angler for an afternoon's sport had 8¼lb. dace, and many had smaller weights;

jack also have been on the move, and among several others one has been had nearly 10lb.

In the report of the fishing match we are *not* told that the match was a pegged-down one, the weather most unfavourable, and that the 1st prize was taken by Mr. Thompson with over 6lb. of fish in 2½ hours.

To read the season's register as given by your correspondent would lead one to believe there had not been any fish taken here at all. What about Mr. Alcock's takes of chub and barbel? This gentleman is credited with nearly 200 of these two kinds alone.

Mr. Dale has had fair bags of dace and chub almost every week. Mr. Slater, owing to his extending business, has not been out often, but rarely without something good to show on his return. Then there are Messrs. Lunn, Lane, Dobbs, Chatterton, Hessay, Baxter, Norledge, and many others, who have had fair baskets to show, week after week; but rarely has a report of any of these catches been given, and I trust, sir, that another season your correspondent will give us something a little nearer the mark.

Several of my London friends (I am a Thames angler transplanted) write to me, "We see there is nothing doing"; so that a fair report would not only benefit us here but friends away.—I am, &c.,

F. T. Levick, president, Newark Piscatorials.

P.S.—Catches since last Tbursday, which have come before my notice: Mr. Butler, 2 stone bream; Mr. Edlington, 1 stone bream; Mr. Fenton, 2 stone bream; Mr. Alcock, sixteen barbel and chub, about 45lb.; myself, three barbel and a few flounders; Mr. Dale, dace, 8½lb.; Mr. Smith, roach and dace; Mr. Lunn, 16lb. bream and roach.

## THE EYE OF THE EYED-HOOK.

Sir,—I had hardly intended writing any more on this subject, though I was half tempted to answer Mr. Tod's letter of the 11th instant. He raises a point which has now been taken up by Mr. Cholmondeley Pennell, and as the latter writer asks for my opinion, I propose to go into the question as fully as space will allow.

There are two things commented on—(1) size, (2) position of eye. Now, with regard to the size, I cannot believe for one moment that the size of the eye in the hooks now in use makes the smallest difference, if the fly is well made, and well fished. *Crede experto;* ask any one of a score of recognised skilful fishers I could name in Hampshire. The answer will be, I firmly believe, that they have never known Itchen or Test trout rise more shyly to flies on eyed-hooks, than they do to flies tied on gut. But besides this, it must be remembered that natural flies have large, prominent heads—bigger, far bigger, than the heads of many artificial flies; and why we should quarrel with the eyes of our hooks, because in size they approximate to the heads of the natural insects, I really cannot understand. If Mr. Pennell will examine some of the little duns I sent him a few months ago, and compare them with the natural flies they are supposed to imitate, I think he will be ready to admit that there is nothing very conspicuous about the head of a dun, neatly tied on an eyed-hook. But I have my own ideas of how such a fly should be tied, as readers of the Gazette are aware, and in my flies the tying is all done behind the wings, and *there is no head, except the eye of the hook.* Now, turning to Mr. Tod's letter, I notice that he had his flies tied by a tackle maker who may, for all I know, have tied hackle down first, then wings on top of hackle, and thus, with sundry whips of silk and varnish, made a bunchy head between wings and eye. This is the way eyed-hooks used to be treated, until quite recently, when a few of the best fly dressers adopted the neater plan I have described more than once, and briefly alluded to above. Then Mr. Tod confesses he has "seldom or never used" the eyed-hooks, and further on he speaks of the possibility of a hook being made in which he "*can* place faith in, with an eye of the smallest possible dimensions." Also he alludes to plans of his own, in which "the head, if knotted, after due soaking, is *hardly observable.*" (The italics are his.) Now I really cannot see why we should try and improve upon nature, and as long as fish feed on flies with large heads and prominent eyes, it seems to me somewhat unnecessary to trouble ourselves with the idea of making artificial flies with heads almost invisible. Mr. Tod admits in his letter that his objection is a fanciful one, not based on actual experience. If he would give the eyed-hooks a fair trial (and he himself says, "I would much prefer to use eyed-hooks"), and either tie his own flies, or see that they are properly tied, I am convinced that he would never have to regret the lightness of his basket because the eye of the hook has frightened the fish.

It is impossible to please everybody; there are anglers second to none in experience and skill who even say there is a tendency for the eyes to get too small. In September I was fishing the Test with a friend, and one of his last injunctions to me was, "Don't let them make the eyes too small." And this is the verdict of an angler who has given eyed-hooks a very fair and thorough trial for several years among the shyest of fish, and he sums up his experience by insisting on having his hooks *blue*, and with *biggish eyes.* With such hooks he has this year killed a trout of 4lb. 4oz., and a grayling of 3lb. 5oz. It is the old story, "It is not so much the fly as the driver," and knowing as I do what a skilful angler Mr. Tod is, there cannot be a doubt that eyed-hooks in his hands would prove equal to all requirements. But it is evident that he has a good deal of prejudice to overcome, and this he can hardly hope to do so long as his eyed-hook flies remained untouched in his fly-book, and he is daily using his own pet patterns tied to gut, improving in their use and manufacture, and learning to put more confidence in them every day.

The turned-up eye is less conspicuous than the flat eye. Surely this is something in its favour, from Mr. Pennell's point of view; but this advantage is quite a minor consideration. There are numberless ways of tying the gut to the eye; but all are faulty if the gut does not support the hook. When properly attached, the gut should pull from underneath the eye and in a direct line with the shank of the hook. Further, the knot should be perfectly rigid and secure, incapable of slipping from side to side, and this is obtained much better with the turned-up eye than with the straight eye. If I understand Mr. Pennell's suggestion about a straight eye and his way of knotting the gut, there is nothing to prevent the gut from slipping round till it stands at right-angles to the shank of the hook. This is, of course, absolutely fatal, and it is not an imaginary state of things, for I have seen it happen in the hands of anglers who did not understand how the turned-up eye was intended to be used. The "in and out" process is extremely simple, and I have never (except at dusk) found any difficulty whatever in fastening the gut to the hook by the riverside. It gives me less trouble and takes less time than to tie the ordinary slide-knot for joining two strands of gut. The knot I use is the well-known salmon knot, and in using this, is it not found that the gut-loop at the head of the fly takes an upward turn naturally when the gut is pulled tight? This upward turn corresponds with the turned-up eye of the eyed-hook. I have tried flat eyes, round eyes, oval eyes, and I have seen needle-eyes. None, in my opinion, fulfil the requirements of small trout flies, except the round, turned-up eye now in use, and I think it is extremely improbable that I shall ever use any other, for, candidly, I do not, from my own experience, know of any objection to the present form of eye either in size or shape.

Mr. Tod has alluded to our meeting on the banks of the Tummel, and he has recalled pleasant memories. It is a curious coincidence that Mr. Bankart was also fishing there at the time he mentions. I have all the incidents before me in black and white, as they were recorded in the *Field* rather more than three years ago. This is what happened. June 17th was my first day on the river, and I did little. Mr. Tod made "a nice basket of about 10lb. of decent-sized fish." The next day Loch Rannoch was so stormy that no boats could go out. Eight rods fished one mile and a quarter of the Tummel. Only three had any sport—namely, Mr. Tod, Mr. Bankart, and myself. In aggregate weight there was little to choose between the three baskets; but Mr. Tod will perhaps forgive me for reminding him that the Hampshire fly on eyed-hook did the most execution on that day. My basket contained twenty fish, fifteen of which succumbed to the point-fly mentioned above. "Amongst them I had one fish of 1½lb., and two others over 1lb., and several half-pounders. T. and B. ran me very close; they both had more fish, but neither of them had anything over ¾lb." This I glean from the *Field* account written shortly after, and I only mention it for the purpose of showing that my eyed-fly did not frighten the fish, that it landed fifteen that day, and that, thanks to the eye and a possible change of gut when necessary, that fly did a week's more fishing and is still in my possession—not really worn out, but pasted in a scrap-book with other veterans, each with his doughty deeds fully recorded, reminding me of pleasant days and weighty baskets. I have never had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Tod but once, nor have I heard of him again till his letter of October 11th appeared; but that little yellow dun with blue wings and honey dun hackle which did me good service the first time I put it on, reminds me of June 18th, 1881, and its pleasant associations every time I turn over the leaves of my scrap-book.—I am, &c.,

H. S. Hall.

P.S.—I have hundreds of hooks with flat eyes, some round, and some pear-shaped If Mr. Tod or Mr. Pennell care to have any of them, I shall be very glad to give them away. I never use them.

[We quite agree with Mr. Hall that the shyest and hardest-fished trout will take flies dressed on the eyed-hook. We have repeatedly found this the case in Hampshire, Kent, Surrey, and other trout streams.—Ed.]

## *RE* SALMON EYED-HOOKS.

Sir,—After reading the letters in the two last Gazettes, we determined to see what we could do in making these hooks, and herewith inclose samples of a few *hastily made*, both double and single. Will you kindly send a few to each of your correspondents, who wish to see these kinds of hooks, so that they may give their opinion to salmon fishers through your columns, and much oblige,—Yours, &c.,

J. Warner and Sons.

Redditch, Oct. 22.

P.S.—From the inclosed papers you will see that our Mr. J. Warner patented the needle eyed-hooks in Feb., 1866, nearly 19 years ago.

[We see Mr. Greville Fennell, the Earl of Breadalbane, Mr. H. Wade, and other well-known anglers spoke very highly of these needle eyed-hooks. We have sent them to Mr. Cholmondeley Pennell for his opinion, and will send them to Mr. Tod, "An Amateur," and "Green Wren."—Ed.]

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Sir,—I beg, through your paper, to return my thanks to Mr. Currell, Mr. Bankart "Green Wren," and others for their courteous replies to my request for information about eyed-hooks for salmon flies, and hope, through their assistance, to be able to obtain what I want. In reply to "Green Wren," double salmon hooks can be procured from W. J. Cummins, of Bishop Auckland; or Messrs. Hutchinson and Sons, Kendal. —I am, &c.,

H.M.S. *Lord Warden*, Oct. 21st. An Amateur.

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Sir,—In glancing over the correspondence in regard to eyed-hooks of your last issue, I observe there are many conflicting opinions concerning them. In the first place, you notice in your footnote the eye should be perfectly smooth, which, no doubt, is quite true. Mr. Pennell, in his letter, fails to see what advantage the eye turned up has over a straight shank with the eye like a needle. I inclose two hooks with the gut properly attached. You will notice that the pull of the gut, which is also double as it passes through the eye, is parallel to the shank, and the great draw or friction of the gut is on the outside of the hook, round the shoulder of the eye, which also is perfectly smooth; whereas the draw of the gut in ordinary needle eyed-hooks must undergo a great deal more in wearing the gut through than the cranked eye, and which, in my humble opinion, is very suitable for salmon flies, as the eye is in the proper position, and the gut supports the hook to pull central.—I am, &c..

Redditch. Charles Court.

[The eye is evidently stamped out as a needle-eye is done, and this leaves a sharp edge just where the strain on the fastening comes. If Mr. Court can punch his eye so that it gives a round surface and not a sharp edge, it would be perfection.—Ed.]

## EYED SALMON HOOKS—PIKE FISHING IN IRELAND, &c.

Sir,—Since writing to you on this subject last week I have received from the A. and N. Co-operative Stores some eyed salmon hooks, and also some double salmon hooks with eyes. I inclose a sample of each, but I am afraid the latter must be improved on before they are of much value. The eyes are much too large and clumsy.

Could any of your correspondents tell me where double-hooks could be procured, made with reasonably small eyes?

Would Mr. Kelson, or someone learned in feathers, tell me if the inclosed feather is kingfisher or blue chatterer? Almost every lake and pond in some parts of Ireland is full of pike, which are seldom fished for. Would some of your correspondents, who are great at pike fishing, give a few hints as to fishing in lakes? Live-baits are not easy to obtain in winter, and the pike are seldom tempted with anything more toothsome than a spoon or artificial minnow trailed after a boat, or a frog or piece of bacon on a very coarse night-line, set by the natives.—I am, &c.,

Newry, Ireland. Green Wren.

[If we were in "Green Wren's" place, we should write to Messrs. Gillett and Co., 40, Fetter-lane, London, and ask them to send two or three dozen large Thames dace, packed in a box in bran, each fish sprinkled over with King's preservative powder. When we got them we should make a solution of this powder, and put them in it till wanted for spinning with. We have sent the feather on to Mr. Kelson. It looks like kingfisher.—Ed.]

## HINTS FOR ROACH ANGLERS.

Sir,—Starting as soon as it was light one morning for an hour or two at roach fishing, I put a few of "Huntley and Palmer's" Osborne biscuits in my pocket to eat. On reaching the river I found that I had left my carefully-prepared paste at home, but nipping a small portion of chewed biscuit on my hook, I soon had a pounder in my net. This was followed by others of varying weight, until the biscuits were exhausted. Since then I have, on several occasions, tried the same bait, finding the roach take it more freely than bread paste. Thus chewed and nipped on the hook, the biscuits form a more tenacious bait than would be supposed. As you invite hints for roach anglers, I mention this, as, although nothing new, it is a *bonâ-fide* wrinkle, and worth a trial by your readers when the roach refuse bread paste. Ledgering with a light lead and fine tackle, with brandlings or gentles for bait, secures the largest roach at this time of the year—at least, in my experience.

The articles and notes on "Roach Fishing" are highly appreciated by myself and other anglers, who have perforce to content ourselves with bottom fishing, trout and salmon being out of our reach.—I am, &c.,

A Coggeshall Volunteer.

## FISHING IN THE PARISH OF OFFORD CLUNY, NEAR HUNTINGDON

Sir,—The fishing in the above parish is now leased from the Lady of the Manor by Rev. Eardley, C. Holt, and Mr. Priestley, of the Manor House, Offord Darcy. The fishing is strictly preserved: a handsome reward is offered to anyone who, by giving information of persons trespassing and fishing, without permission, from boat or bark, enables the solicitors of the above gentlemen to obtain a conviction at sessions. Information to be given to Mr. Priestley, or to his foreman, Mr. Afford, Buckden Mills.—I am &c.,

Q. E. D.

### "I KNOW A HAWK FROM A HANDSAW."

Sir,—I believe that Mr. E. M. Tod is not quite correct in his account of the history of the phrase he refers to. It was originally used in hawking countries as an expression of contempt for a stupid person, the whole phrase being "He does not know a hawk from a hernshaw,"* the significance being obvious. With the disuse of hawking the proverb has become corrupted into its present form, "he does not know a hawk from a handsaw," which has no sense in it whatever, and in this form it is still commonly used in those parts of England where hawking was formerly a favourite pastime.—I am, &c.,
W. H. Corfield, M.D.
10, Bolton-row, Mayfair.

[We think our correspondent is mistaken in supposing that "with the disuse of hawking the proverb has become corrupted," because Hamlet says :—" . . . I know a hawk from a handsaw," and hawking was at its height as a sport in Shakespeare's time, and can scarcely be said to have begun to decline even a hundred years after his death, as witness Somerville's fine poem on "The Chase," in which he, a keen sportsman, refers so enthusiastically to falconry :—

> Next will I sing the valiant falcon's fame :
> Aërial flights, where no confed'rate brute
> Joins in the bloody fray ; but bird with bird
> Justs in mid-air. Lo ! at his siege the hern,
> Upon the bank of some small purling brook,
> Observant stands to take his scaly prize,
> Himself another's game. For mark behind
> The wily falconer creeps : his grazing horse
> Conceals the treacherous foe, and on his fist
> Th' unhooded falcon sits : with eager eyes
> She meditates her prey, and, in her wild
> Conceit already plumes the dying bird.
> Up springs the heron, redoubling every stroke,
> Conscious of danger, stretches far away.

We should say that Shakespeare's using it has had far more to do with perpetuating the saying than anything else—just as scores of other popular sayings still in daily use are to be traced to Shakespeare ; not that he invented all of them, but being there they partake of the undying nature of his works. Certainly Hamlet is feigning madness when he uses the expression, but we are sure Mr. Corfield will admit there was too much method in his madness for there to be "no sense in it."—Ed.]

### A KIND OFFER.

Sir,—Would you allow me to say that I would be pleased to give a pair, or a couple of pairs, of landrail's wings (of which I have 16 pairs) to anyone applying to me who subscribed to the fund of the widower of the late S. Morgan ?—I am, &c.,
Caythorpe, near Lowdham, Notts, Oct. 22. John Foster, River Keeper.

### THE LARGE "WICKHAM FANCY" AND STEEL EYES v. GUT-LOOPS.

Sir,—I think it is of comparatively little importance of what feather the wings of the large "Wickham Fancy" are made. I selected pheasant as a good speckled brown feather, *easy to obtain*, *pleasant to work with*, and *making* a very elastic and *durable wing*. The wings may be varied very much, and if a decided orange-tinted fly is desired to harmonise with the body and hackle, a couple of feathers from the Capercailzie *hen*, orange with a black tip, placed with the under sides together, make a capital wing, one which I have found very killing as a loch fly, dressed with orange silk or pig's wool body and red hackle. But the prime attraction to the fish in the "Wickham Fancy" I believe to be the gold body and *the play of the hackle wound over it spirally*, and if it has no wings at all, but is made like a palmer, rather bushy at the head, it will probably kill as well, particularly if used as a "drop" fly. But I like to use it as a "point" fly, and then it should be winged.

A brown feather like pheasant for light shade, or woodcock for dark, seems to harmonise nicely with the body, and being common feathers are easily accessible to everybody ; but the Egyptian goose, bustard, and some other pretty fancy feathers are not so generally available. Besides, what with the cost of "toppings" and good gold material for the body, the fly is sufficiently expensive in raw material to a professional fly dresser to enable him to turn them out at a moderate price, without further enhancing the cost by fancy wing feathers. But this does not apply so much to amateurs who dress their own, and to whom cost is a question more of efficiency of the fly when made. I am glad to hear that someone approves the fly, and I fancy if "Silver Doctor" had tried it of a *larger size*, he would have found it good for the larger sea trout, as well as the medium ones ; but the pattern I sent to the Editor (forwarded to "Silver Doctor"), was right size only for a *large loch* fly, or *smallest sea trout* size.

Mr. Tod's opinion on fly fishing is one to be highly respected, as he is well known as a skilled angler on the waters he frequents ; but I think if he will give the eyed-hooks *a fair trial* (which he admits he has not done, and that his objections to the eye are rather fanciful than practical) he will change his opinion.

As he invites discussion on this point, I ask—Why *should* the size of the eye be objectionable ? Examine carefully any natural flies of the ephemeræ class, and notice the remarkably large head and eyes they have in proportion to their bodies. If a natural fly is to be *fairly imitated* by an artificial one, it seems to me that the old way of dressing them, with the wing and hackle close up to the end of hook-shank, and *showing no head at all*, is somewhat of a libel on the real fly, and not according to nature ; that the eyed-hook provides exactly what was wanted in the old pattern fly to give it a natural head ; and, as the *eye* of the hook *is filled up underneath by the gut knot* (if properly knotted on), the actual eye of the hook is not visible to the fish.

Again, if a gut loop is substituted, and made as small and as neat as the steel eye, it must occupy about as much space and prominence in advance of the wings as the steel one, practically forming the same head, only of a different shade of colour, and on that account probably rather less visible. Practically, the gut loop will not last so very much longer than the single gut—say three times as long—which determines the life of the fly ; but the steel eye is *indestructible*, and I have no hesitation in saying that a loch fly, well and *strongly* dressed on an eyed-hook, will wear out ten—aye, even twenty—strands of good fine gut before it is pulled to pieces by the trout. I have some in my book now, four years old, and nearly as good as new.

The gut loop method possesses this very marked disadvantage in dressing *small* flies, but which is not so perceptible in large ones, that there being two thicknesses of gut to wrap down on the shank of the hook (and which will naturally be selected of rather stouter substance than the gut used for the "casts" for the sake of durability), it makes the head of the shank about the wings *three times as thick* as the bare shank of the eyed-hook ; this means three times the bulk about the wing attachment and thorax, and enhances the difficulty of putting on a short, soft hen's hackle neatly, as it uses up the length of the feather so rapidly in winding round the bulky thorax of the fly.

If Mr. Hall's method is used for winging the fly closely up to the head with just one turn of the hackle in front of the wing, the eye of the hook comes so closely up to the shoulder of the fly as to make returning the gut (the second time through the eye) a matter of practice, and then the *head* of the fly is only slightly visible. If you want *small*, *slender* flies like nature, dress them on eyed-hooks ; if you like them fat and stumpy, the gut loops will help the thickness of body.

As to the eyes being *as small as possible*, I believe it to be a mistake : the eye aperture *must be large enough* in the smallest hooks for a strand of *fine* gut to go *twice* through, or you don't get the best knot, or *the best pull on the point of the hook*, and smaller apertures than have been made would be hardly advisable.

The first hooks made for us, and obtained from Mr. Aldam, had smaller eyes. I inclose patterns of three middle-sized ones for Mr. Tod, if you will kindly forward them, and if he fancies them I can let him have a few dozens of each size, and others rather heavier in the wire. If he wants still smaller eyes, he can have them punched through the wire itself, like those of needles, but which I would not use on any consideration, as I should expect the gut to wear out faster than by the old plan of wrapping the gut to the hook.—I am, &c.,
George Bankart.

P.S.—If any Northern sportsmen can send me a few small feathers from the *hen* Capercailzie—orange with black tip—I should be obliged, as the birds are not seen in this neighbourhood.

### THE COACHMAN, GREEN INSECT, &c.

Sir,—In answer to "J. B. J.," the dressing of the coachman, as used on the Teme is the same as of the ordinary white-winged fly of that name, only that the wing is made from the pale blue wing feather of the jay, with a turn of gold tinsel at the tail, or as a ribbing. A sort of green insect with the addition of an orange floss silk tag, is a most excellent fly on the above river for grayling ; but an even better one is one locally known as the "Rutting Stag,"—why, I don't know, unless on account of the time of year when it kills. I inclose you some patterns I have tied of the above three flies. As regards the coachman, I have found the jay wing infinitely more killing than the white one, as the former kills equally well both in the day and in the gloaming, and for the four summer months I never take it off my cast. The "Rutting Stag" is dressed thus :—Body, blue rabbit fur at the middle and shoulder, and orange floss silk wound round at the tail ; hackle, honey dun if procurable, if not, a grizzled blue does almost as well. Hook, No. 12.—I am, &c.,
Richmond. Amateur Fly-tyer.

[The patterns are excellent. We shall have some made from them.—Ed.]

### TROUT FOR THE THAMES TIDEWAY AT TEDDINGTON.

Sir,—I shall be obliged by your publishing the inclosed, if you think it worthy a space in your columns.

Early in the spring of this year, at one of the weekly meetings of the Richmond Piscatorial Society, held at the Station Hotel, Richmond, I proposed that we should put some young trout in the Thames below Teddington Lock by way of experiment. After a certain amount of discussion it was agreed that we should do so. I then suggested we should not touch the funds of the society to purchase them, but to make a collection among the members. I need hardly tell you the call was heartily responded to, and the amount required quickly forthcoming. A sub-committee was then formed, consisting of Messrs. Spreckley, Brougham, Little, Powell, and myself, to wait upon Mr. Forbes, of Chertsey Bridge, the pisciculturist, to ask his advice as to what sort we should get, where to get them, and what time in the year to turn them into the river. He was very pleased to be able to give us the required information, and appeared to take a great interest in the matter. He stated he did not sell his fish. I then said I had proposed to purchase them of Mr. Andrews, of Guildford. He at once said : "You cannot do better than go to him ; he will do you justice." After further conversation he invited us to partake of luncheon with him. We were then shown over the whole of his establishment, finally leaving about six o'clock, after having spent a most enjoyable day.

The result of the interview was reported next meeting night, and the secretary was asked to write to Mr. Andrews for particulars. The letter was answered to our entire satisfaction, the fish were ordered, and the first instalment of 25 forwarded to The Swan, at Twickenham, on Thursday, the 16th inst. They were fine specimens of the "Salmo Fario," or common trout, measuring from 8in. to 11in. in length, and were carefully and successfully turned in at "Stoney Deep," in the presence of many members and friends.—I am, &c.,
H. Dickinson.
High-street, Kingston-on-Thames, 22nd Oct.

P.S.—I am now turning my attention to our own water at Kingston, in which I intend to put 100 of the same species, about this time next year, part of the funds necessary for doing so having already been subscribed.—H. D.

[We are always very glad to hear of trout being put into the Thames, and in this case no coarse fish anglers can grumble (as we have heard them do), at their money being used for the benefit of the trout anglers. Hampshire trout are the best to put in the Thames : they frequently grow to 7lb. and 8lb., even in the comparatively small streams of Hampshire. They are the fish which stocked the New Zealand trout streams—superb trout, unsurpassed in sporting or eating qualities, or in beauty of appearance. Mr. Andrews supplies them.—Ed.]

### HINTS ON CARP FISHING.

Sir,—Anything of interest and of good to the large body of anglers is, I am aware, always welcome at the office of the Fishing Gazette, and the fact emboldens me to give a hint or two on carp fishing, which may be of value to some of my brother anglers. I am not of a greedy disposition, and wrinkles picked up cheap are at the disposal of the lovers of the rod at the same figure. Some few weeks since, feeling rather seedy, it occurred to me that a ramble over Putney-heath might be of use in dispelling an attack of "blues" I was at the time suffering from. A visit to the Green Man led me to the immediate neighbourhood of a pond known as Lady Grantham's, and the moves I was there put up to served largely to remove any lingering dyspepsia that may have been knocking about. The pond, which is no doubt known to many of your readers, is not of large dimensions, and owing to the very dry season, was, at the time I write of, so low, that the carp could be clearly seen as they roamed about at their own sweet will. Two anglers (?) were trying their luck—time, 4 p.m. on a bright, sunshiny afternoon—as follows. They stood on opposite sides of the pond, their running lines attached together, and dangling from the middle was a float (large enough to fish the most rapid swim in the Thames when raking for dace) and line, depth about 3ft., with a bunch of gentles quite in keeping with the size of the float, and with this arrangement they were stalking the game from end to end of the pond, guided by the sun's rays in placing this very tempting bait immediately in front of the noses of the fish. Always on the look-out for information, I watched the game for some half an hour, when the fish declining the "gentle" invitation, the amalgamated lines were taken to one end of the pond and the Siamese twinship severed, each angler taking to business on his own hook. I was under the impression that I had learnt as much about carp fishing in one afternoon as I could reasonably expect to do ; but the grand finale was yet to come. Having placed their lines at about a yard's distance from one another, the junior member of the firm took himself to the roadside end of the pond, and by the aid of lumps of clay, stones, &c., endeavoured to coax the fish from the comparatively shady nook to which he was evidently under the impression they had betaken themselves, toward the several bunches of gentles paraded for their inspection. If from this description, which I have endeavoured to make as clear as possible, any brother "Bob" should see his way to circumventing one of the most artful of fish, and should be in want of a mate to stand on the opposite side of a pond and make a double attempt on our friend the carp, you are at liberty to refer him to,—Yours, &c.,
R. A. B.

### FISHING IN AUSTRALIA.

Sir,—Will you kindly inform me through your paper where I may purchase a book relating to fishing in Australia, if such a work is published ?—I am, &c.,
New South Wales.

[The 1884 edition of the "Angler's Diary," published at the *Field* office gives some useful information about the native fish. English trout are now plentiful in many of the streams of Tasmania and New Zealand, and piscicultural establishments there keep up the stock. Mr. Wm. Senior's pleasant volume, "Trout and Travel at the Antipodes," published a few years ago by Messrs. Chatto and Windus, will give "N. S. W." much interesting information.—Ed.]

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* A short form of heronshaw.

## THE RIGHT TO A THAMES SWIM.

Sir,—Referring to Mr. Britton's letter of the 18th inst., this gentleman did not fish the swim taken by me, but it was evidently because he was acting under prudent advice. Mr. Britton's charge that I threatened him with personal violence is a thing of his own imagination; but if he thought that I was going to allow him to say, and do, what he pleased without retaliating, he, for once, mistook his man, and from the impulsive manner he spoke to me no Englishman could but resent it. However, your editorial remarks have completely answered the complaints, and it is not my intention to follow your correspondents through all their whims.

Your correspondent, "M. B.," is in error when he says there are only ten known swims from Orleans Club to Chillingsworth's; I could point out at least fifty. When the water is as low as it is at the present time, one might fish in any part of the river, and get good sport; when there is land water the case is different—then there may be only ten. The fixing of poles in the morning is not a new thing at all, as "M. B." states. I have spoken to one of the oldest fishermen living here, and he told me when Dorey, Coxen, and Hennessy were young men, if he wanted a particular swim, he had to be up at daybreak, and has many times remained in his punt all night to secure it. I think "M. B." should have adopted his own advice, and let the matter drop, instead of communicating with the Thames Conservators, as they were sure to do what was right whether he had written or not.

It appears that the whole matter arises from disappointment, and I do not require the advice of anonymous correspondents. Let them sign their names and fight the battle openly, as I am not afraid to face my opponents, who seem to accuse me of doing what did not occur, and evidently made reckless charges against me without first ascertaining the facts.—I am, &c., W. Johnson.

Twickenham, Oct. 22.

Sir,—The right to retain a swim by sticking a ryepeck or pole in the river leaves open the way to so much chicanery that I think no one should be entitled to a swim unless he is fishing it, or has only left temporarily, and has left his tackle during his absence. In the event of punt fishing, I should be prepared to recognise a moored punt, because a man can't very well moor half-a-dozen punts in as many different swims. I suppose the Conservancy would allow no punts to be moored in the navigation. If a man baits a swim, there should be a regulated time for him to take possession of it. I consider one hour after legal sunrise reasonable.—I am, &c., A. J. Marriott.

Sir,—According to Mr. Johnson's letter published in your issue of Saturday last, he only held the pitch four days; then, of course, I have done him a great injustice by stating that he had held it for two weeks. But I was under the impression when I wrote that letter that he had, as it was a continual thing to hear people grumbling about Mr. Johnson keeping that swim for a fortnight; but they would not come forward publicly and state their grievance, so I thought by getting you to publish the letter that Mr. Johnson justly complains about, it would stop one or the other—viz., the grumbling, or the taking of pitches with poles.

As it is through the columns of the Fishing Gazette that I have attacked Mr. J., it is through the same organ that I willingly apologise for having wrongly accused him; and if I have told an untruth it was not wilfully done—it was only from information I received, as I have no animosity against Mr. J., and I don't think he has any against me.—I am, &c.,

One who Expects to Receive and therefore Gives Fair Play.

## NOTE ON HARD STRIKING FOR GRAYLING.

Sir,—I was last week fishing a piece of water on the Itchen, and on seeing what I felt persuaded, from its significant fluttering or splashing-like rises, was a grayling, I threw over him a very fine Wickham, which I soon found I had lost. I then put on an iron-grey, and after waiting twenty minutes, I found another rise a few yards higher up the stream, but very near the spot where I lost my first fly. I managed to hook my fish, but broke again. I walked from the spot of my misfortune, set light to another cigar, that great care-breaking luxury of a fisherman, and once more ventured to return to the same locality, when I soon observed grayling were still on the rise. I put on an olive dun for a change, as my servant had just caught one off the water. After the first throw, I hooked, played, and landed in good condition a fine grayling just under 2lb. Securing him in my landing-net, my servant exclaimed, with a grin, "Why this is how you lose your flies, and your fish, too, sir! The fish has three flies in his mouth!" On examination, I found *the three* flies I have named above nicely fixed in the folds of his jaws, and quite fit for use. They are beautiful specimens of flies tied on eyed-hooks by Mrs. Cox, of Winchester.

I am more accustomed to salmon-striking, hence the cause of my losing more trout and grayling than I have landed this season.

I should mention that the incidents above given took place within an hour.—I am, &c., J. W.

["J. W." should certainly try Dr. Brunton's plan of putting 12in. of fine round elastic, such as ladies use for their veils, between his collar and winch-line.—Ed.]

## HINTS ON ROACH FISHING.

Sir,—I approach this subject with considerable trepidation; but at the risk of being thought egotistical, &c., strongly advise your readers not to use a plummet. In eight cases out of ten the depth can be obtained much better and quicker without the use of that article, especially when fishing in ponds, and those quiet, circling places near the shore, in rivers, &c., I mean where the current goes round and round sometimes—where, as Lord Tennyson so beautifully puts it, the water "Dimples in the dark of rushy coves," that I am surprised the method is not more adopted. If you try it when fishing streams, it only wants a little more care. Make all your preparations some little distance from the side, even to preparing your ground-bait, and baiting your hook. All being ready, be seated, then put your float at a depth you consider a little deeper than the bottom shot, or shots; you can generally judge pretty well—often the first try. Use caps in these cases.

Carefully throw where you intend to fish—*i.e.*, where you know the ground-bait *has gone*. If your float assumes a flat position on the surface, you know as certain as it is possible to know your lowest shot, or shots, are on the bottom, and that you are too deep; then all you have to do is to carefully make the depth shallower and shallower, until the float just cocks, then allow for the distance between the bottom shot and the hook, and the thing is accomplished. Do you understand? Then try it. No splashing, no disturbing the water, and "messing" in and out, dragging a piece of lead about, plomp, plomp, "plomping" here and there, much to the chagrin of the red-finned beauties below—perhaps waiting for a meal, instead of which they probably get a knock on the head.

On several occasions I have actually seen this "plomping" business go on for ten minutes. Take my advice, and do not plomp; but let your light float drop on the surface as silently as a leaf dropping from a tree.—I am, &c., Mark Antony.

N.B.—I have adopted this plan for years, and found it answer admirably.

["Mark Antony's" advice is very good. We often get the depth in the same way; but even a better plan is to put a small lump of stiffish ground-bait on your hook, and when your float is an inch under water, and the bait on the bottom, you are right, and can strike the ground-bait off. A very small weight will take a properly-weighted roach float under.—Ed.]

## PERCH FISHING NEAR EXETER.—FLY-TYING SILK.

Sir,—Will your Exeter correspondent please say if any decent perch fishing can be had in the Exe, above Cowley Bridge; and, if so, its whereabouts, and what permission to fish is necessary?

I should also be glad to be informed where very fine tying silk, for dressing midge trout flies, may be purchased.—I am, &c. R. A.

Tiverton, 23rd October, 1884.

## THE SHAPE OF THE EYED-HOOK, &c.

Sir,—Many thanks for Mr. Bankart's courtesy in sending me the three hooks, which are in many ways a puzzle to me, particularly the very long-shanked hooks.

I am old-fashioned enough, and conservative enough, to prefer the round bend-hook as made by Adlington to all other shapes for small flies, and Limerick for lake and salmon.

I would fain have all the practical reasons (for I regard purely scientific reasons with suspicion) as to why the inventors prefer the new hooks with such a long shank and such a short turn-in bend; also the reason why the twist is given to the point.

It may hook more trout; but does it not tend to *lose* them when hooked? I always fear that it "pricks" many more than the old shape.

Allcock's needle eyed-hook you kindly sent to me—the larger size—meets with my unqualified approval. Such a hook seems all one wants for lake, sea trout, or salmon flies.

I am not prejudiced against the eyed-hooks, but I am puzzled with them. Now, the smallest size sent would make a very good-sized fly. I am accustomed to use the small sizes generally. I maintain that the needle-eye is *the* eye to aim at. If needle-makers can make them and sell needles for a mere song, it is merely a matter of knowing how. The best of the eyes you sent from Mr. Bankart is not on a par with a needle-eye. Of course, to make a hook thus one would need to have the wire thicker at the end in order to drill a hole in it at all; but this cannot be an insuperable obstacle, and we would *pay* for a perfect eyed-hook.

The *slight* turn-out of the point in No. 13, ordinary shank (smallest), seems to be an improvement. The shanks of all Mr. Aldam's patterns are beautifully fine; but I should fear much that a big fish would snap or straighten one of them now and again.

With all my heart I will be guided by those who have devoted time and study to bends and curves; but I must have fine eyes.—I am, &c., E. M. Tod.

## A LARGE PIKE.

Sir,—The splendid 25½lb. pike which was taken from the lake pond in Stratfield-saye-park, and presented to your humble servant by his late grace the Duke of Wellington, arrived at the fishery this week after being cast and painted to life by Mr. Edon, of the Buckland Museum, and which does the artist very great credit, it not being, as in many cases (I am sorry to say), over-painted. More life-like it would be impossible to have painted it, insomuch that a rev. thorough naturalist said, had it been lying on the grass, it would have thoroughly deceived him.—I am, &c.,

Frank Gosden,
Fish Culturalist to His Grace the Duke of Wellnigton.

## SALMON FISHING AT NOTTINGHAM.

Sir,—The sport amongst the salmon during the past week has been exceptionally good. As many as 12 fish have been taken just below King's Mill's, in the Shardlow water on Monday, Mr. Moll getting two, one 10lb. and another 14lb.; Mr. Stanley one, 11lb.; Mr. Hibbert one, 13lb.; and myself one, 12lb. On Tuesday Mr. Moll again with another 8lb.; Mr. Frank West, one of 6lb.; and another angler landed one, but I did not get the weight. On Wednesday Mr. Moll was to the front again with another 10½lb., and myself 5lb. of dace and one barbel. On Thursday Mr. Albine Bull took a salmon 10lb. On Saturday two more 12-pounders were taken, one falling to the lot of your correspondent, and a nice lot of dace. Some very good pike have been caught in the Weston water, Mr. Isaac Jackson getting 11 during the week in the Shardlow length. Very little doing down the river.

In my last letter the printer put "shallow" water instead of "Shardlow" water.—I am, &c.,

October 20th. A. W.

[The printer says: will "A. W." kindly write the names of places a little more plainly?—Ed.]

## BRANDY AS A FISH REVIVER.

Sir,—In compliance with your request contained in last week's Fishing Gazette I have continued my experiments in relation to brandy as a means of restoring suspended animation with quick-dying fish, the results being equally as satisfactory as with carp.

It was highly interesting to see the plucky manner a trout (*S. ferox*) battled with his fainting condition and came out the conqueror. Strange to say, the salmon (*S. salar*) did not once attempt to rouse himself after being dosed, the consequences being fatal to him; this was the only fish that succumbed under the treatment.

As regards the dace (*Leuciscus vulgaris*), I had him out of water three times of five minutes each. He was exceedingly faint and almost dead; but immediately the brandy was given, he pulled himself together, and in the course of a few minutes not only recovered, but darted round the can with a rapidity positively amazing.

The result of the latter experiment tends in the most conclusive manner to show to anglers the great value of a judicious administration of brandy to a dace prior to being used for bait.

How often, Mr. Editor, have we felt the want of a nice lively dace when on the warpath for pike? To have the means at command of not only restoring an inanimate bait, but also increasing its strength and vigour, will be of much service to the angling fraternity.

I shall look forward with interest to reports of future catches of my friends, Jardine and Sachs.—I am, &c., W. Oldham Chambers, Sec.

National Fish Culture Association, South Kensington, Oct. 22.

## SEVERN FISHERY BOARD—SIR RICHARD HARRINGTON AND THE FISH IN THE RIVER TEME.

At the Herefordshire Quarter Sessions, on Monday, Sir Richard Harrington, Chairman, on proceeding to the appointment of four Conservators of the Severn Fishery District, said Mr. O. Partridge had never attended the meeting, and he had not answered the letter of the Clerk of the Peace, asking whether he was anxious to continue on the Board. He suggested Mr. John Chile Freeman, who was a riparian owner on the Teme, in the place of Mr. Partridge. He believed that the Freshwater Fisheries Act was capable of being worked so as to produce serious irritation and annoyance to the owners of grayling and trout streams in the county. The only river in the county in which their Conservators were interested was the Teme, which was known as a grayling and trout stream. Any attempt to interfere with the coarse fish in the Teme would considerably depreciate the value of the property of riparian owners. In nominating their fresh Conservators he would suggest that it be an instruction to them to oppose in every legal way in their power any statute for the destruction of coarse fish in the river Teme.

Mr. J. H. Arkwright, of Hampton Court, said they had the power of insisting upon the owner of any river or stream preserving any fish they like to name; they could prohibit any mode of fishing they liked; they could make the mesh of the net so small that it would be utterly prohibitory to those who preserved trout and grayling. If discretion was not used they would make enemies instead of friends of the breeders of these fish, and would create irritation and vexation, which would surely do harm. The best thing was to show good common sense, and not to interfere with the well-preserved streams which fed the rivers.

The proposition of the chairman was agreed to.

SALMON & TROUT-FISHING.

CHAS. FARLOW & Co.,
191, STRAND, London, W.C.,
MANUFACTURERS OF FIRST-CLASS RODS AND TACKLE,
SALMON AND TROUT FLIES, SUITABLE FOR
ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD.
Mahseer Tackle in Great Variety.
Makers of Split Cane Rods.
Improved Folding Trout Landing Nets
(Very Light).
New Patent Lever Salmon Winch
(Can be regulated to any stiffness at will).
PENNELL'S TACKLE KEPT IN STOCK.

CATALOGUES GRATIS. PRIZE MEDALS. IMPORTERS OF SILKWORM GUT.

GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY.

RIVER THAMES.—The Great Western Railway, having Stations on the Banks of the River at Brentford, Windsor, Taplow, Maidenhead, Cookham, Bourne-end, Great Marlow, Henley, Reading-Pangbourne, Goring, Moulsford, Wallingford, &c., affords unequalled facilities to those desirous of visiting it for Fishing and Other Purposes.

ANGELRS' TICKETS.—Cheap Third-class Return Tickets, available for three days, are issued at Paddington, Weatbourne-park, and Kensington (Addison-road), to Stations within 50 miles of London to members of "The Angler's Association," and "The Central Association of London Angling Clubs," who present their Cards of Membership at the time of taking their tickets.

CHEAP DAY EXCURSIONS.—Cheap Day Excursion Tickets are issued daily by certain specified trains until October 31st, from Paddington, Westbourne-park, Hammersmith, Kensington (Addison-road), and Uxbridge-road, and certain Stations on the Metropolitan and District Railiways to

| | s. d. | | s. d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Windsor | 2 6 | Cookham<br>Bourne-end<br>Great Marlow<br>Henley | 3 6 |
| Taplow<br>Maidenhead | 3 0 | | |

For Further Particulars see Company's Time Bills.

J. GRIERSON, General Manager.

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(N.B.—*All rights reserved in articles published in this paper.*)

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# RIVER REPORTS.

## TIME OF HIGH WATER IN THE THAMES.

To find the time of high water in the Thames at any of the following places, to the time of high water at London Bridge (given below).

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Add | 30 minutes for | Chelsea. |
| | 40 ,, | Putney. |
| | 45 ,, | Hammersmith. |
| | 50 ,, | Barnes. |
| | 55 ,, | Kew. |
| | 75 ,, | Richmond. |
| | 80 ,, | Twickenham. |
| | 85 ,, | Teddington. |

Example :—If it is high water at 2 o'clock at London Bridge, it will be high water at Teddington about 3.25, or eighty-five minutes later ; but it must be remembered that a strong wind accelerates or retards the tide very much.

For Times of High Water at London Bridge.

| | | | Morning. | Afternoon. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Saturday, | October | 25 | 5.12 | 5.30 |
| Sunday, | ,, | 26 | 5.52 | 6.14 |
| Monday, | ,, | 27 | 6.38 | 7.8 |
| Tuesday, | ,, | 28 | 7.41 | 8.16 |
| Wednesday, | ,, | 29 | 8.57 | 9.39 |
| Thursday, | ,, | 30 | 10.17 | 10.49 |
| Friday, | ,, | 31 | 11.20 | 11.47 |

## THE LOWER THAMES.

### General Remarks.

Although the river continues low, and the water and the anglers not mustering in any great numbers, there is a fair amount of sport, and what is better, the jack and perch are beginning to show themselves, the former having been taken up to 14lb. each, and the latter up to 1½lb. The gudgeon are still in good force at Kingston, and the fish run of a good size. The barbel are also to be found, as there is a take in one day by John Johnson, sen., at Kingston, of nearly 60lb. weight. In the tidal waters the report is that the water is about the same as last week, and the fish do not run quite so large. There were twenty-five good trout of about 9in in length put in this portion of the Thames on Thursday in last week, under the superintendence of Mr. A. J. Little, the respected chairman of the Richmond Piscatorial Society. The anglers in the tideway should feel much indebted to Mr. Little for the interest he takes in all matters connected with the protection of the fishery ; and since his attachment to the Thames Angling Preservation Society he has always been ready to assist Mr. Thomas Spreckley in all the grand movements he has promoted, and in directing the preservation of the river in his important district. There are some good takes reported this week from Richmond.

### Angling Results.

**Richmond.**—Henry Howard, in one day with Mr. Brooks, 25lb. weight of roach and dace ; another day, with Mr. King, 20lb. ; and in two other days, 25lb. Mr. Bigley, in two and a half hours, 15½lb. of roach. Christopher Brown, in one day, with Mr. Thomas, 12lb of roach ; and in three other days, 46 lb. and four barbel. F. Brown, in seven days, 105lb. of roach and dace, and a couple of barbel. Henry Wheeler, in five days, 90lb. and two barbel. Job Brain, during the week, 90lb.

**Twickenham.**—John Spong, in seven days, 105lb. weight of fish, which included twenty-nine barbel. Joseph Dobbin, in five days, thirty-eight barbel and sixteen dozen of roach and dace. Edward Finch, during the week, has made some good parcels of fine roach. James Coxen, in four days, forty-eight dozen of roach and dace. R. Coxen, in three days, 46lb. and one barbel. Pert Hammerton, in three days, 20lb. and twelve barbel. C. Hennessey, in two days, 24lb. Samuel Cole, in five days, 90lb. ; and Henry Spiers, in three days, thirty-one dozen. Mr. Abbett, of Twickenham, on Tuesday last, in one hour's fishing at Teddington Weir, caught three carp weighing respectively 6¼lb., 4lb., and 2¼lb. These fish were afterwards possessed by Mr. A. J. Little, who put them back again in the river at Twickenham deep.

**Teddington.**—Joseph Baldwin, in three days, 20lb. of roach and dace. Charles Baldwin, in the same time, seventeen dozen and one and a half brace of perch. Benjamin Stevens, in three days, 60lb. weight of fish, which included eleven barbel ; and John Stevens, twenty-four dozen of roach and dace.

**Kingston.**—John Johnson, sen., in four days, twenty dozen of gudgeon, five brace of perch, twenty-nine barbel—the largest 5½lb.—and one chub. John Johnson, jun., in five days, eight barbel—the largest 3½lb.—five dozen of dace, fourteen dozen of gudgeon, and three and a half brace of perch—the largest fish 1½lb. J. Wilks, in two days, sixteen dozen of gudgeon, and four dozen of roach and dace. The bank anglers at Kingston and Surbiton have been getting barbel, bream, perch, chub, roach, and dace in nice quantities.

**Thames Ditton.**—Edward Tagg, in a couple of hours, four and a half dozen of gudgeon ; Mr. C. Lawless, fishing from the bank in two hours, secured 19lb. weight of perch, several of them weighing 1lb. each ; and other anglers of the same class have caught a good quantity of gudgeon and perch.

**Hampton Court.**—Thomas Milbourne, in one day, ten and a half brace of perch, the best fish ¾lb. Charles Davis, in one day, four and a half brace of perch and three dozen of roach and dace. Thomas Wheeler, in three days, nine barbel, the largest 6½lb. At "Tagg's Island Fishery" the anglers have recorded at the Island Hotel twelve dozen of roach and dace and three jack, the largest 5lb. The bank fishers on the towing-path have been getting during the week a nice supply of roach, dace, gudgeon, perch, and chub.

**Sunbury.**—Edward Clarke, jun., in three days, eighteen brace of perch, twenty dozen of gudgeon, and ten barbel, the largest 5lb. Henry Clarke, in two days, eighteen brace of perch and fifteen dozen of gudgeon. Considering the large quantity of perch put into this portion of the river out of the Chelsea Waterworks reservoirs, it ought to be attractive to the perch fishers. The bank anglers have been getting great takes of roach and dace, and some good perch, chub, and barbel.

**Walton.**—George Hone, one day, with Mr. Smith, three barbel of 3lb. each, three bream of 1lb. each, and two roach of 1lb. each ; in two other days, with Mr. Alfred Mackrill and Mr. R. B. Marston, over 50lb. weight of barbel, a perch of 1lb., another of ½lb., and a chub of 1½lb. ; another day, with Mr. Luken, a barbel of 2lb., and three bream of 1lb. each ; and another day, two barbel and two bream. R. Watford, one day, with Mr. Abbett, nine barbel, one bream, and an eel of 1lb ; another day, three barbel ; another day, five barbel, two bream, and one jack ; and another day, three barbel, two bream, and a couple of roach.

**Halliford.**—W. S. Rosewell, in one day, four jack weighing 21lb. ; and in three other days, a jack of 3lb., and thirty dozen of roach and dace. George Rosewell, in one day, eight barbel and three chub ; and another day, three jack—the largest 14lb. Thomas Strudwick, in one day, five barbel and one chub.

**Weybridge.**—Herbert Curr, one day, with Mr. Foster, a jack of 6lb., one barbel of 2½lb., and five dozen of roach ; another day, with Mr. and Mrs. Boyton, eight dozen of roach and dace ; another day, a similar result ; another day, with Mr. Foster and Mr. Dutton, twelve dozen of roach and dace ; and in two other days, fifteen dozen and a dace of 8½oz.

**Shepperton.**—David Hackett, in one day, with Mr. John Wotton, three jack ; and another day, one jack. James Haslett, one day, one jack, one perch, two chub, and 10 roach ; and another day, eleven dozen of gudgeon and one and a half brace of perch. James Haslett, jun., in one day, five barbel and two chub.

**Staines.**—Charles Hone, one day, seven jack — the largest 8lb. John Keene, two days, three dozen of roach, one and a half brace of perch, two barbel, and three chub ; and George Osman, during the week, one barbel and six dozen of roach and dace.

## UPPER THAMES.

The angling news upper river way this week is of the most meagre description—in fact, hardly worth record. The Thames is very low, stale, and bright, and it is with the very greatest difficulty fish can be induced to feed. At Boveney Messrs. Bentley have had three jack going respectively 4½lb., 5lb., and 5¾lb., together with a pretty sample of perch, 13 scaling 6½lb. At Harley Messrs. Parry, on Sunday, only nobbled some 13 roach after toiling 11 hours ; but a banker in same lucky spot got hold of some 18lb. of roach. At Medmenham Bob Young, with a patron, has had daily fun with barbel. The largest fish, however, has not, I believe, exceeded 5lb. Thursday evening.—River still exceedingly low, and until many days' heavy rain comes as a blessing, angling will hardly be worth the candle ; but still the weather is grand in the extreme, and the outlook from the Thames is worth a journey from the "Land's End" to see.—Marlow Buzz.

## Thames (Datchet).

Water as low as ever ; at the same time fishing is not such a miserable failure. The barbel are biting, and the colder the better. Six fish this morning from 10 till 11 ; then the sun came through, and gudgeon began to bite. Richard Gray, of Windsor, has been catching a rare lot of barbel, but I can gather nothing authentic. My patrons' takes the past week, 18 barbel—largest 6lb., and three jack—largest 5lb.—and three dozen dace. J. Hoare has been catching a lot of gudgeon and a few fine perch.—G. Lumsden.

## Thames (Goring).

Water in good order for jack and perch. Some good baskets of perch have been taken here. I have had only one day this fortnight—four dozen of perch, one jack 4lb.—J. Rush.

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## Ancholme District.

The holiday season has now nearly ended : as a consequence there is a falling off in the number of visitors, but local fishermen continue to wield the rod. Varied success has been obtained during the past week. Some old hands have done tolerably, whilst others have had but few fish. The weather now is quite summerlike again in the daytime, so that it is very pleasant by the water side. The falling leaves are rather troublesome. Rain would do much good, as the water remains very clear and low. —Thomas Ford, Caistor.

## The Bure (Norwich).

Very little has been doing in this river during the last fortnight, but with the more settled weather of the past few days several friends have been out and tried their luck, with varied success, one party that went up from Wroxham towards Coltishall had good luck, catching three nice size jack, and then angling caught some very fine perch at Wroxham. There is always sport to be had, but its quality is not always up to the mark, little bait being, in most cases, the result of a day's fishing. The reports from Horning are not good, but lower down, by St. Benet's

Abbey, I hear of some good sport being had amongst the jack. My own opinion is that with this delightful weather almost any fish may be caught, only many anglers have put away their bottom-fishing tackle, and have been busy refitting their pike tackle cases and testing their lines, &c. Prospects good.—ROBERT MOLL.

### The Coquet (Weldon Bridge).

Any amount of bull trout on the streams.—F. BROWN, of the Anglers' Inn.

### The Dee and Don (Aberdeenshire).

During the past week there has been a continuance of very fine weather, and the waters are getting quite small and clear again, so that sport has not improved. On the Don, in consequence of the low state of the river, fish cannot get over the dam-dykes, and are therefore lying in great numbers in the pools below, so that good sport is got there—or, rather, many fish have been taken—for "sniggering" is not sport, at least anglers who call themselves sportsmen ought to look upon the practice with disgust. We heard last week of as many as five salmon to one rod in a single day, by fishing in the above manner, and the destruction may be imagined when we take into consideration the fact that dozens of these implements are used daily. All night the river is netted by poachers, who no doubt possess themselves of a goodly share of the fish lying in the pools. The reason of this being permitted is that the staff of bailiffs is quite insufficient to cope with them, and of course when poachers know that, they will go on as successfully as ever. On the higher sections we believe that a few fish have been got, but no reports are still to hand. On the Dee some anglers have had very fair sport indeed, and we are aware that the water is well stocked with fish, but that they are not rising freely at all. The most successful flies have been "grey heron" and "ackroyd," and besides these "Jock Scott" has done very good work, and on account of the smallness of the river, the sizes used are about 1in. Mr. George Smith, Ballater, sends us his report for the past week as follows: Col. J. Skene, on the Invercauld Arms Hotel water, had, on Tuesday, two fish of 8lb. and 9lb.; on Wednesday, one of 9lb., and on Thursday, two of 9lb. each. Messrs. George Blacklaws and Son, Kincardine o' Neil, report: On the Borrowstone section, Walter Evans, Esq., Derby, had, on Monday, three fish of 4lb., 10lb, and 26lb. weight; on Tuesday, one of 14lb.; on Thursday, one of 27lb., and on Saturday, one 24lb. William Lamond, Esq., on the Norton House water, had two during the week, weighing 6½lb. and 18lb. respectively. On the Ballogie section, W. E. Nicol, Esq., had one, on Monday, weighing 6½lb., and J. Mortimer, keeper, had, on Saturday, two of 10lb. and 20lb. G. Cambell, Esq., on Carlogie, on Monday, landed three salmon, scaling 10½lb., 12lb., and 21½lb., and on Wednesday, on the same water, Charles Farquhar, Esq., landed one of 36lb., the largest fish reported on the Dee this season. On the Durris section, William Knowles, Esq., banker. London, and party, had, on Monday of this week, three fish of 23½lb., 23lb., and 22lb.; on Tuesday, last week, they killed five fish, ranging from 15lb. to 26½lb.; on Wednesday, six, scaling from 6lb. to 28lb.; on Thursday, two fish of 13lb. and 25lb., and on Saturday, one weighing 18½lb. On Crathes and Kinneskie, R. B. White, Esq., and General Keane had, on Tuesday, four fish from 18lb. to 30lb.; on Wednesday, two, weighing 20lb. and 26lb.; on Thursday, four, ranging from 15½lb. to 28lb.; on Friday, two, of 20lb. and 23lb., and on Saturday, one weighing 16½lb. G. Douglas, Esq., on the Inchmarlo section, had on Thursday two salmon of 18lb. and 27lb., and on Saturday one of 23½lb.; on Monday, of this week, he landed two, weighing 10lb. and 12lb. respectively. On Cairnton, Turner Farley, Esq., and party, during the week have killed thirteen fish, ranging from 14lb. to 26½lb. On Park, — Potter, Esq., on Wednesday had a fish of 18lb.; and on Invery, General Oliphant has killed three fish, weighing 16lb., 20lb., and 23½lb. High up the river, at Braemar, seven salmon, from 7½lb. to 11lb., and a grilse of 4lb. have been got during last week; and our correspondent reports that they are all in excellent condition for this time of the year. There is no indication of disease amongst the fish. The rod season for the Dee, Don, Deveron, and other Aberdeenshire rivers closes on the 31st October.

### The Dove.

Though the weather has been very favourable and the river in first-class order, yet sport during the week has only been of a fitful character. The grayling have been extremely shy at rising, and I don't think the general takes have averaged more than two brace per rod. I cannot give the reason why grayling have come up so badly. Everything seems to have been suitable, and yet they would not feed. What few have been captured have fallen victims to the grasshopper, tipped with live maggots, and odd fancy flies, of which the green insect (with or without red tag) has been as useful as any. A good many roach and dace have been killed with the maggot and cockspur worm, but this is about all the success that has been had, and I think anglers will have to wait for colder weather before there is much improvement in sport.—THE SPLODGER.

### The Earn (Perthshire).

Great numbers of salmon and grilse are daily being killed on the tidal water of the Earn, but mostly with worms. Splendid sport has been obtained on Dupplin water by Lord Dudley's friends. One day two rods landed twenty-eight fish, one rod had eighteen fish. Another day the same gentleman had thirteen fish to his own rod.—P. D. M.

### The Exe and Canal (Exeter).

Some pike and perch have been taken in the Canal and in the river near Exwick and Cowley, but nothing calling for special comment. I hope to have a fuller angling report next week.—J. A. KELLEY.

### Ilfracombe.

Sea fishing. During the past week those fishing from the boats have had some good catches of conger, tamlin, whiting, and skate, and Tuesday evening three boats were out drifting for herrings—they brought in about four maize, which caused all fishermen to be busy gathering their nets in, as they anticipate a good season. Amateurs fishing from the rocks and jetty have had good sport. Saturday evening, a conger, 20lb., was caught from the jetty, and several pollack, whiting, pout, and eels from the rock. Weather at present fine and prospects good.—E. COMER.

### Leicester.

We have lately been treated to weather of a very open character, which, although rather cold, has been favourable for angling. The sport has been fairly good. Some very nice catches continue to be had from the home waters, perch and chub being especially well on the feed. Several large chub up to 4lb. have this week been weighed in at the clubs. Mr. Thos. Hardy showed two perch weighing respectively 2lb. and 1½lb.—a very fine brace of fish. Some pike were also caught up to about 7lb., so that generally the sport has lately shown a decided improvement, whilst it may be said that the prospects of winter fishing appear of an encouraging nature. The weather of Thursday was again cold, but fine and bright, and waters are rather low and clear.—ALERT.

### Lea (Tottenham).

On the 19th inst. we had a few sportsmen down, and the takes were very good. Some good barbel and eels were taken in the back water, and some big perch in the barge cut.—T. A. WARD.

### Lugg and Arrow (Leominster).

These streams have greatly improved since last week, having now run clear again and in splendid order for the anglers, who have visited these streams in good numbers this week. The fish are rising well at the whirling blue and green insect, and some good grayling have been taken with the grasshopper. A gentleman on Friday visited the Arrow near to Stanton, and with the whirling blue took a nice dish of grayling. In the Eardisland water a nice dish of fine grayling were taken by a gentleman with the grasshopper. The Lugg at Ford's Bridge was tried the same day with the green insect, and a very nice lot of fish were taken. In the Aymestry district some capital fish have been landed with the fly. On Saturday a gentleman visited the Arrow with the grasshopper, and took a good dish of fish averaging ½lb. each. In the Ivington quarter some very nice fish were taken with the fly. A few very good grayling were landed from the Lugg with the green insect. A gentleman fished the Lugg near the Bodenham waters on Monday, and took a splendid dish of fine grayling with the whirling blue. In the Arrow near Monkland a gentleman took a nice dish of fish with the grasshopper. The Lugg was tried on Tuesday, and a very good basket of grayling was landed with the green insect, and some capital sport was had with the grasshopper, and a good lot of grayling were taken. In the Arrow some very good fish were taken with the whirling blue and green insect the same day. The Pinsley is now in splendid order for the angler, having run clear. The fish are sporting well at the fly. A few good fish were taken on Saturday with the fly, and a nice lot on Tuesday.—GWYNNE.

### Medway (Tunbridge).

The river is still in first class condition but a run of water is sadly wanted to make angling what it should be. I have heard of one or two bags of roach and dace besides several jack. Below the town, the veritable leviathan tried conclusions with an angler whose tackle came away considerably mauled. The pike, no doubt, had a quiet laugh and made grand resolves what he would do when he next saw a bait suspended by a bit of string; but the angler used, no doubt, very strong language. At a meeting of the angling society attention was called to the large number of London club anglers who used the river and do not pay one penny towards the preservation and stocking; and it was thought desirable that each club should be asked to subscribe an annual sum; as there is no desire on the part of local brethren to curtail the sport of anyone.—YE MEDWAY WATER RAT.

### Nene (Northampton).

Since last report takes of fish have been small, the river being very clear; but some good sport has been had in the canals and brooks. On Saturday G. Johnson killed a nice bag of 12lb., roach, chub, and dace; H. Hind killed a nice sample of roach; W. Turner, of Deal, and C. Eyte have been having some fair sport. On Monday evening Mr. Meyers had on view a grand pike of 28½lb., taken from the private pond in this district. Length, 45in., but that in good condition.—T. F.

### The Ouse (Huntingdon).

A little work has been done with the jack this last week. On the 19th five were taken by one fisherman. On the 21st I saw one that was taken by Mr. W. Woodward, weighing 10lb., a very good fed fish. On the 20th the same gentleman took three more, but I don't know the weight. I don't know the result of the 21st, but he is out again. The water is still very bright, but the dull weather in the morning does not affect the fishing—it does good, for it takes off the brightness of the water. The weather is very favourable, and could not be much better according to the beginning of the season.—H. ROUT.

### Oulton Broad and Dyke (Lowestoft).

I have not sent you a report lately, owing to the fact that the fishing during the latter part of the summer has been very partial, and on the whole not good, and I dislike a meagre report evidently dressed up. There are plenty of pike here now, and we only want some sharp weather to put them on the feed. A few have been taken, but at present nothing beyond 5lb. The weeds are now beginning to die down in Borrow's Ham, where some fine fellows lie, and I anticipate some glorious sport. —GEORGE MASON.

### Severn and Stour (Kidderminster).

Not much news, as usual, from these rivers. Several parties have been out this last week, but have met with no success. There has been a flush in the Severn of about a foot, consisting of snow broth, doing more harm than good. It has chilled the water and put the fish off the feed; no sort of bait seems to entice them. It will take a good flood to put the river in good fishing order again. I went to the Severn this week and there were a dozen other anglers out, some of them had been there the day previous, some of them had one, some two fish, some none at all. I succeeded in taking four roach in two hours with paste. Baits in use were worms, gentles, and paste. There was a strong north wind blowing down stream. Half an hour before dark the wind dropped, the fish then began to rise all over the river. I wished then I had my fly rod. The cinnamon being out strong, I suspect the fish were after them. The Stour—our beautiful Stour! It would be a beautiful river if it was not for the mass of impurities that are poured into it. I went two days last week to the Stour, thinking to have an hour or two roach-fishing, but was sadly disappointed, the water being stained badly from the dye liquor, which had been put into the stream. You can judge for yourself how dark the water was when you could not see the bottom of a 2in. quill float. The water above the town is good generally, but below it is an abomination. You can depend upon it, Sir, the air cannot be very refreshing for anyone to inhale as they walk along the side of the stream. Besides, it will do the fish no good. The Stour is a very prolific river, and the fish grow to a good size; plenty of trout have been taken this year, from 1lb. up to 4lb. each. I have taken dace 14oz. each, roach and bream of good weight also. It is a pity that a river like this should be destroyed by such impurities. If the epidemic raging in Kidderminster (I am glad to say it is decreasing) had been traced to the milk brought into the town, I should have said at once it was owing to the impure water which the cattle were obliged to drink, for there was nothing else to quench their thirst but this mixture. Whose fault it is that the river is in such condition I cannot tell; but this I do know, it ought to be seen to at once, and put a stop to, before other evils arise.—E. EARP, hon. sec.

[When will the inhabitants of our towns see that they cannot allow some few of their number to pollute a stream in this way without damaging the general health and interests? The owners of the factories which pour their refuse in the stream generally preserve a stretch of the water. Do they ever do it below their drain outfalls? Cannot the anglers of Kidderminster get up a petition to the authorities, and get it influentially and numerously signed?—ED.]

### The Shannon (Castleconnel).

Annexed are the takes during past week:—Mr. Henry Hodges, on his Doonass fishery, 15th inst., one salmon, 30lb.; 20th, two 10lb. and 18lb.; 21st, one peal, 6lb. Mr. H. R. Laing, London, on Mr. E. T. Ingham's fishery, the Summerhill, 18th inst., one peal 6lb., and three salmon, 12lb., 18lb., and 30lb.; 19th, two peal, 6lb. and 7lb.; 20th, one 7lb.; 21st, one 7½lb. On the 15th the fisherman on the same waters got a peal 5lb; 16th, two peal 8lb. and 8½lb. Mr. E. S. St. Aubyn, 60th Rifles, got a salmon 30lb. on Prospect and Landscape, 15th inst. Mr. Norris Russell, on Hermitage, 16th inst., got a peal 6lb., and a salmon 22lb.—J. ENRIGHT AND SON.

### South Level Cut (Littleport).

Although the river is very low and bright, the roach have been well on the feed from one to four hours since last Tuesday week. I am sorry to say I had no time last Thursday to make out a report, otherwise it would have been a good one. The following is the cream of what has been done since:—Oct. 17th, Mr. W. Rowton, Cambridge, 10lb. roach; Mr. T. Hunnybun, Cambridge, 16lb. good roach; Mr. R. Hall, Ely, 7lb. in two and a quarter hours; Messrs. H. Wingfield and H. Stewart, King's School, Ely, 19½lb. very good roach in two and a half hours. Oct. 18th, Messrs. R. H. Legge and E. F. Felton, Cambridge, 12lb. roach, very fair; Dr. Cooper, President Cambridge and Ely Angling Society, 18lb.—sixty fish in all; Mr. Osborne, Cambridge, 9lb.; Mr. Tillett, Littleport, 7lb. fine roach in one hour; Messrs. E. L. Richardson, H. Wingfield, and H. Stewart, King's School, Ely, 20lb. very good roach. Oct. 19th, Mr. F. A. Fielden, Centre Vale, Todmorden, 8lb. very good roach in three and a half hours. Oct. 20th, Messrs. H. C. Saville and W. Grimsdale, Cambridge, 32lb. roach, largest 1lb.; Mr. W. L. Agger, Cambridge, 17lb.; M. F., Ely, 10lb. in two and a quarter hours. Oct. 21st, Mr. R. Hills, Cambridge, 13lb.: Mr. J. Miller Cambridge, 15lb.; Mr. Hailstone, Anglesey Abbey, Bottisham, 13lb.; myself, in one and a half hours, 7½lb. These four lots were all very good roach. Oct. 22nd, Mr

Hailstone, 14lb. good roach; Mr. R. Hills, Cambridge, with a friend, 28lb. fine roach in four hours; Messrs. R. Hall and E. T. Richardson, Ely, 12lb. in two hours.—CHARLIE SOUTH.

### Teme (Worcestershire).

There could not be a more favourable autumn for fly fishing, and the anglers of this district have done well in many instances. The willow, true blue, and silver dun are amongst the killers, the pale blue coming in for a second place with nearly all who have given them a trial. I will give a list of those whom I have come in contact with during the past week: Mr. B. Smith and Mr. A. Davis, over thirty brace of grayling; in two days, Mr. Martin Pirks 16lb. of grayling, dace, and chub, all these were taken with the gentle; Mr. Gwilliam, two brace; Mr. Russell, four and a half brace; A. B. Holland, six brace; myself, seven brace with the fly. Mr. Holland and myself returned many under size. We had excellent sport with the willow and blue dun. It was a wet day. I will let you know how I get on next Saturday at Stanford. Mr. Smith, the host, will give anyone leave to fish free. I had the pleasure of showing him a creel full.—J. A. GRIFFIN.

### Teme (Ludlow).

Since last report the weather has been fine and welcome after the three terrible days at the end of the week before last, bad as the weather was. On the 11th of October I am informed that J. H. Leech, Esq., of Carden Park, Chester, was fishing in the Leintwardine Club water on that day in the river Teme, between 12 o'clock and 2 p.m. Notwithstanding a severe storm of snow and rain was pelting down, he caught nine grayling averaging over 1lb. each. One was taken with the red tag and eight with the grasshopper. The weather was too severe to continue longer at the river side. The Teme has risen, but has not reached its average height. The tributaries are all going on pretty fairly, the colouring having disappeared from most of them, and they may be considered to be in good angling condition. An angler went up the Teme on Saturday from Burnay Meadows up into the Park waters. After trying the whirling blue for two or more hours, he gave it up in despair and tried the grasshopper. He soon landed a nice grayling, 1½lb., which was followed by six more fine fish and several small ones. These were thrown back again into the Teme. A gentleman, on Saturday afternoon (a day he always devotes to piscatorial pursuits) visited a favourite spot of his just below the weir at Steventon, near Mr. Duggan's. Here he tried the green insect, and was fortunate enough to catch a large grayling, which weighed ¾lb., in capital condition. He only caught this single grayling. He then turned his attention to bottom fishing with the maggot, and quickly caught seven perch and other rough fish. The remarks of the chairman of the Hereford Quarter Sessions (Sir R. Harrington) on the fish in the Teme will be read with interest.—S. LUDLOW.

### Teme (Tenbury).

This stream is now in splendid condition for the angler, having run clear. The water has slightly risen since our last report, and has been visited freely this week, The fish are biting well at the fly and the maggot, and some very good baskets have been landed. The best flies the fish are rising at are the green insect and willow. A few grayling have been landed with the worm. A gentleman visited the water near to Eastham on Friday, and with the green insect landed a good basket of grayling, all in good condition, averaging ½lb. each. Several trout were hooked and brought to land, but were returned to the water as soon as possible. In the water near to Can Brook some fine grayling were taken by a gentleman who was fishing with the willow. On Saturday the grayling were sporting freely. A gentleman tried the water near Easton Court, and with the fly took a splendid dish of grayling. Near to Rochford some very good grayling were landed by a gentleman with the green insect. In the water above the bridge a nice lot of fish were taken with the fly. The water above Little Hereford Bridge was fished on Monday, and a good basket of grayling was landed with the willow and green insect. Some capital sport has been had in the Berrington district this week with the fly, and some nice grayling have been taken. A gentleman tried the water with the green insect on Tuesday, and took a nice basket of grayling averaging 8oz. each. A few good fish were taken with the maggot the same day. The Kyre and Rea are now in good fishing order a few fish have been taken from the Kyre, little doing in the Rea. Fishing in the Ledwyche quiet.—WORCESTER.

### Torridge (Torrington).

River in fine order for fishing. I saw some peel taken with the improved Devon bait on Tuesday, and many fine fish were showing at the weir, and the salmon leaping and sporting in the big pools.—PRACTICAL ANGLER.

### Trent (Alrewas).

Fishing in the Association water during the past week has been of a very encouraging nature, a large number of very fine grayling having been taken with the fly. A basket of eleven grayling were taken with the gentle, scaling 10lb. Barbel are still on the feed, and a nice one of 4½lb. was taken with the lob. Roach are feeding well, and a basket of 16lb. was taken by one member, six fish weighing 6lb. 9oz., and one 1lb. 9oz. Pike have not been on the run lately.—ANON.

### The Trent (Nottingham).

Fine open weather has prevailed during the week, and anglers have been numerous in both upper and lower waters. At Willington some excellent lots of dace have been caught with the worm and maggot, and fair bags of chub have also been obtained. The river here, as elsewhere, remains unusually low and clear, and the great bulk of the fish continue to be caught in the streams. One of the dace, caught by Mr. P. Wilson, of the Alexandra Association, weighed 11¾oz.; and Mr. H. Coxon, of the same society, has weighed in one over 9oz. In the lower waters Mr. W. Dann, of the St. George's, bagged, with a friend, a rare lot of dace and roach on Monday; and on Wednesday the former species were well on the rise on the shallows at Wilford. A roach of 1lb. 6oz. was taken in one of the upper tributaries on Tuesday. The barbel season is now practically over, and amongst the old stagers it is universally admitted to have been one of the worst known for some years past. Chub fishing will soon begin, with pith and brains for bait. Just before closing I learn that Mr. J. Tomlinson has weighed in a fine grayling at the St. George's Society.—THE MAN AT THE CLUBS.

### Tweed and Teviot.

The past week has been one of fair success to the salmon angler. The weather, however, has been too fine and bright for excellent sport, but, on the whole, the disciples of the rod and line have had very little cause to grumble, although during Wednesday and Thursday some of them relinquished the rod for the gun. The following are the best takes during the week:—Oct. 16: Mr. Moffat, on the Hersel water, had three, 5lb., 9½lb., and 18lb.; Mr. Hay Gordon, on the Carham water, had one of 19lb.; and on the Floors lower water, a grilse of 6lb. was caught. On the Sprouston water, Mr. Balfour had one of 20lb.; and on the Ednam House water, the Hon. and Rev. R. Liddell had a sea trout of 5lb. Oct. 17: Mr. Moffat, on the Hersel water, had four, 16, 16, 17, and 20lb. On the Ednam House water, Mr. Drummond had two, 18 and 28lb. On the Carham water, Mr. Hay Gordon had three, one 22lb., and two smaller; on Sprouston, the Hon. John Bright had one fish; on the Mertoun Water, the Hon. H. Brougham had six, weighing 14lb., 16lb., 18lb., 20lb., 21lb., and 23lb.; the Earl of Bathurst had one of 18lb.; and on Brogham, Mr. Denison had one. Oct. 18: On the Hersel Water, Mr. Moffatt had four, 8lb., 9lb., 25½lb., and 26lb.; on Carham Water, Mr. Hay Gordon had three, 7½lb., 18lb., and 18lb.; on Sprouston Dub, Mr. Balfour had four, 12lb., 18lb., 18lb., and 13lb.; on the Ednam House Water, the Hon. and Rev. R. Liddle had one of 18lb.; on the Sprouston Water, Mr. Bidder, Q.C., London, had five fish; on the Mertoun Water, the Hon. H. Brougham had four, all about 18lb. each; on the Brogham Water, Mr. Denison killed one fish; and on the Teviot, Mr. R. Robertson had a 9lb. grilse—first fish of the season for this river. Oct. 20: Very little done to-day, the weather being too bright. On the Sprouston Dub, Mr. Bidder, Q.C., had three, about 20lb. each. Oct. 21: Mr. James Brunlees, C.E., London, fishing on the Sprouston Water, had four fish, 14lb., 18lb., 20lb., and 20lb.; and on the same water, Mr. Bidder one of 23lb.; on the Hendersyde Water, Captain Griffiths had six; on the Birgham water the Hon. and Rev. R. Liddell had three—22lb., 22lb., and 30½lb. To-day, on the Ednam House water, Mr. James Gibson had one of 9lb. In the Melrose district, although the river has not been in good order, yet fair sport has been had on the Pavilion water, as the following takes testify:—Monday, Oct. 13: Major Dillon had four, the heaviest 19lb., and Mr. C. Henry one of 25lb. Tuesday, Oct. 14: Major Dillon four salmon, the heaviest being 19½lb.; General Henry had a couple of 15½lb. and 20lb.; Captain Erskine one fish, and Mr. C. Henry one of 19lb. Wednesday, Oct. 15: Mr. C. Henry killed three, weighing respectively 8lb., 16lb., and 25lb.; Major Dillon two, 10lb. and 17lb. Thursday, Oct. 16: Capt. Erskine had one of 10lb.; Mr. C. Henry one of 17lb., and General Dean three fish—6½lb., 8lb., and 18½lb. Friday, Oct. 17: Mr. C. Henry one of 8½lb., and General Dean one of 12lb. Saturday, Oct. 18: Mr. Bain one of 6lb. In the Galashiels district good sport has been had in salmon angling. Mr. McLean, Galahaven, got one of 20lb.; Mr. Scott, Linton, one of 16lb.; Mr. C. M. Stewart had four—7½lb., 8lb., 9lb., and 10lb. respectively; and Mr. Middlemass four—8lb., 14lb., 16½lb., and 20lb.—MAXWHEEL, Kelso.

### Walton-on-Thames.

Heavy mist has been hanging over the river here night and morning, which seems to suit the bream. They are now well on the feed. Dick Watford, with some gentlemen from the Swan Hotel, had a large basket last night of good fish, a fine basket yesterday morning, and another good lot this morning of large average, three of them weighed 9lb., 4lb. and 5lb. respectively. I have heard of many others being taken. Persons fond of bream fishing should take the opportunity of running down to Walton (if a punt is required, sending to the Swan Hotel will save all trouble) while the fish are on the feed, as a good basket may be got in a very short time with well-scoured red worms upon a small hook. It is very probable within the next day or two we shall hear of another haul like the one Mr. Mackerel made a short time ago when he took 110lb. weight in two days. Bream appear to move about in large shoals, appropriating certain parts of the river to themselves, driving all other fish away. Even the barbel seem to give place to the bream, as they move from one place to another. In bream fishing the greatest care should be taken not to lose a fish after it is hooked, for it will stop the best of sport immediately. Use fine tackle, but let it be new and strong, and handle your gut carefully if they are large.—GOLDFINCH.

### Wharfe (Yorkshire).

Still no rain, and the rivers as low as it is possible for them to be. The grayling certainly have begun to rise but it is at the most diminutive of midges or insects that are bred among the decaying leaves with which the surface of the water is plentifully besprinkled. I tried them for an hour or two last Saturday afternoon, but only succeeded in basketing one fine grayling about 1lb. I lost several others after hooking them, and landed four trout; the latter take hold in a most aggravating manner now that their time is over; I was fishing worm in the streams. I tried fly, but could not touch a fish, although I rose several at the October Dun. Next Tuesday evening there is to be a grand meeting of Yorkshire anglers at the Queen's Hotel, Leeds; there is to be a dinner, after which the evening is to be spent in social harmony, or, as the invitation circular quaintly puts it, "for ye mutual exchange of ye divers thoughts and opinions and most strange experiences of ye fyshermen, which some do call yarnes, through ye profane scoffer calleth ym lies." The original limit of tickets was 60, but so many gentlemen earnestly solicited a further extension, that 120 guests will be nearer the mark. I predict that the meeting will prove an immense success, and hope to give details of the same next week.—FRANCIS M. WALBRAN.

### Wye and Derwent.

Last Friday there was a beautiful woodland water came down the Derwent from the heavy thunder rain that had fallen upon the moors. We had no rain fall in this quarter, so this sudden surprise coming on the fish from Chadsworth downwards has been the cause of taking the grayling completely off the feed again. In fact, I fished myself on last Monday with the fly at a regular first-class grayling place and never killed a single fish; neither did I see a good fish rise the whole day. In fact, grayling are not feeding at either top or bottom at the present time; and if we get some good sharp frosts, it will set them on the feed again at both top and bottom. The leaves are very troublesome just now both on the Wye and Derwent. Several pike up to 7lb. each have been taken off the Derwent during the week between Cromford and Ambergate. Small grayling, about 3in. and 4in. long, are very numerous this autumn on the lower lengths of the Derwent.—GEO. JAS. EATON.

### The Yare (Norwich).

After a fortnight's silence, I am pleased to have to report that things piscatorial are looking up once more. Several good catches of roach have been made, and some number of jack have fallen victims to their love of something bright. The greater number have fallen under the lurement of "spooning" (and these are interesting victims of that fashionable amusement). Live baiting can now be practised all along the banks, gently urging the boat forward by aid of the reeds. A long stretch of water can thus be fished without the bait being troubled or hurt. Reverting to roach once more, one catch of about forty or fifty deserves special mention, as they were all good large fish, the three finest weighing 2¾lb., and the lot averaging about ½lb. The weather is simply charming, and one only wants the opportunity to be off and at it again, as under a lee to-day would be quite warm and cheerful. I hope to be able to send you good accounts shortly with regard to jack fishings. Prospects excellent.—ROBERT MOLL.

## THE DEATH OF MR. ED. BOND, A WELL-KNOWN YORKSHIRE ANGLER.

THIS gentleman, whose death I briefly alluded to in last week's issue, was born in the year 1807. Throughout his long and busy life he spent the greater portion of his leisure time in pursuit of sport with both rod and gun; but angling was decidedly his favourite amusement. Up to within three years of his death he rented an extensive shooting ground in the vicinity of Ripon; through the midst of it ran a small stream, on which, I believe, Mr. Bond had his last day with rod and line. I remember listening to his recital of that day's sport as though it were but yesterday. He had used the natural minnow as a bait and basketed 16 fine trout; not many sportsmen can accomplish such a feat when 74 years of age.

It was, however, in his younger days that he achieved his greatest performances with the rod. He was a member at that time of the famous Sprouston Club, and in Mr. Henderson's work, "My Life as an Angler," frequent mention is made of Mr. Bond, who was an intimate friend of the author. In July, 1846, Mr. Bond had a memorable day's fishing on Sprouston Dub—a length of water well known to salmon fishers. He only fished until early afternoon, but succeeded in landing five fresh-run fish, which weighed altogether 118lb.; this considering the time of year, was an almost unprecedented feat.

Here, again, is an account in Mr. Bond's own words of another red-letter day upon the same water:—"I began the day unluckily. As soon as I started I hooked the biggest fish I have ever seen on a line. There can be no mistake as to this, for I fought him a full hour, during which time he threw himself out of the water at least fifty times, and we saw him as plainly as though we had had him in the boat. At last the fly came clean away, so little injured that it killed several fish afterwards. Such was my beginning! Then my luck changed, and from that time until it was dark I was never for 10 minutes without a fish on my hook. I only changed my fly once, and still keep both in remembrance of the day. One is a silver doctor, the other a plain dark-winged Tweed fly. At night I had 12 salmon and a grilse, of the aggregate weight of 252lb. The weights of each were 37½lb., 28lb., 26lb., 24½lb., 21lb., 19lb., 17½lb., 15½lb., 14½lb., 14lb., 14lb., 12lb., and 8½lb. You will see that six average 26lb., and the whole above 19lb. each. This was the most slaughtering day's fishing that I have ever had or witnessed."

I should think so, and cannot help wondering what salmon fishers at the present day would give to have anything approaching such magnificent sport. Truly may it be said of angling, as indeed of many other things, "*tempora mutantur*."

Mr. Bond's cabinet of salmon and trout flies was a sight not to be forgotten; many a pleasant hour have I spent in looking over its contents, with its owner at my elbow making comments upon the various flies as I went through them seriatim. He was also the possessor of a magnificent collection of English and foreign china. In his hall were several cases of specimen fish, the most prominent being a 40lb. pike, while on the staircase wall and first corridor were hung four beautiful examples of Mr. Rolfe's matchless delineations of angling subjects.

As a private individual, Mr. Bond was in disposition so kind and gentle that I do not think it possible for him to have a single enemy. He was twice married, the death of his second wife taking place in the early part of this year. She was buried in the quiet little churchyard of Scalby, near Scarborough; and by Mr. Bond's request his remains were conveyed by train on Friday morning last to the same resting-place. The number of influential persons who attended the funeral was ample testimony of the respect and esteem in which the deceased gentleman was held by all who knew him.

By his death the writer has lost a kind and sincere friend, as indeed have very many more; in fact, it would be very difficult to find a man throughout the large borough of Leeds, the tidings of whose death would convey such a widespread feeling of regret as that of Mr. Bond's caused upon the morning following the calm October evening upon which he passed away. *Requiescat in pace!*

Ivy Cottage, Pool, Wharfedale. FRANCIS M. WALBRAN.

## ENGLISH FLIES IN AMERICA.

SOME little time ago the *American Angler* said it was glad to see the British were following the example of American anglers, and recognising the "stream value of fine tackle." I ventured to point out to the editor that the tackle and flies in this country were, *as a rule*, finer—that is, more delicate—than those used in the States. The editor of the *American Angler* seemed to doubt this, and referred to Mr. W. C. Prime, author of that charming book, "I go a-Fishing," as using very fine tackle. I sent the editor of the "A. A." some English-made flies, and asked him to be good enough to send them on to Mr. W. C. Prime with a note from me, and the other day I got the following very pleasant reply:—

"Profile House, New Hampshire, U.S.A.
"September 8th, 1884.

"DEAR SIR,—That I have not, long ago, thanked you with all my heart for sending me the flies has been more my misfortune than my fault. When I received them, by the kind hands of Mr. Harris, I had left town with intent to pass the spring and summer, as usual, rod in hand each day. But at the very time they reached me at Franconia, near this place, I was overtaken by an attack of illness, and I have not had a well hour since. Three several unfinished letters to you attest my desire to tell you how thoroughly I felt your kindness in sending the flies, and what a revelation they were to me of the possibilities of high art in the angler's employments and life. But if you know the weariness of body and mind which accompany constant pain for months, you will, I am sure, appreciate my own regret that I could not write as I wanted to, and understand why this acknowledgment has been delayed. With the cooler weather of autumn I begin to feel some of the return of vigour and health.

"I have shown to a host of friends these flies, not only as marvellous specimens of delicacy and perfection of work, but also, as I esteem them most, as evidences of the relationship among anglers of all countries and all peoples. It was exceeding gratifying to receive them on this account. It is many years since I have tied a small fly or a gnat, though I use more of them probably than any four other American anglers. I depend for my supplies on Scotland and England. It is only within three years that any of the American dealers in tackle have had gnats or small flies on sale. This was, doubtless, because of the abundance of trout in many of our waters, and the freedom with which they rose to almost any cast. But from my childhood, years ago, I have been accustomed to use fine tackle and small flies. It was my pride as a small boy to kill large trout on a single horse-hair, and I have always since enjoyed the use of the most delicate leaders and gnats when killing the heaviest fish. But I never saw or dreamed of such exquisite bits of fly-making as these. I have two or three hobbies. I have given a long life to the collection and study of early illustration in books. I have devoted a good deal of time to the study of ancient art. I have filled my house with a collection of pottery and porcelain. I live, when in town, among these associations; but all my life, my heart, is shut upon my rod case, until I get away from town, and then it escapes and enjoys its beating.—With renewed thanks, I am, sincerely yours,

"R. B. Marston, Esq. "W. C. PRIME."

Some years ago, when noticing *Forest and Stream* in this paper, I said what a good thing it was that the Continent of North America, with its unrivalled sporting grounds and waters, was in the hands of an English-speaking and practically English race, which produced as keen, good, and true sportsmen as the old country. Since then I have met or corresponded with many American anglers, and I have always experienced the same feeling of good fellowship which is shown by the very pleasant letter quoted above. May the feeling grow and extend. R. B. MARSTON.

## THE ARLEY BROOK FISH POISONING CASE IN WARWICKSHIRE.

AT the recent Quarter Sessions for the County of Warwick, William Wilson, on bail, was indicted for having unlawfully placed a certain noxious material in Arley Brook on June 16th, 1883, with intent to destroy the fish therein. Mr. Fitzgerald prosecuted; prisoner was undefended. Mr. Rawlings, who has the right of fishing in the brook, while there on the afternoon of the date named, observed that the water was very much discoloured, and that it emitted a strong chemical smell. Upon walking a short distance he saw the prisoner and two other men in the brook. One of them had a fish in his possession, and close by was a quantity of destructive chemical. Next day nearly all the fish in the brook were found to be dead. The prisoner afterwards called at a neighbouring publichouse and exhibited a quantity of the fish. Subsequently the men absconded, and the prisoner on returning in July last was apprehended under a warranty. Prisoner called no witnesses, and threw himself on the mercy of the Court. He was found guilty, and receiving a good character, was only required to enter into his own recognisances in £10 to come up for judgment when called up, the Chairman expressing his belief that prisoner had been led into trouble by his companions.

# CLUB REPORTS.

### ANCHOR AND HOPE ANGLING SOCIETY.

Several members of the above club competed for three prizes at Amberley on the 19th inst., with the following results:— Mr. Watkins, first, 4lb. 12½oz. bream; Mr. Glass, second, 11¼oz. roach; Mr. Harris, third, 11oz. roach. The following also had fish:—Messrs. J. Bowling and C. Daniels. Mr. D. Davis, 15lb. bream from the Wey. —D. DAVIS, sec.

### THE ANGLERS' ASSOCIATION.

The delegates' meeting was held on Monday evening last, Oct 20th, Mr. P. Geen, president, in the chair. The two Lee fishery bailiffs, T. Verdun and W. High, attended, and gave an account of the capture of the net at Clapton, and the conviction of the two poachers at Worship-street Police-court. The delegates gave them a very hearty vote of thanks for their energy and tact in making the capture, and something more substantial in the shape of a reward of three guineas between them, to which was added another guinea, generously presented by Mr. P. Geen, the president of the Association. There was a large attendance of delegates. Two new societies were enrolled—the Turnham Green Sundial Angling Society, and the Sons of the Lea Angling Society, making seven new clubs that have been enrolled since the formation of the Anglers' Association.—R. GHURNEY.

A CORRECTION.—The sentence on the two men for netting at Clapton was £5 in each case, or *one month's imprisonment* in default; not two months in each case.

### AMICABLE BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

On the 19th inst. Mr. Harding weighed in one chub of 2lb. 13½oz., dace 4lb. ½oz., roach 5lb. 4oz., and bleak 7oz.; Mr. Taylor roach 2lb. 5oz. and one perch. The members for the roaming match on the 26th inst. will meet at the Rye House and start fishing at 9.30, and all to meet and have the fish weighed in at Mr. Coomes's, the Five Horseshoes, Hoddesdon, at 6 p.m. sharp. A meat tea will be provided.—J. HORLEDGE, sec.

### BROMPTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

Some good shows on the 19th—Messrs. Sparrow, Roach, Jewel, and Brown having roach; Mr. Burbidge, dace; and Mr. E. Saunders, jack. On Wednesday, Mr. Anstiss, roach.—W. DUTTON, sec.

### BURDETT ANGLING SOCIETY.

We had a fare show of fish here on the 19th inst. Mr. Collins had two very nice chub weighing 5lb. 11oz., and about 2½lb. of roach and dace; Mr. Eaton, 4¼lb. of roach; Mr. B. Smith, one barbel, 4lb. 1oz., and 1¼lb. of roach. The members fish for five special prizes on Nov. 2, and all those that wish to compete will sign at the clubhouse on the night previous.—T. G. WALKER.

### CAXTON ANGLING CLUB (BECCLES).

The annual dinner and distribution of prizes of this club took place on Saturday evening last at the White Swan, when an excellent spread was set before the members by Mr. and Mrs. Wright, to which all did ample justice. The chair was occupied by the secretary, Mr. A. E. Mickleburgh, Mr. Hooker ably filling the vice-chair. The tables having been cleared, the prizes were distributed. The committee this year decided to alter the rule that all prizes should be taken in fishing tackle, in consequence of members generally being very well supplied. The following was the order of the prize-winners:—Messrs. J. Hooker, C. Chase, W. Buck, F. Ulph, T. Rackham, A. Piper, T. Palmer, G. Knell, G. Holland, W. Upcraft, W. Lee, E. Elvin, S. Rushmer and H. Elvin, J. Blomfield, J. Edwards, W. Richer, and H. Block. In addition to the above eighteen prizes a special prize was given for the largest fish in each of the four competitions, and two for the largest fish caught during the season. These prizes were taken by Messrs. Ulph, Hooker, Palmer, and Holland; the prizes for the largest fish going to Mr. Palmer, The total value of prizes amounted to £6 15s.; a balance of 5s. being voted to the subscription list for the Waveney and Oulton Preservation Society for 1885, the last contribution to which amounted to £2 10s. After the prizes had been disposed of, the late secretary, Mr. C. Bumstead, was presented with a timepiece, which had been subscribed for by the members in recognition of his past services on behalf of the club. The secretary reported that this had been the most successful season since the club was formed in 1877, there being over fifty members, forty-seven of whom had fully paid up. The average weight of fish caught per member in the four competitions was 4lb. 12½oz., against 3lb. 14½oz. for 1883, or an increase of 14oz. Comparing the Nottingham style with tight-line fishing, the tight-liners carried the day, probably owing to the Nottingham men being comparative tyros in that method. Two matches had been fished with the Waneney Club, both of which that club had won. In both of those matches tight-liners also showed the heaviest catches. On the whole, the angling had been fairly successful, many more fishermen having been out this year than on any previous year, which perhaps may be accounted for by the formation of the Waveney Club and the generally increased interest taken in angling. A rod, value half a guinea, has been given for a prize by Mr. Chase for next year, when it is hoped that the club will be as successful as heretofore. During the remainder of the evening some good songs were sung, Mr. Peterson kindly presiding at the piano, and with toasts and recitations a very enjoyable meeting was brought to a close by the "National Anthem" at eleven o'clock. It should be stated that the following members were handicapped in the competitions:—Mr. J. Hooker, 4lb.; Mr. W. W. Peachey, 3lb.; Mr. W. Upcraft, 2lb.; Mr. S. Rushmer, 1½lb.; Mr. C. Chase, 1lb.; and Mr. F. Ulph, ½lb.—A. E. M., hon. sec.

### CITY OF LONDON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The following members weighed in on the 19th: Mr. Chambers, roach, dace, and bream, from Amberley, 3lb. 3oz.; Mr. Nitz, bream and a small jack, from Pulborough; and Mr. Castell, roach from Dagenham.—CAS.

### CLAPHAM JUNCTION ANGLING SOCIETY.

Takes have fallen off somewhat of late, being very difficult to get. Mr. Wilson had, on the 5th inst., 5lb. 10½oz. (roach), and on the 9th, 15lb. 5oz., from Staines; Mr. Banfield, 4lb. 7¾oz.; Mr. Speed, 7lb. 4½oz., and several other members also had small takes. On Thursday last a very strong muster met at the club-house, and a most enjoyable evening was spent. Mr. Roberts (visitor) very kindly assisted at the piano in a most masterly style. Another working member was added to our number, and two hon. members proposed. I beg to remind all that a match will be fished on the 26th, for three prizes, same conditions as on Sept. 14th. I hope to see a large number compete.—W. MASLIN, sec.

### CLAPTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The ordinary weekly meeting was held on Monday last, Mr. C. Graham Bennett in the chair. The minutes were signed, and business transacted. A new member was proposed, seconded, and elected, subject to confirmation next Monday. Mr. Wood weighed in a small jack, and Mr. Colls also small jack from the Thames; minor catches were reported. There was a good attendance of members and visitors, the Good Intent and Dalston societies being well represented. The secretary reported that he had some capital preserved jack water in Suffolk offered to him for a few days' angling. He was privileged to take a few members with him, and he had arranged to go with them on Friday, the 31st. The show on the following Monday at the club room he hoped would be a good one. A somewhat singular incident occurred to Mr. G. Colls, when out with Harris, the fisherman, at Penton Hook. A large jack was seen lying in shallow water, who allowed the net to be put under him, and he was brought into the punt, offering very little resistance. It was found that he was totally blind, a portion of a trace was hanging from his mouth, which Harris removed, together with as much of the gimp, on which the line bait had been used; they then returned him to the water. Query? Had the fish been attempted to be landed by the eyes, and had it got away with the damage to the eyes, which caused his blindness? Mr. Colls describes the eyes as presenting an opaque appearance. Some very excellent music, vocal and instrumental, was rendered; Mr. Anderson, from the Good Intent, delighting his audience with his magnificent singing. Miss Binks most kindly and skilfully officiated at the piano, Mr. Winterbottom being unavoidably absent. A most enjoyable evening was spent. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the fair pianist and to the chairman. Will the members please remember that the usual monthly musical evening will be held on Monday next? Several musical members and friends have promised to attend, and a capital concert may be depended on. I hope we may have a full attendance. Brother anglers will be welcomed, and I am sure will be well entertained.—Henry Howse, hon. sec.

## COBDEN ANGLING SOCIETY.

Several of our members were out on the 19th inst. Although the weather was very boisterous, we can congratulate ourselves with the success we had, for Mr. Stead weighed in some splendid roach from Uxbridge; also Messrs. Giles and Hayward, from the Thames, some roach and dace; likewise Messrs. Sharland, Howland, Andrews, and Maples, some barbel, roach, and dace. On Wednesday last, Mr. Green caught some splendid roach from Harefield weighing on an average from ½lb. and upwards; total weight about 12lb.—C. Reeves, sec.

[Received too late for last week.—Ed.]

## EASTERN COUNTIES' ANGLING SOCIETY, GREAT YARMOUTH.

The usual meeting of this society was held at the Duke's Head Hotel, Quay, on Thursday evening, the 21st inst., the president, Dr. Mitchell, being in the chair. According to instructions given him at a previous meeting, the honorary secretary, Mr. John Lee, again wrote to Edward Birkbeck, Esq., M.P., with a view to knowing whether that gentleman would become an honorary member of the society. In answer to Mr. Lee's communication, the following answer was received by him:—

"Horstead Hall, Norwich, 13th October, 1884.

"Dear Sir,—I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 8th inst., inclosing copy of rules of the 'Eastern Counties' Angling Society,' and for which I am much obliged. Your previous letter must have miscarried, as the copy of the rules now sent is the first I have received. I have red them through, and it will give me great pleasure to become an honorary member of your society.

"Yours faithfully,
(Signed) "Edward Birkbeck."

"John Lee, Esq."

We are pleased to note that to our list of honorary members we find, this week, added the names of John Drain, Esq., 5, Britannia-terrace, Great Yarmouth; and J. C. Swails, Esq., Cromwell House, Hammersmith, London. The honorary secretary has been requested to write to the following gentlemen, soliciting them to become honorary members—viz.,—Sir Saville Crossley, Bart., Somerlayton Hall; Henry Edmund Buxton, Esq., Fritton Hall; and Edward Pitt Yorrell, Esq., Gorleston. The secretary intimated that the accounts for the preceding three months were being audited by Messrs. Bonfellow and Archard, the auditors, and that the result would probably be read at the next general meeting. A lengthened discussion ensued as to the advisability of holding the meetings fortnightly instead of weekly during the winter months; but as the vast majority of the members were in favour of the present arrangements being adhered to, and as the president considered it better that the members should not get out of the habit of regularly attending, it was decided that the meetings should be continued weekly. Mr. George Archard announced that he had determined to present as a prize a handsome pocket aneroid barometer to be fished for at the next competition. There being now three prizes promised—viz., one by Alfred Nuthall, Esq. (Mayor of Kingston-on-Thames), one by Captain Styles (Colonial Staff), and Mr. Archard's, the society has determined to add a fourth to the value of £2 or £3; and it has been arranged that an angling tournament for pike and perch only will be fished, on water to be hereafter determined, on Thursday, Nov. 13. Several small catches have been recorded since my last report, but the summer angling season is rapidly drawing to a close. Pike and perch are, however, now coming on the feed, and favourable reports have recently been received from several of the fishing stations. Some days ago Dr. Mitchell, vice-president, and Mr. Nuthall, Kingston-on-Thames, succeeded in landing on Hickling Broad and the adjacent waters three fair jack and several good perch, two of the latter scaling just upon 2lb. each.—A. M.

## GLOBE ANGLING SOCIETY.

Only a few of our members weighed in on the 19th inst., as follows:—Mr. G. Brown, two chub, 2lb. 9oz., one roach, 9oz., and two brace of small jack, 8lb.; F. Lawrence, roach, 2lb. 8oz., one perch, 13oz.; W. Whacott, roach, 2lb., dace 10oz.; H. Lake, roach, 1lb., dace 7oz.; W. Brown, 4lb. 5oz. of handsome roach from the Stort. —J. J. Holmes, Sec.

## GOLDEN BARBEL.

On the 19th, Mr. Stanton weighed in barbel, roach, dace, and gudgeon. Mr. Green had roach from Thames. On the 21st, Mr. J. J. Jones had chub and dace from the Colne. Competition on the 26th will take place at Windsor from Boveney Lock to the Mansion. Start from Paddington at 8.30, and leave off fishing at 5.15.—Pixie.

## GOOD INTENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

Mr. W. H. Snook showed a good take of roach and dace, 26lb., on the 19th. Mr. H. Devon had some handsome roach from the Lea, several fish weighing over 1lb. There will be a select concert take place at our club-house on Monday next, the 27th inst., on behalf of the widow of the late Mr. Nelson. I hope all members will attend and support the widow. There will be some special talent for the occasion. The members will fish for 12 valuable prizes at Harlow on the 26th inst.—R. Murphy.

## GREAT YARMOUTH PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The meeting on Tuesday was not of much importance. The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, the secretary's report showed that the committee appointed had at once been to work, as he, the secretary, presented the sheet certified as correct to the meeting, which brought about the following resolution, carried unanimously:—"That, in consequence of the false statements now being circulated—viz., that this society has collapsed, the position of the society on July 1st, 1884, together with the receipts and expenditure from its foundation, be printed forthwith, and sent to the various subscribers and donors to the test case *re* Heigham Sound. The balance-sheet is now in printer's hands, and will be issued on Tuesday, the 28th inst.—J. Lark, sec.

## GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

The ordinary weekly meeting of the above society was held on Tuesday evening, at the Masons' Hall Tavern, Mason's-avenue, Basinghall-street—Mr. Kent in the chair. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed, and some other routine business disposed of. A discussion took place upon the recent experiment made by Mr. Oldham Chambers, of resuscitating fish by means of brandy, during which Mr. Bartlett mentioned that the experiment was anything but a new one, he having successfully tried it upon a carp some years ago. Two very nice volumes were presented to the library by Dr. Brunton and Dr. Lloyd, for which a hearty vote of thanks was ordered to be recorded to them. Mr. Crumplen and Mr. Young had each been out in search of sport since the last meeting, and had succeeded in getting in some very good fish. Mr. Parker exhibited some bones of various fishes, in which the chairman, Dr. Brunton, and Mr. Crumplen took part. The usual vote of thanks to the chairman terminated the proceedings.

## HAMMERSMITH UNITED ANGLING SOCIETY.

A special meeting was held on Thursday last for the purpose of distributing several prizes already won in the matches fished by members of this society. The number of matches fished up to this time is six—viz., two club and four private. We were favoured during the evening by several visitors from neighbouring societies, amongst whom were Mr. Evans, of the Westbourne Park, and Mr. Eydmann, of the Acton Piscatorials, which latter gentleman attended with his brother to arrange the details of the return match, which we fished with them on Thursday last, the 23rd, at Twickenham. This and the usual business having been disposed of, the musical and vocal talents of the company were called into requisition, and some excellent singing was the result. The prizes were then distributed—viz., two first and one second prize to Mr. Lewis, one first and one second prize to Mr. Smith, one first prize Mr. Hobden, one first Mr. Inman, one ditto Mr. Peachey, one second by Mr. Alders, and two sweepstakes by Mr. Bacchus. More capital songs followed, among which special mention should be made of the names of Mr. Evans, Mr. Reynolds, Messrs. Elms, Penny, Peachey, and Gatward, whose pathetic rendering of "The Children's Home" was much admired. Our old brother member, and I may say, the founder or our society, Mr. Tom Hoole, was with us, having come all the way from Wraysbury for the purpose of being present; and had Mr. Philip Geen, also one of our old members, condescended to have been present; our evening's enjoyment would have been complete. We are proud to number among our members two such illustrious names in the angling world as those of Mr. Tom Hoole and Mr. P. Geen; but we suppose now that the latter gentleman has attained to the aspiring height of Mount Ararat, he is thereon resting on his amalgamation ark, which rest, I am sure, we do not begrudge him after the troublous times the said ark has experienced. However, doubtless the soothing air of the chaste locality of the Star and Garter, and the beneficial advantages of the company of the Richmond Piscatorials, will soon have the desired effect of causing him to return to his old love, the H.U.A.S., where, after all, his best fishing days have been passed, and through whose expeditions his favourite hunting-grounds have been discovered. It occupies just about 20 minutes to descend from Mount Ararat to the H.U.A.S. Mr. Hobden, our representative at the late tournament, has now received his prizes—and very excellent ones they are, too, consisting of a splendid general rod by Christie, a Nottingham rod and patent winch and line by Slater, of Newark, and one of Richardson's telescopic landing-gaffs. May the day come when he will have to use it on a 20lb. jack, struck 72 yards off from the bank.

## HOXTON BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

There was a good attendance of members on the 19th inst., a few only having been out. Mr. Osborne had 30½lb. of splended roach and a few dace. Messrs. A. Dean, W. High, and A. Hattemore had roach and dace, and R. Ghurney jack; Johnny Benjamin did not put in an appearance. I should like to see a few more members attend as the winter season comes on.—R. Ghurney, sec.

## IZAAK WALTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

On the 19th inst., Mr. Hayward, 14½lb. of dace and roach; Messrs. B. Crook and C. Green had dace and roach on the same day; Mr. H. Auburn, chub. As the water has been so bright and low, several members tried a day on the "briny," and were very pleased with the change. Instead of the trays being covered with freshwater specimens, dabs, flounders, and whiting took their place. About ¾cwt. were displayed, causing a great deal of interest. Of the two special prizes fished for at Tottenham on Wednesday, the 22nd inst., only one was taken—that was by Mr. R. Perrin.—H. B.

## LINCOLN ANGLING SOCIETY.

Our members went out on the 19th inst. to various places to fish for two prizes, and, although a very fine show of fish was brought in, neither of the prizes were taken. Some of our members brought in a very fine specimen of roach, bream, and perch, but unfortunately they did not come up to weight. We are going out again on the 26th, and hope to meet with better results.—H. Bingle, sec.

## LIVERPOOL ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

In consequence of many of our members taking part in the competition on the 23rd inst., this week's meeting was held on Tuesday evening, the 21st inst. We again had a splendid muster, and a most cordial gathering at The Lion and the Lamb—fly and bottom fisher sitting down side by side most harmoniously. The hon. sec. announced that he had seen the agent of the proprietor of the two reservoirs, who assured him that this association should have the refusal of the fishing. In consequence of leaving the city, our president, J. Wilkinson, Esq., had resigned the office. This was received with regret, as no abler or more suitable gentleman could be found for the onerous duty. It was resolved unanimously that a vote of thanks be passed and recorded on the minutes to Mr. Wilkinson for his able, kind, and courteous—but firm—conduct in the presidential chair. Mr. Sergencson was afterwards, on the motion of Mr. Ellinger, seconded by Mr. Harrison, and strongly supported by Mr. Higson, elected to the high office of president for the remainder of the year. Mr. Ellinger having suggested that, during the winter especially, readings should be given and lectures delivered, and being ably supported by Mr. Sergencson and other members, it was agreed that members desirous of giving such readings, &c., should send in their names to me, together with the subject and the date of their reading or lecture. Mr. Burrows suggested that the Fishing Gazette should be filed for the use of members, and this was at once agreed to. Mr. Gass brought forward the question of an angler's library, and in his address to the meeting dwelt strongly on the advantage that the possession of such a library would be to every member. To show how thoroughly the matter was taken up and laid hold of, Mr. Ellinger said he would present the Association with that grand work "British Fishes," by the Rev. Mr. Houghton. Mr. J. Evans promised "Fly Fishing," by Bainbridge; and Mr. Sergencson—who has a rare and valuable library of books on angling—said that any member of the Association was freely welcome to the loan of any book in his library for the purpose of perusal; but, that not being desirous of breaking up his grand collection—and why should he?—he could not at present go further. Amid a perfect harvest of good wishes and kindly sentiments, the meeting was closed, and everyone wended his way homewards perfectly satisfied with the result. I entirely forgot to mention that, in reference to the anglers' library, Mr. Harrison most liberally came to the front with the promise that he would *make and present* to the Association a bookcase, with glass folding doors, for the books—more power to that same elbow, friend and brother Harrison—and it is not more than that gentleman's due to say that he has given to this Association many valuable productions of his own workmanship—notably, a case for pike, ditto for tench, and box for minnows for reservoir.

We had a rare gathering at our club-house, the Canton Hotel, 14, Victoria-road, on Thursday evening, the 16th inst. Never in Liverpool has there been brought together such an array of true and expert anglers as were present on this one house-warming. It was heart-stirring in the highest degree, and must have convinced everyone that "The Liverpool Angling Association" is a solid fact, whose foundations are in the rock, and against which the sneers and mendacious statements of anonymous letter-writers beat in vain. Members not present at this meeting will be glad to learn that we have a good prospect of renting the right of fishing in two reservoirs of about sixty acres in extent, and within half an hour's journey from the city. We do not intend to let this chance slip by if price will secure it, and it is hoped that the figure asked will not be prohibitive. These waters are well stocked with pike, bream, and perch, and if we succeed in obtaining them, of which members will be at once informed, Mr. Sergencson has most generously promised to present us with two boats to put on the water, for which I think we shall all cordially thank him. Our annual dinner is fixed for the last Thursday in November, the 27th, at the Canton.—R. Woolfall, hon. sec.

## NOTTINGHAM ALEXANDRIA ASSOCIATION.

The half-yearly dinner and presentation of prizes connected with this young but flourishing association took place on Monday evening, at the Alexandria Inn, Carrington-street, Nottingham, under the chairmanship of Mr. F. Thompson, the president. There was a large gathering of members, who were rather surprised on entering the dining saloon to find it illuminated by means of the electric light, which had also been extended to the vases adorning the centre table. The society includes some of the most practical anglers in Nottingham, and during the evening the chairman, in an appropriate speech, congratulated them on the marked success which had attended their efforts during the summer season. Mr. J. Ball, the indefatigable secretary, handed over the prizes in the following order :—Barbel, 1st, Mr. F. Ghent ; 2nd, Mr. J. Theaker. Roach, 1st, Mr. C. Taylor ; 2nd, Mr. J. Clayton ; 3rd, Mr. W. Teverner. Bream. 1st, Mr. C. Jackson ; 2nd, Mr. R. Whaley (the worthy host) ; 3rd, Mr. J. Stanley. Dace, 1st, Mr. P. Wilson ; 2nd, Mr. J. Bates. Chub, 1st, Mr. H. Coxon ; 2nd, Mr. J. Jackson. Perch, 1st, Mr. J. Ball ; 2nd, Mr. A. Brooks. Many members have joined the winter club, which opens under highly favourable auspices.—H. Coxon.

## NOTTINGHAM WELLINGTON SOCIETY.

The members of this, the most important and prosperous society in Nottingham and the district, celebrated their half-yearly dinner at the Wellington Hotel in that town, on the evening of the 17th inst. After an excellent repast had been served, Mr. F. Warsop, the vice-president, took the chair, and was supported by a numerous and influential body of the followers of the "gentle art," including the sheriff of the borough, Mr. F. F. Cleaver. The prizes, monetary and special, were awarded to the successful competitors, and the hon. secretary, Mr. G. Cass, reported that since the last gathering the association had made considerable progress. The usual grant had also been made towards the working expenses of the Trent Fishery Board, who hoped ere long to be able to appoint another water bailiff. We might add, in conclusion, that the first prize takers were Mr. E. West (barbel), Mr. W.Wild (chub), Mr. C. Taylor (roach), Mr. C. Jackson (bream), Mr. T. Sylvester (perch), and Mr. C. Goodall (dace). Numerous other prizes were awarded, and the "specials" were of a very costly and unique character. The winter term opens with 63 paying members.

## PHŒNIX ANGLING SOCIETY.

On the 18th, T. Grist and R. Stephens weighed in 17lb. of roach and two jack, 5lb. and 3lb. On the 12th, Slater was up to his old games again, weighing in seven bream, scaling 28lb. 4oz. Reed had a very nice show of roach, Frank Ashley, Bartrip, Elbourn, Milton, and Baillie contributing their mites towards the gross weight of the season. All members are requested to attend next Tuesday evening to decide where the three prizes shall be fished for.—W. Elbourn, sec.

## THE PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The annual supper of this society took place, in accordance with previous announcements, on Monday evening last, at Ashley's Hotel, Covent Garden, and was numerously attended. Considerable satisfaction was expressed at seeing the president of the society (Mr. F. J. Pearce) occupying his proper position in the chair. Messrs. Lemann and T. Huggett acted as vice-chairmen. Grace was said by the Rev. G. Sumner. Nearly 60 members sat down to the repast, which was excellently (but rather slowly) served by the management of the hotel. The after grace was said by the Rev. G. Sumner. The chairman then announced that smoking was strictly allowed. The chairman, rising, said it was the 49th year of the society's existence ; he was always glad to be amongst it. He hoped all had enjoyed their supper, and had the pleasure to propose a toast, which was "The Continued Success of the Piscatorial Society." This was right royally responded to, the members all standing. The musical part of the evening now commenced by Mr. King playing with great spirit an overture. Mr. Norman Harrison commenced the vocal entertainment by a song, "The Parent," which was very amusing, and was received with marks of satisfaction. Mr. King next sang an old favourite, and narrowly escaped an encore. Mr. Fennings rose to propose the health of "Our President," and trusted he would be spared to be with us for very many years. Every member joined in drinking this toast with the greatest enthusiasm. The president, in a few well-chosen words, expressed his thanks to all present, and then retired. Mr. Fennings then took the chair. Mr. Munday gave a very capital comic song, "Our Fishing Match," which caused the utmost merriment. Mr Adlington sang "The Powder Monkey," and was applauded. The hon. sec. announced that he had the pleasure to announce the nomination of a new member, Mr. John Holland, jun., proposed by Mr. Lander, seconded by Mr. Fennings. Mr. Arter rose and said he had the pleasure to propose two gentlemen as members of the society—viz., Mr. Aldridge and Mr. George Watson, the former gentleman seconded by Mr. Fennings, and the latter gentleman by Mr. Phillips. Loud cheering followed these nominations. Mr. Jesse, who was in splendid voice, sang "In Cellar Cool," and was deservedly applauded. There were two trays of fish exhibited on the table—a tray of chub by Mr. Huggett, and roach and chub by Mr. Fennings. The healths of these gentlemen were proposed as the successful anglers, and briefly responded to. Mr. Munday next sang another comic song called "Girls at the School," which was cleverly sung and applauded. Rev. G. Sumner gave an old Irish ballad, and was cheered. Mr. Green gave a sketch of actors, including the late Mr. Buckstone, Fechter, Compton, &c., and Mr. Irving, and was loudly applauded. Mr. King next sang "The Blue Alsatian Mountains," which he rendered with the most charming effect. He received an encore, but time did not permit of his responding. Mr. Jesse sang "The Bugler" in excellent taste. Mr. Procter next gave a splendid recitation from Dickens's "David Copperfield" in a thoroughly professional and realistic manner, and finished amidst rounds of cheers. Mr. Adlington rendered most excellently another song entitled "Sailing," and was well cheered. At this hour, 12.30, "God save the Queen" was sung, and the musical entertainment closed. A vote of thanks to Mr. King was unanimously accorded for his musical services. This gentleman replied, and a most successful evening was brought to a close.—T. H.

## RODNEY PISCATORIALS.

On the 19th Messrs. R. Smith and R. Chantry had a trip to Pangbourne ; they managed to get some perch. Messrs. Marsh, C. Grant, and C. A. Grant managed to get some roach, dace, and chub from Richmond and Shepperton. The chub were taken with a fly by the last-named gentleman, who thought they were dace ; but the illusion was soon dispelled when the black line round the bottom lip, the thick head, and the shape of the fins on the chub were pointed out to him. Mr. R. Smith won the first gross weight prize given for the month with about 15lb. of fish. Mr. C. A. Grant took the second with about 6lb. Our monthly competition will take place on the 26th at Datchet, all to start by the first train that leaves Waterloo on that morning ; commence fishing as soon as destination is reached, and fish till 4.45. —Pixie.

In consequence of the alteration in the time table of the South Western Railway trains leaving Datchet on the 26th, members of the above are informed that the competition at the above-named place on that date will be brought to a close at four o'clock, and not 4.45, as previously stated.—Pixie.

## SOUTH LONDON UNITED.

Some of the members of the above paid a visit to the United Brothers, at Deptford, on the 16th, and a very pleasant evening's amusement they had. Mr. Tyler presided, assisted by a friend. Mr. Gaston gave great satisfaction for the manner in which he accompanied the vocalists on the pianoforte. I managed to drop down and hear Mr. Walker's "Midshipmite," R. Smith's hunting song, Mr. George's "Dick Turpin," Mr. Taylor's account of "How Paddy Stole the Rope," Walter Bates's salvation song, "Come and Join Us," Mr. Bignall's "Sarah Jane," and a "Topical Song of the Times." Mr. Page recited "The Fisher Boy at Sea." Among the other contributors to the evening's amusement were Messrs. Grant, Evans, Davies, White, Wright, &c. The roll was called a few minutes before 11 o'clock so as to enable those who wished to catch the last car up to town to do so. The following societies were represented in good numbers :—The Second Surrey, Rodney, Anchor and Hope, Peckham Brothers, South-Eastern, The Angler's Pride, United Brothers, The Crown, Original Angler's Pride, and the Peckham Perseverance—10 societies out of 20. Mr. Tyler thanked all present for their company that evening, and stated it was the largest meeting that the United Brothers had had. He had no doubt that more societies would have been represented if the distance was not so far, as some members do not leave off work till late. He was happy to say that the United Brothers had been represented at every visit the South London United had made, whether it was at Peckham, Battersea, or Blackfriars. The next return visit will go to the Angler's Pride, held at Mr. Bate's, White Hart, Old Kent-road, the date of which will be announced by the secretary of that society. Having reached thus far, I beat a retreat and left the majority to carry on the amusement as long as they could, I preferring a car a little after 11 o'clock, to "shank's ponies" after 12.30, to Camberwell.—Pixie.

## SOUTHPORT ANGLING SOCIETY.

We held our third and final competition on Monday, October 20th, about a dozen of our members, who could get off for the outing and competition started out by the 7.55 a.m. train for regions beyond Warrington. Having arrived, and everything got in readiness, the captain, Mr. C. Dyson, gave the order "all in" for two hours ; at the conclusion it was found that Mr. C. Clegg had got the 1st prize, £1 ; Mr. J. Bullock 2nd, 15s. ; Mr. T. Kershaw 3rd, 10s. ; Mr. A. Cole 4th, 5s. ; with very creditable baskets. Considering this is our first year of existence, all enjoyed a very pleasant day, and are looking forward to next year to further fun and angling.—A. M., Sec.

## THE SOUTH-EASTERN ANGLING SOCIETY.

Some of our members were out on the 19th inst., among them being Mr. J. Smith, jun., who brought home some fair jack, 14lb. in all, and one barbel, 3lb. 9oz., from the neighbourhood of Staines ; Mr. Sharman, 1lb. 4oz. of roach, dace, and perch ; Mr. H. Holben, 12oz. of roach, both at Kingston. At our regular weekly meeting on Tuesday only a portion of the members attended of the number who promised so to do, at which I was somewhat surprised, seeing that it was the night for deciding our next outing. However, it was resolved that we fish at Ware on November 2nd. All fish to weigh but jack. Time of starting and finishing to be stated at our next meeting. Those members who intend going will please take note of this. I would urge upon all our members the necessity of attending more regularly, and in greater force than of late.—Thos. H. H. Weston, sec.

## UNITED BROTHERS, DEPTFORD.

Several of our members were out on the 19th, but did not show up, Mr. Payne just saving the club from a blank with 6lb. of bream. Will all members be kind enough to *attend* next Saturday ?—H. T.

## UNITED LONDON FISHERIES SOCIETY.

The members are hereby informed that the agreement for the Springwell Fishery, Harefield, has terminated, and we no longer have the right of using that water. The following fisheries can be used by the members of societies holding privilege tickets from the Anglers' Association and the Central Association, until further notice :—Pike and Anchor Fishery, Ponder's End (Great Eastern Railway) ; old river Wey, from Weybridge Lock to Pyford Lock (London and South-Western Railway) ; Uxbridge Canal, from Battle Bridge to Slough (Great Western Railway) ; Grand Junction Canal, from Batchworth Lock (No. 81) to Springwell Lock (No. 83) (North-Western Railway) ; Grand Junction Canal, from Cheddington-road Bridge (No. 126) to Leighton and Linsdale-road Bridge (No. 114) (North-Western Railway) the smaller Lea, from High-road, Waltham, to Enfield Lock (Great-Eastern Railway) —R. Ghurney, sec.

## WALWORTH PISCATORIALS.

On the 15th Mr. A. Brodie visited Tring. He managed to get about 12lb. of fish, which he placed in a large bait kettle. Coming home the kettle was placed under the seat in the train that reaches Euston at 7.50 in the evening. Having several baskets and parcels to look after, the bait kettle was not thought of, and it was not until he reached Walworth that he missed it. Any person having found that bait kettle is welcome to the contents, and expenses will be paid if it is returned in good condition to Mr. A Brodie, the Albion, 155, Commercial-road, Peckham. Mr. Boalch and a friend visited Richmond on the 16th, for a few hours, and managed to get some sport among the roach and dace. At the meeting held in the evening, Mr. Piolaine presented a very handsome box to the society for the purpose of collecting money for philanthropic purposes, to be distributed as the committee think fit.—Pixie.

## CLOSE OF THE TAY SALMON FISHING.

The rod-fishing on the Tay and tributaries is now closed for the season, the last week proving the most successful that has been experienced for several years. On the 10th the river rose several feet, and was very unfavourable for fishing all forenoon, but it cleared up sufficiently in the afternoon to enable the fish to see the fly, and a good many fish were killed on the different beats. A good many fish were also killed from the bank, Mr. P. D. Malloch, Perth, being most successful, getting ten fish, weighing respectively 25, 20, 19, 18, 17, 17, 14, 18, 9, and 8lb., being the best take of salmon caught from the bank for many years. No signs of disease have been observed either on the upper or on the lower waters. The following notes have reached us since last report :—

*Derculich.*—On Wednesday, the keeper caught a nice salmon of 15lb. ? and on Thursday, a newly-run fish of 22lb.

*Ballechin.*—On Wednesday, the keeper killed two fish of 18 and 10lb.

*Findynate.*—Mr. Walker's keeper killed one of 11lb. on Wednesday.

*Dalguise.*—Mr. Durrant-Steuart, while out for a short time on Thursday forenoon on the lower pool of the Dalguise water, killed a salmon of 10lb. ; and in the bridge pool of the same water Mr. David Hodge, Dundee, killed a fine clean-run salmon of 18lb. The rising of the river in the afternoon put a stop to sport.

*Murthly.*—On Friday, Mr. J. E. Millais killed five fish, and Mr. Grey also killed five fish on this water.

*Meikleour.*—On Wednesday, Mr. Evan M'Gregor killed five fish.

*Cargill.*—On Thursday, a good number of fish were killed by the servants at Drumour.

*Stobhall.*—On Thursday eight fish were killed on this beat.

*Taymount.*—Mr. C. A. Murray and two friends, on Tuesday, killed the extraordinary number of 28 salmon, weighing 470lb., the largest fish being 40lb. The fish on this day were rising in all directions on this water.

*Burnmouth.*—Major Curtis and Mrs Glyn had two fish on this water.

*Thistlebridge.*—On Tuesday, Sir W. Elliott and Mr. Kelsall had five fish.

The Earn.—The rod-fishing on the Earn does not close till the 31st inst., and excellent sport is expected, as the river is swarming with fish. Mr. T. Cappell was out on Thursday, and killed a fine fish of 18lb. On the same day, Mr. Stewart, of Lawers, had a salmon of 18lb. On the Drummond Castle water, Mr. Duncan Forbes had four fish, and Mr. Greenhill, two fish. On Saturday, Mr. Henry Curr, Pitkellony House, killed a fine salmon, weighing 24lb. On the same day Mr. M'Kenzie, Drummond Arms Hotel, Crieff, landed a salmon of 25lb.

## AN EVENING WITH THE BREAM.

Mark Twain, in one of his latest and perhaps most delightful books, has described with much force and humour the midnight perambulations of himself as a semi-somnambulist, when, to the evident discomfort of himself and his friend Harris, he went "pawing around" under the disquieting influence of a strange bed in a strange land.

Our peregrinations have been of a different and perhaps less exciting character, but nevertheless worthy of note, as showing the enthusiasm of lovers of Nature and lovers of Art, when the latter is more particularly the gentle Art so well portrayed under its ever-varying characteristics in the Fishing Gazette.

The great spirit of Johnson has immortalised the "fool and the worm"—the one watching and the other waiting to verify the truth of the old proverb "that one fool makes many." What ponderous anathemas, pure and undefiled, would have relieved the mighty soul of Boswell's idol had he fallen like great Dagon upon us in the deep gloaming we cannot surmise; but doubtless our language would have been enriched by some gem from his choice and copious vocabulary, now unfortunately lost for ever.

Indulgent critic, this is by way of introduction; but there is a continuity and illustrative force in these prefatory gropings which the sequel will, we hope, make more apparent. What say you? We have lingered late with Nature; the night hath been a more familiar face than that of man, and in her dim and starry loveliness we inquired anxiously and frequently of the domestic arrangements of the inhabitants of another element, and were desirous of supplying those little creature comforts which we thought lacking in their snug and placid retreat.

Gentle critic, you have already expressed a devout hope that the departed soul of Byron may not haunt our lonely spot for this wilful parody of his descriptive poesy. We thank you, and ask your company to an imaginative sanctum sanctorum by the side of a clear and rippling river. A venerable willow, gnarled and gaunt, lies well-nigh prone upon the surface of the stream. Time has not only bent its giant form, but hollowed its aged trunk. Grey rats sport in its mouldy hollows, and in the rushes on either side the "quack-quack" of the moorhen disturbs the silence as the shadows deepen and the twilight subsides into darkness. A younger and statelier tree bounds the upper extremity of our trysting-place, and between the two is the sheltered deep on which our hopes have been long fixed. Mr. Senior, in his delightful sketches, has given us a graphic account of his search after bream, accompanied as he was by a connoisseur of no mean pretensions. Our experience was a facsimile of his in one important particular. The day of our modest adventures was indeed a memorable one in this memorable summer. A soft, rippling breeze, a warm sunshine, a calm and delightful evening had been ours. We had watched a playful school of joyous bream rise to the surface and pursue their way up stream in giddy frolic. They returned with joy unrestrained to their deep hiding-places in a way to remind us of our pleasant author and his pleasant book. We had tried bait after bait to no purpose, and the glowing pipe of peace was well-nigh supplanted by the gloom of disappointment. Floats were no longer visible, though surmounted by the blackest of feathery plumes; but we determined to hope on and to fish on, trusting to the whirr of our reels to remind us of our duty. The choicest of golden-ringed worms and the daintiest blue-bottle larvæ adorned our hooks, which lay far out of nought but finny ken in the still three-fathom water at our feet. We sat nursing our knees and our wrath, when suddenly a reel began to move with rapidly-increasing momentum. A strike—a struggle—and the landing-net made visible our first capture.

As you have recently pointed out, anglers are wont at times to equivocate, prevaricate, and occasionally to exaggerate—glorifying themselves and depreciating their brother rivals. Fellow float follower, you will believe in my detestation of such trivialities when I tell you that this well-favoured and broad-shouldered denizen of a deep river weighed six and a half pounds! "Oh, fly not yet, 'tis just the hour." We, I need hardly say, used no fly; it was just the hour for supper on worms and gentle wriggling waifs. Another run, and another fish of six pounds fit for a matrimonial alliance with his predecessor was becoming remuneration for struggling humanity. Fate was generous: we lifted rod number three, and in doing so hooked a third fish, which made our total weight eighteen pounds. The day was far spent; our friends were calculating how far down stream our bodies would be found. We "pawed around" once more with more or less success, and eventually reached a genial hearth happier as men and wiser as anglers.

Fredk. Miller.

The Devil!—We heard of the following amusing case of absent-mindedness on the part of a young lady evidently in love, who was giving orders for lunch to the cook. Young Lady: "Will you cook the devil's legs, please?" Cook: "Good gracious, miss!" Young Lady (confused): "I mean devil the cook's legs." Cook collapses.

Restocking of Elstree Reservoir.—Worthy old James Hill, the lessor of the above water, having obtained a grand supply of English carp and tench, invited a party to witness them turned in the reservoir. On the company examining the fine tubs, each tub containing 100, they were found to average from 8oz. upward to 2½lb. each, and being placed in a punt by the boatman, G. Cheshir, was rowed out to the centre and turned in. The company afterwards adjourned to the Fishery Inn to drink success to J. Hill and the fish. The company included F. Watson, H. Spurgeon, R. Hicks, G. Underwood, J. Riley, S. Thompson, R. Tavener, Inspector Wilson, C. Cooper, and some dozen other anglers and villagers.

**FISHING RODS—AND TACKLE.**

BULMER'S "FISHING GAZETTE" GOSSAMER GUT LINES,

Three yards, 8d. each.

"We want nothing better than his finest, on which we have this season killed a 2lb. trout, a 2lb. tench, a 2lb. eel, and a 4lb. pike, and that, too, on a stiff rod. In fact, with fair play, it will take any average trout that will take a fly out of the May-fly season."—Fishing Gazette Notice, September 18, 1883.

See also notices in the Fishing Gazette for Dec. 17, 1881; June 28th, 1882; July 1, 1882; and March 8th, 1884.

LINES.—Gut, 3 yards, 3d., 4d., and 6d. Fishing Gazette Gossamer Gut, Tapered, 8d. each; Best 8-plait Silk Line, 25 yards, 1s., 1s. 3d. and 1s. 6d.; prepared ditto, 20 yards, 1s.; stout, 1d. a yard; Good Gut, 12in., 1s. a hank, about 100 strips, 14in., 1s. 6d.; Gossamer Gut, 12in., 3s. 6d.; 14in., 4s. 6d.

HOOKS.—Crystal, and all other Hooks on Best Gut or Hair, 6d. doz.; on Gossamer Gut to Match Lines, 8d. per doz. Eel hooks, 6d. 100. Kendal, 1s. 100. Double Jack Hooks to Gimp, 1½d. each, 1s. 3d. dozen; Treble ditto, 2d. each. Pennel Snaps, 2½d.; Jardine, 3½d. each; Gut or Gimp Spinning Flights, 6d. each; Spoon Baits (Jack's size), 9d. each; Gut and Gimp Traces, 6d. each, Fishing Gazette Gut and Gimp Traces, used with or without a lead, 4 swivels, 10d.; ditto Twisted Gut, stout or fine, 1s. each; 3in. Jack Float, 6d.

WINCHES. — Nottingham, from 6d.; Brass, from 8d.

HEATON'S PATENT REELS, "Strike from the Winch," and Heaton's Patent Screw-joint Ferrule, capped up to ⅝in., 1s. 6d.

Rods made to order or fitted with screw-joint ferrules.

Price List free on application.

Postage extra on all orders, and all must be accompanied by a remittance.

All goods marked in plain figures.

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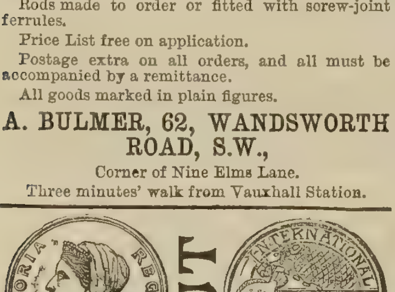

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Only Medal awarded for Gut and Gut Casts.

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(THE "TRENT OTTER")
No. 4, NORTHERN BUILDINGS, LOVERS' LANE, NEWARK-ON-TRENT, NOTTS,

By his success and experience as a Practical angler can confidently recommend all goods sent out. Superior Pike Rods, 11 or 12 feet, 5s. 6d. each; with partition bags, safety rings, superior finish, complete and warranted, 6s. 6d., 7s. 6d., and 8s. 6d. each. Best value in the market. Roach, Bream or Barbel Rods, 11 or 12 feet, same price,

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Superior Star Back Reels, from 2s. 6d. to 5s. 6d. each.

Strong Waterproof Pike Lines, 9d. per score yds. Strong Nottingham Pike Lines for spinning, 40yds., 1s. 3d.; 60yds., 2s.; 80yds., 2s. 6d.

Superior Plaited Silk Do., 1s, 2d. per score yds. Roach and Chub Silk Twist, fine or stout, 40yds., 8d. and 9d.; 80yds., 1s. 2d. and 1s. 6d.

Complete Outfits for Pike and Bottom Fishing, 12s. and 15s. 6d. each. "The Boy's Own Outfit," comprising a good Rod, a Reel, Silk Line, Floats and Tackle, 5s.

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20 Page Catalogue post free to any address.

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For HEADACHE, SEA, or BILIOUS SICKNESS, CONSTIPATION, INDIGESTION, LASSITUDE, LOW SPIRITS, HEARTBURN, AND FEVERISH COLDS. Prevents and Quickly Relieves or Cures the worst form of TYPHUS, SCARLET, JUNGLE, and other FEVERS, PRICKLY HEAT, SMALL POX, MEASLES, ERUPTIVE or SKIN COMPLAINTS, and various other altered CONDITIONS of the BLOOD.

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**LIVE GOLD AND SILVER FISH.**

Agents wanted to Sell to Fishmongers, Florists, Naturalists, China and Glass Dealers. Easy sale, no opposition, good profit, never pushed before. Send 7s. for seven fine sample cold-water fish, including new fish kettle, and wholesale prices. References nearly every aquariam and dealer in the Kingdom.—GENERAL IMPORT CO., 3, Featherstone-buildings, W.C. Golden Tench, Golden Orfe, &c. Interesting, amusing, and attractive to every shop window.

ESTABLISHED 1851.

**BIRKBECK BANK.**—Southampton Buildings, Chancery-lane.

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The Bank also receives money on Deposit at Three per cent. Interest, repayable on demand.

The Bank undertakes for its Customers, free of charge, the custody of Deeds, Writings, and other Securities and Valuables; the collection of Bills of Exchange, Dividends, and Coupons; and the purchase and sale of Stocks, Shares, and Annuities.

A Pamphlet, with full particulars, on application.

FRANCIS RAVENSCROFT, Manager.

*March 31st, 1884.*

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From W. C. Wilkinson, F.R.C.S., Spalding:—"I consider it invaluable in phthisis and spasmodic cough; the benefit is very marked indeed."

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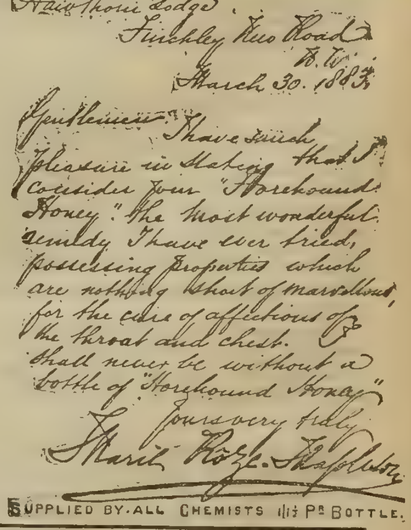
*IMPORTANT.*

A Lady wishes to dispose of (privately) her complete SUITE of Old English Pattern ELECTRO-PLATED SPOONS and FORKS. All Stamped, A 1 quality, never used. The Set comprises one dozen each Table and Dessert Forks, Dessert and Tea Spoons, half-dozen Table Spoons, four Salt, six Egg, and two Mustard Spoons, with gilt bowls—66 pieces in all. To an immediate purchaser, the low sum of 50s. accepted for entire suite. Great bargain.—Mrs. MACGREGOR, care of Drallim and Oliver, 18, Ironmonger-lane, Cheapside, E.C., where the plate may be seen, or can be sent on approval.

**HOGE'S HOREHOUND HONEY**



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March 30. 1883.

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Yours very truly
Marie Roze-Mapleson

SUPPLIED BY ALL CHEMISTS 1/1½ PR BOTTLE.

Anglers' Benevolent Society.—Since my last report, I beg to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of 15s. donation from the Watford Piscators.—R. Ghurney, Sec.

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Communications relating to the Literary Department, Fishing Tackle for Notice, Books for Review, &c. must be addressed to the Editor of the FISHING GAZETTE, No. 12, Fetter Lane, London, E.C.

Contributions are solicited, but the Editor will not undertake to return rejected MSS. unless accompanied with a stamped addressed envelope.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only, and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith. Unless this rule be adhered to, no notice will be taken of such communications.

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N.B.—All Remittances must be sent, and all Cheques and Money Orders must be made payable to Messrs. SAMPSON LOW, MARSTON, and CO., the Proprietors, 188, Fleet Street, E.C.

# The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1884.

## MR. KELSON'S ARTICLES IN AMERICA.

THE *American Field and Sportsman's Journal* has copied, week after week, every article Mr. Kelson has written in the FISHING GAZETTE, and every illustration we have given in connection with those articles, including all Major Traherne's patterns of salmon flies. Imitation is the sincerest flattery, but we should not object to receive a pecuniary acknowledgment from our American contemporary.

## ON THE DESCRIPTION OF SALMON FLIES.

By MR. GEO. M. KELSON.

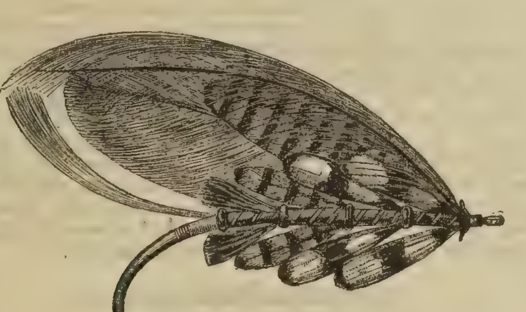
### MAJOR TRAHERNE'S PATTERNS *(Continued).*

### NO. 16.—"NELLY BLY."

IN completing my remarks upon the throats of flies, it may be observed that I have alluded principally to feathers which are seldom if ever provided here by professional dressers. In addition to preceding observations, let me mention that the tippet of the Golden Pheasant has a very smart effect. It is not a feather that winds well, and is better fixed in fibres as suggested for those from the Amherst.

I cannot call to mind any standard flies with either of these situated here, but it seems to me that they help to provide a "good change," whether used in their natural state or dyed. Crimson magenta gives the golden ones a very taking and gay appearance, but the Amhersts come better in blue.

Dyed Teal is another uncommon accompaniment, and looks exquisitely delicate in golden yellow. I allude to the hackles, wound in the usual manner, not to the more favoured side-feathers tied in fibres, which, by the way, are the making of almost all mixed wings, and it is well we should remember that both dye any shade splendidly.



Strands, again, of the Summer Duck answer admirably either dyed or plain.

Then Houdan hen's breast feathers I highly recommend ; they are very rare, and therefore difficult to procure at any price. I mean the feathers that have a dark black ring round the edge, with creamy-white centres ; and, if intended for dyeing blue, the whitest again should be chosen. The worst of them is that they are laurel-leaf-shaped, and fly-makers generally discard all such kind. Of course hackles for ordinary purposes should taper gradually, and not only be fine in texture, but transparent in appearance, running so throughout, and up to the shaft. Certainly those with fluffy lists are next to useless. It is astonishing how the hackles on poultry, whether of the male or female, are affected by diet. I remember to have seen some interesting experiments by the late Mr. B. P. Brent, and still have a few of the samples in my collection.

The darker feathers of Houdans are of no value ; the colour underneath is shocking, and this ought always to be a principal point in judging of any hackles that are to be employed in their natural state. Even if we take into consideration the horrid shape of this feather, it is invaluable to us on account of the superb black tips ; but then, shape is not of so much importance either to throat or butt hackles, and when used in sequence for butts, working the smallest of the set first, with the colours blending well, the feathers, although hard to find, are very hard to beat.

Mohair in various hues may be, and often is, added ; still, it is not so effective as Goat's beard, which takes the dye as nicely as Pig's wool, and so provides a brilliant reinforcement to any of the foregoing specialities.

You know, one of the most pleasant and engaging themes of this all-important pastime (should I not say business ? ) of fishermen—this study, the charm of which "time dare not dull"—is the power of invention. Now we should soon be contented, and therefore soon tire, if we merely had to imitate and only reproduce ; for truly, then, all art would be exiled.

But is it not curious how many of us there are whose rapturous conception of ideal beauty is immeasurably superior to the power of execution ? And perhaps, so far, we may be said to be like the every-day artist, for surely the visible form we give our ideas is never "half so happy" as that seen through the golden haze of our mystical imaginations. Indeed, were it ordained otherwise we should require a gigantic collection of feathers to carry out anything approaching a truthful detail.

Many a time have I asked friends how they contrived to get this, that, or the other tint in hackles, receiving the invariable reply—"by accident" ; what is the moral ?

Always carefully measure and retain a written record of the quantities mixed in the dye bath, note the time allowed for the feather to be immersed therein, and keep samples.

The dye ingredients are to be purchased of Messrs. Woolley and Co., wholesale chemists, 69, Market-street, Manchester, and their Bismarck Brown is simply magnificent. I hear a new and improved golden yellow will fetch white hackles identically the same in tone as Golden Pheasant toppings.

Where fish put up with it, we can scarcely use too much hackle—of this I speak confidently ; we are more likely to under than overdo it for the majority of rivers, provided also that the shades be not too gaudy and conspicuous. We must, however, remember that ever so little too much will cause the fly to skirt the water, and that *must* be avoided. Neither, as a rule, can we select them too long in fibre—say, up to the barb of the hook. The black-pointed plumes are my especial favourites, and I believe them to be the best. With such feathers as Jay's, of course, a little goes a long way ; then, again, undyed Gallina should not be laid on extravagantly.

In "fastening-off" all throat hackles—under the hook, so that they may not molest the wing—be sure to press back their coils there before the final touch with the tying silk ; and before using your thumb and middle finger nails for this purpose, unwind two or three turns of the silk—I might say all except the last, if you have had sufficient practice to make sure of its not slackening, and in replacing it you also bind for the first time the gut (which has been exposed here till now) *as firmly and as closely as possible* in single layer for

### THE WINGS.

And that is of much consequence, for without an even and unwrinkled surface it is impossible to set up the wing on either side properly.

Now it is universally upheld that the wings are the most important and pleasurable part of our work, and may I say—to those who do not understand it—the most difficult. With regard to that, I think the development of practical perceptions would be hindered by any determined adherence to old-fashioned and immemorial usage, exploded traditions, and obsolete ideas. Therefore, it will be my pleasurable endeavour to explain to the best of my ability the immense advantage of "building up" the right material on this end of the hook in the right way, for I am also one of the "universal believers." Take two anglers of equal ability, persistence, and a match physically ; place them on a fair footing to fish a stretch of water for a fortnight with flies the same in size and colour, those of the one dressed correctly, while the others are made coarsely with lopsided bodies, and the wings having irregular strips of feather spurting out in all manner of ways. What would be the result ?

Well, now, surely you know. Could there be a single doubt about it ? Is an answer wanted ? Yes ? Then I can only say that you might very easily ascertain at any time by interrogating any such experienced fisherman as he who invented and dressed the original "Nelly"—the subject of our present illustration.

Of Miss Bly's predecessor I believe I expressed a very high opinion, and although she may be so beautiful, the "Lapwing" could scarcely be surpassed.

Where are frequenters of the Shannon, the Spey, Tweed, Tay—let me add *etcetera* to save time—who could not find a few fair words in favour of this comely and gorgeous specimen of artificial entomology.

A great deal has been broached from time to time of the cost of this beautiful collection ; really, if we were to review these flies, what could we find to object to on that score, particularly if we omitted one of the best of all—the Chatterer ?

Nelly, made to sail along evenly with her Crow and her Jungle and the rest of the work in her perfect body, would require a deal of care ; indeed, to fix these feathers to play regularly and in a line in the water would need much experience I maintain the effect would be lost, the attraction nearly gone, if they were to tumble together in one confused mass.

My experience teaches me that salmon prefer *decided* patterns, whether they be sombre or showy.

Green legs, pink wings, and purple toppings, or any other fantastic make-up, may just bring us into conflict now and again when all ordinary means fail ; but, if my mind is made up upon any one point more than another, I candidly and fearlessly submit my implicit confidence in regard to make, colour, size, and mode of presenting one's flies—oh, yes—but mine is only an opinion, after all ; nevertheless, in the whole course of my travels, I have always observed (I wonder if I may ask you to read slowly) that those who catch most fish are the most careful upon each and every of these considerations.

We are all aware there are plenty of salmon fishermen who believe otherwise, but are they the successful ones—not occasionally, but invariably ?

This fly may be described as follows :—

Tag : Silver twist and green silk (the same shade as the green feather of the Macaw).

Tail : Topping.

Butt : Black herl.

Body : In four equal divisions of floss silk : No. 1, the same colour as the two feathers of the red Crow, which are above and below, and butted with black herl, as also is each of the rest. No. 2, the silk is the same blue as the four Jays. The best idea I can offer of No. 3 is that the silk is the same in tone as that of a green Parrot, and a few shades darker than the tag ; and No. 4 of magenta silk, each having four Jungle Cock, as shown.

Ribbed : Flat silver tinsel.

Wings : Two red orange Macaw feathers, with one Jay feather on either side, as illustrated, which are from the overgrowth, having blue on both sides of the shaft ; two golden toppings above.

Horns : Blue Macaw.

Head : Black herl.

GEORGE JAMES EATON, of Starkholmes, Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required, from gentlemen who can fish, to prove whether they may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices : Point Flies 2s. 6d. per Dozen ; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—(ADVT.)

## LEDGERING FOR BARBEL.

By R. B. Marston.

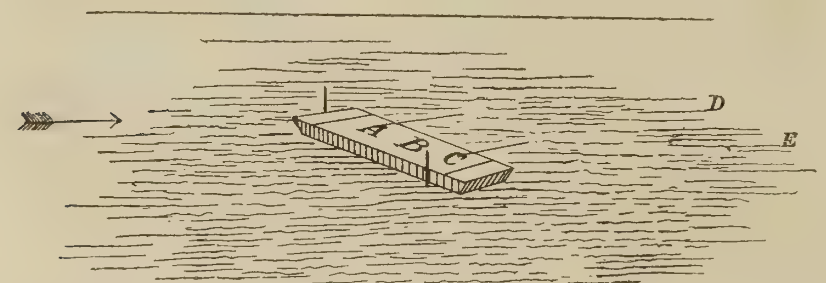
Mr. Alfred Mackrill, who fishes a great deal at Walton-on-Thames, is one of those anglers who thoroughly deserve success, and it is very rarely that he returns home after a day with his fisherman—old George Hone—without a good show of fish of some kind. I needed no second invitation when he asked me if I would join him in a day's barbel fishing on the Thames. We arranged that I should stay at his house at Kingston the previous night, and drive over to Walton early in the morning, and fish a swim or two which old George had got well baited for us. We spent a pleasant evening in chat about angling generally, during which I got Mr. Mackrill to promise to write for the Gazette an article on how to obtain, preserve, and prepare worms for ground-baiting and for the hook, a subject in which he is thoroughly up ; indeed, I know no one who takes so much care and trouble in this matter as Mr. M. Next morning we went over his wormery. "That barrel contains some thousands of lobs, this one red worms, here you have brandlings, this"—pointing to a hot-bed about 12ft. square and 2ft. deep—"I had made to breed worms in. By next spring I shall have millions in it. It is made of mixed loam and rich garden soil, and on the top is put refuse from the kitchen." Mr. M. is certainly great on worms, and believes that when properly prepared and properly fished there is no bait like them for the Thames, and certainly I agree with him.

It was a fine bright morning, with a soft, south-west wind, as we started on our pleasant drive of eight miles to Walton. We found "Old George" ready for us. "Good morning, George ; thought we wer'nt coming, didn't you?" "You be a bit late, sir, but I hadn't no fears about your not coming." George knows that it must be something very extraordinary which would prevent his "guvnor," as he calls Mr. Mackrill, from carrying out an arranged day's fishing. The other day some anglers were out with old George, and wanted to fish a certain backwater for perch. "'Tain't a bit o' use your goin' there. My guv'nor fished it all down yesterday and never had a touch, and if he can't get 'em nobody else can."

"Oh, then, your governor can fish, can he?"

'Fish! I'm d—d if he can't. Fish as well as I can, and I larned him."

George proposes that we give the bream a turn in the deeps just to see if they are on, and in ten minutes our poles are fixed, one a little lower than the other, so that the punt can lie in the best position for ledgering—*i.e.*, at an acute angle with the stream. For the benefit of those who do not know the plan I give a diagram of it.



The arrow shows the direction of the stream. If two anglers are fishing, one sits at A, the other at C, and the fisherman in the middle at B, and throws in the ground-bait so that it will be carried down in the direction of D and E. A.'s ledger rests at D, and C.'s at E.

Mr. Mackrill commenced with a lob as bait, and I tried a couple of little reds scoured to perfection. I must just say a word or two about the rods and tackle we used. The rods were made by a man who sells them to the fishermen, and Mr. Mackrill gave Hone 10s. 6d. apiece for them. They are all greenheart, in three joints, length about 10ft.—very light, fairly stiff, and powerful enough for any Thames fish. It was on this rod in Walton Deep that Mr. M. killed his great carp—12½lb.—after a tremendous fight of fifty minutes, besides a multitude of other fishes, including recently 110lb. weight of bream, some of 5½, 6, and 6½lb., and a Thames trout of 6lb. on the last day of this season. Before I had used it at all I asked Mr. M. to get one of these rods for me, and I can recommend any Thames angler who wants a perfect punt rod to invest 10s. 6d. in one of these. G. Hone, sen., fisherman, Walton, can get them to order—that is, if the maker is not dead, for old George told me he had not seen him very lately. He is a London man, lives near King's-cross, and if any of my readers can give me his address I shall be obliged.

We used Nottingham winches and very fine silk running line. The ledgers were very fine stained gut, about as fine as you can get it undrawn, and the hook length stained drawn gut. Mr. Mackrill wisely has his hooks bound to the gut almost to the bend. A perforated round bullet put on the gut above a shot pinched on about a yard from the hook completes the tackle.* I have, when barbel fishing previously, found the sliced hook most useful, as it keeps the worm well up on the shank, and the fish cannot strip it off so easily as with the smooth shank.

But to return to our fishing. The bream were not on. I got one touch and then a bream of about 1lb., and then we decided to go down to what I have christened the "Steak Pudding Swim," which had been well baited. On our way down, I was delighted to see countless numbers of small fry on the shallows, tiny perch, barbel, roach, dace, bream, &c.—a splendid prospect for future sport. We saw one or two birds floating down dead. Old George explained that they were young martens, too weak on the wing to make the long journey south with their brethren, and the cold weather of the previous fortnight having killed the flies and gnats, they had died of starvation—he had seen hundreds of them. I think White, in his "History of Selbourne," somewhere mentions as a belief of the country people that swifts hibernate in this country in holes in banks, but it would seem they cannot stand even a few days of frosty weather.

Settled down in our swim, which is nearly in mid-stream in about twelve feet of water, we cast out our ledgers, draw gently till the line is taut, and then wait for the electric shock on a small scale which tells that the invitation has been accepted, or that a barbel has rolled over the line. Anyone who has watched the habits of barbel, and seen how they sometimes wallow about on the bottom, will easily understand that every lug he gets at the ledger does not mean a bite ; often, when the fish are not feeding at all, they will roll about the ledger and bait, and in this way not infrequently get foul-hooked. And how a barbel does fight when he is foul-hooked ! Mr. Mackrill had one of seven pounds recently hooked in the left side, which went up stream for nearly half a mile, leading him to fancy he had got his "picture barbel" at last. There are limits to pressure when you use drawn gut, and there was nothing to be done but follow what pulled like a twelve-pounder at least.

"Have a pipe of my tobacco, George," I say to the old 'un, who is mixing up boiled rice, gentles, redworms, and clay into a Christmas pudding-like mess. "When I have given 'em this dose I don't mind if I do," says George. I put down the rod to get the tobacco, and, of course, there is immediately a twitch at the top, and equally, of course, I am too late. On winding in we find the bait, two reds, cleaned off. Mr. Mackrill is quietly waiting, regarding his rod as if it were a gun-barrel with his finger on the line for a trigger. My bait has hardly touched bottom before I have another lug, lug, and being prepared I force the point of the rod slantingly upwards—it is not a strike, but exactly the kind of movement advocated by Major Traherne for putting the hook into salmon. Old George and my friend give me the best advice possible under the circumstances—viz., to keep my rod up ; and, although I don't, I feel inclined to say, as Mr. Francis said once to somebody who saw him playing a fish, and gave him like advice, "Teach your respective grandmothers to suck eggs." As he drops into the well, a plucky barbel of between 3lb. and 4lb., George remarks that "he is as fat as a pig." "We shall get them now," says Mr. M., and we both fish as carefully as possible for twenty minutes without a touch. I tell George I will try a gentle for a change, and he puts on nine ; the bunch can hardly have settled down before I get another pull, and another barbel rather smaller is soon in the well. M. does not get a touch, nor do I ; in fact, the fish seem dead off. But if the fish don't feel like biting, we do, and begin to turn anxious backward glances in the direction of Walton for our boy who is to bring lunch: At last he turns the bend on the towing-path, coming along leisurely as Shakespeare's schoolboy, "creeping like snail to school." Ten minutes later, and we are seated behind a hedge, thick with aromatic fennel, as George points out, and with a perfect sea of wallflower plants, some still in bloom, in front of us. "Do you like steak-and-kidney pudding, George?" says M. George answers not, but his look speaks volumes. My friend, who fishes at least one day every week during the season, has, I find, reduced other matters besides angling to a science, and proved by that best of all proof—the pudding itself—that it is possible to have a really *hot* meal two miles away from any fire ! While we are discussing lunch, Mr. M. amused me with some anecdotes about old George and that important institution. On one occasion the worthy veteran was out with a party, who came well provided with a substantial lunch. They had had a good morning's sport, and at midday disembarked for the meal. George kept respectfully in the background, doubtless wondering when his share of the fast-disappearing pies and pasties would be forthcoming. Presently, having finished, one of them suggested to George that he had better have his dinner. G. intimated that he was quite ready, and, to his astonishment, was told he had better make haste and get it, as they wanted to resume their fishing ; so G. quietly got into his punt and leisurely punted up home—a mile or more. The gentlemen waited and waited, but no George appeared. About three hours later they saw him slowly punting back again. "Hi ! fisherman, what a time you have been ; we are losing all the afternoon !" George explained that when he got home there was no dinner ready—his wife did not expect him ; the fire was out, and she had to go up the village for some meat. "And what's more," says G., when he tells the story, "they didn't catch narry another fish !" Whether this was their fault or George's I leave the reader to imagine.

The old fisherman is not treated in this style when he is out with the "guv'ner." When we got back to our swim, our luck for a time was much the same. I got another brace of barbel, and Mr. M. hardly a touch ; then he made up, for at dusk, in about half-an-hour, he got six good barbel, while I could not feel even a "roll." It was the same next day ; he began with a smash—his gut being bad—then I caught the same fish with the hook in his mouth ; then I got three or four more fish, and he caught me up again in the afternoon. The fish were never well "on," but when we turned out our punt-well in the evening, we had a pretty show of 20 barbel, going about 60lb., with an odd perch, bream, and chub or two. In returning we had a narrow escape of a capsize. It grew dark very rapidly soon after five, and, as we punted along the edge, we suddenly heard a bargee, leading a horse on the towpath, sing out, and, the next instant, I saw the rope pass within an inch or two of the old boy's head as he stood up punting along ; if the rope had been slack in the least—as it often is—he must have gone over, for it was impossible to see it in the dark.

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* I wonder if any anglers now ever use the "clay ledger" described by John Baddeley in "The London Angler's Book" (1834). He says :—"I prefer, when ledger fishing, a piece of clay ground-bait, worked on a hollow piece of bone or ivory, placed in lieu of lead ; on the piece of bone there should be fixed some pins sticking out all round ; this prevents the clay from being washed off, and I have been more successful this way than any other. This is called the clay ledger."

## SOME CAPITAL GRAYLING FLIES.

Mr. W. J. Cummins, fishing tackle maker, Bishop's Auckland, Durham, sends us a few samples of grayling flies, and very nice patterns and well-made flies they are, on No. 1 sneck bends of a capital thickness of wire—neither too thick nor too fine ; the gut is fine drawn, and quite satisfies us. The flies are orange and mulberry bumbles, the bumble palmer, silver twist, Walbran's red tag, little chap, grayling autumn dun, the Francis and hare's ear dun. The bumbles are not dressed quite after the Derbyshire patterns, but they are very good. The hare's ear dun is, in our opinion, one of the most deadly flies for trout or grayling. This is an excellent pattern.

## SUPERB SALMON GUT—ANOTHER RED TAG.

Looking in the other day at Messrs. Chas. Farlow and Co.'s, 191, Strand, to see how a greenheart spinning-rod they are making for us was getting on, they showed us some of the very finest salmon gut we have ever seen—in fact, we may say the finest. Messrs. F. and Co. say they have never seen anything like it before. They have only been able to get two thousand hanks, and wish they had twenty thousand. Salmon anglers who do not mind paying a good price for an exceptional sample of gut should examine this gut.

### The Red Crow Tag.

This fly is made, Messrs. Farlow and Co. informed us, from the pattern of one of their customers, who recently took twenty-one brace of grayling with it in one day. It is dressed with a red hackle at shoulder ; body, rather long, of green peacock, with three turns of gold twist over it ; tag, the brilliant little orange and red-tipped feather from the Indian crow. Being a natural feather, the colour is permanent, and the feather works in a lively way in the water. It makes the fly rather more expensive.

## DINNER OF YORKSHIRE ANGLERS IN LEEDS.

On Tuesday evening about seventy gentlemen interested in fishing, and representing the Yorkshire Angling Clubs, sat down to dinner at the Queen's Hotel, Leeds.

Mr. F. E. Pritt, who had been called to the chair, proposed the usual loyal toasts. In proposing the healths of the Yorkshire anglers, the Chairman said that the art of angling was not learnt in a day. Angling was somewhat like poetry, said Izaac Walton; a man must be born an angler. In practical detail man had made but little progress since the days of the ancient Romans. But if man had not made much progress, the fish had undoubtedly acquired a greater knowledge of man, and many a fisherman would say "that fish are not such fools as they used to be." The reasons for this were twofold. In the first place, the railways had brought towns to the riversides, so that the trout had become familiar with the man with the pole. Besides this the moden system of drainage carried the water very quickly off the surface, so that a fresh which formerly lasted a week now only extended over a couple of days. Thirty years ago, when the water percolated over the land, it gathered together microscopic nutriment, which conduced to improve the quality and size of the fish. But the fisherman of the present day had to be content with things as they now were. It was not the mere fact of catching fish which constituted the pleasure of fishing. In every angler was born a love of Nature, more or less predominant; and angling, more than any other outdoor sport, offered the means of gratifying this pure pleasure. Yorkshire was pre-eminently the county for anglers. They might go to the Wye or the Derwent, the Tweed, or the Dee, but there was no place like home. (Hear, hear.) But the fish in the streams of our county were difficult to catch. They could not be tempted with the first bait offered to them, and the tyro must long learn the art before he could become a fisherman. His experience led him to the opinion that they must "fish fine and keep low." (Hear, hear.) Perhaps the most important point in connection with Yorkshire angling was the necessity of watching the becks where the fish went to spawn. It was only by doing this that fish could be cultivated. At Loch Leven, where the finest trout were found, men were employed for the purpose of protecting the fish spawn. In drinking this toast they must remember that it applied to all brothers of the "quill" and "cork," rich and poor alike. (Applause.)

The toast having been drunk with musical honours, Dr. Park, Mr. Rickards, Mr. Burrows, and Mr. J. Stubbings responded.

The Rev. E. S. Gough proposed the health of the "Scoffers." He said that he had fished in America, in Ireland, and in many parts of England, and had always met with the same good fellowship among the brethren of the rod.

Major Middleton was called upon to respond, but he denied that he was a scoffer. He said that in his youth he was a keen fisherman, and had ever considered it one of the most charming amusements and sports.

Mr. Charles Pebody, Mr. Harold Nicholls, and Mr. Alex. Mallinson also responded.

Mr. Rickards proposed "The Yorkshire Angling Clubs," and gave an account of the various fish to be found in the Yorkshire rivers.

Mr. Pratt, of Otley, replied on behalf of the clubs of the Wharfe. He thought the Leeds Corporation ought to do something towards preserving the Washburn.

Mr. Walbran replied on behalf of the clubs which fish the river Ure. He thought that if the Ure were preserved and watched it would be as fine a trout river as the Wharfe. For all-round fishing, however, he did not think there was a better river in Yorkshire.

Mr. Ed. Middleton replied for the Driffield Club.

Other toasts followed. During the course of the evening a glee party sang a number of glees and part-songs.

## LOCH LEVEN ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

The shareholders of this Association held their annual meeting in Kirkland's Hotel, Kinross, on Tuesday week, Mr. George Henderson, of Turfhills, the chairman, presiding. The secretary, Mr. George Bogie, solicitor, submitted the tenth annual report and balance-sheet, from which it appeared that the income from all sources amounted to £2,020 18s. 5d., and the expenditure to £1,888, leaving a balance of £132 18s. 5d., to which sum £62 4s. fell to be added, making a total of £195 2s. 5d. From this sum it was agreed, on the recommendation of the directors, to declare a dividend of 15 per cent. on the paid-up capital of members, and to carry forward a surplus of £17 16s. 5d. to next year's account. The retiring directors were re-elected—viz., the Hon. G. Waldgrave Leslie, Messrs. George Henderson, Robert Burns Begg, and Robert Greig. Messrs. Wilson and Steedman were re-elected auditors. Mr. Henderson was re-elected chairman of the company. The following table shows the number of trout killed during each month of the past season, with their aggregate weight and average of each :—

| | 1884. | | | 1883. | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Weight. | Average. | | Weight. | Average. |
| | Trout. | lb. | lb. | Trout. | lb. | lb. |
| April | 2319 | 1964¾ | ·846 | 335 | 352¼ | 1·050 |
| May | 3220 | 2742¼ | ·851 | 3838 | 2998¾ | ·781 |
| June | 5292 | 4318¾ | ·815 | 5301 | 4391½ | ·828 |
| July | 1384 | 1306 | ·943 | 1335 | 1296¼ | ·970 |
| August | 3211 | 3040½ | ·946 | 3124 | 3595 | 1·150 |
| September | 208 | 160¼ | ·769 | 129 | 117¾ | ·906 |
| | 15,634 | 13,532½ | ·865 | 14,062 | 12,742½ | ·906 |
| Netted | 306 | 400 | 1·307 | 165 | 248 | 1·503 |
| Total | 15,940 | 13,932½ | ·874 | 14,227 | 12,990 | ·913 |

## LET OF SALMON FISHINGS IN THE TAY AND EARN.

The salmon fishings in the river Tay belonging to the city of Perth were exposed to let on Friday. There was a large attendance of tacksmen, and bidding was very spirited. The total rental received for the fishings this year was £978, as compared with £782 last year, and £617 in 1883. The fishings in the Tay and Earn belonging to the Earl of Wemyss and March after stiff bidding brought £1,475, as compared with £1,957 last year, and £1,744 in 1883. The fishings in the Tay and Earn belonging to Sir Robert D. Moncrieffe, Bart., of Moncrieffe, were exposed to let, those in the Tay at £100, and those in the Earn at £20. The upset price not being offered for the Tay fishings, they were withdrawn; while those in the Earn were let to Messrs. Corsar and Currie, Glasgow, at £20. The salmon fishings in the Tay in the locality of Perth belonging to Sir James Richardson, of Pitfour, Bart., were let at £1,900.

## ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Ireland (Clonmel).—Mr. Willis Bund, LL.D., the best authority on our fishing laws, tells us he knows of no law prohibiting fishing with live cormorants, as in China. We should say a law would soon be made if the birds were used in our fresh waters. We know no book on rearing, training, and breeding these birds. Some encyclopædia may give an article on the subject.

Westbourne Park.—The shrimp tail is far too brittle to use in fly-making.

A. Mason (West Kensington Park).—When using the live snap we generally wait until the pike begins to move off after he has taken the bait, before striking—perhaps a minute.

Whipper (Buckfastleigh).—Have you seen Mr. Reuben Heaton's new lock-fast joint? It is extremely simple and neat. His address is Universal Works, Hospital-street, Birmingham. We are not sure that he has made any quantity yet. For trout rod we prefer ash butt and rest greenheart, as the "Marston" fly rods are now made by S. Allcock and Co., of Redditch.

C. Hooker.—It is really wasting your fine energies to attempt to dictate to us what we shall put in or leave out.

Club Sec.—If you will take the trouble to count the words you will find you get over three times as much for your money.

H. V.—As regards the peers and the people, we can only say, "May the best men win."

# CORRESPONDENCE.

[*We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.*]

### STRAIGHT NEEDLE-EYES v. TURNED-UP.

Sir,—I never meet a really practical fisherman without finding that I have more to learn than I have to impart. I have also found the pleasure and comfort which one derives from being able freely to acknowledge and accept a defeat, whether in argument or otherwise—from being able to say, in fact, frankly and without reserve, "I see that you were right and I was wrong." I can, therefore, assure those of your correspondents, and my friend Mr. H. S. Hall in particular, who dissent from the views I recently expressed of Straight *versus* Turned-up eyes for trout-hooks, and the best mode of knotting them to the gut, that in taking up my pen to reply, I do so from no desire to establish my own theories, but simply, on a point so important to fly fishers, to endeavour to arrive at the actual facts dispassionately and without prejudice.

Were the question one depending to any great extent upon long practical use and trial of eyed-hooks, I should at once bow to the superior claims of Mr. Hall and others in this respect. I fully admit that Mr. Hall's experience of eyed-hooks is vastly greater than my own; but I think the points now under discussion can be argued almost as well with a tumbler of water and a strand of gut over a dining-room table, as after the most elaborate experiments by the river side. The main issues are really little more than questions of mechanical fact, and if any of your readers will provide themselves with some well-soaked gut, two or three "turned-up" eyed-hooks, and a few straight or really "needle-eyes" (or failing these latter, with mere ordinary sewing-needles broken off short), they will be in a position to practically solve the problem for themselves, and to readily verify or disprove what I have advanced.

Be it noted that the question is not whether hooks with turned-up needle-eyes are not a great stride in advance of the old tied-on hooks, nor whether Mr. Hall and other skilful fly-fishers may not find them admirable in practice for killing fish, nor whether they can knot them to the casting line; but whether certain blemishes in the perfection of the invention exist or not, and whether, if they do exist, they are capable of being remedied.

The case, then, stands thus :—

I contend, with your correspondent Mr. Tod, (1) that the turned-up eye on the pattern of hook Mr. Hall kindly sent me is *conspicuous*—by which I mean unfly-like, and, therefore, objectionable. Mr. Hall replies that we need not try to improve upon nature, and that as long as fish feed upon flies with large heads and prominent eyes we should not trouble ourselves to make our imitations with heads "almost invisible." In this observation, as it stands, there is much with which I have no desire to disagree; but I would suggest that the question is not as to flies with "invisible," or even with ordinary, heads, but between comparatively small straight heads and very large turned-up heads.

*If Mr. Hall can show that natural flies have heads turned-up nearly to a right angle, and eyes like the eyes of his hooks, I shall be quite prepared to reconsider my proposition.*

Thus far as to the first point. The second is, That flies tied through straight needle-eyes in the way I suggest will not stand out straight—or rather in a line with—the gut. Of course, if this were the case, I should at once admit that the objection was fatal, as equally with your able correspondent I fully recognise the vital importance of the fly always standing straight in the position indicated: but here we come to a matter of fact. My contention is that when a fly is knotted on in the neat and simple way suggested in my last letter (that is, the gut passed once through the eye and secured by a double-hitch round the strand above), it will *stand out perfectly straight and always keep so.* I sent you, in my former note, as an illustration, the half of a needle attached in this way to a strand of the finest trout-gut, and I am quite satisfied that if you soak the gut and, after pulling the knot tight, set the fly—or rather the needle—in its proper position, it will remain so. I have found this to be the case also in practice—even when the gut is attached in the way I describe *to one of Mr. Hall's own patterns of Turned-up eyes.*

But, as I said before, let any of your correspondents try it for themselves, bearing in mind always the conditions—those present in actual fishing—gut soaked, and knot drawn tight.

Further, I am prepared to assert, and shall be pleased to give you occular demonstration of the fact, that the same thing holds good even in the case of salmon hooks, in which, of course, the weight of the hook is proportionably much greater as compared with the supporting power of the gut. (I reserve, however, the whole question of eyed salmon hooks for a future communication.)

Point number three is, again, one of simple matter-of-fact which anyone can test for themselves in a few minutes. Mr. Hall says that his knot—or, to borrow his own descriptive term, the "in-and-out" process—is "extremely simple," and that he has never found any difficulty whatever in tying it by the river side. I have myself, on the contrary, experienced both great difficulty and delay in the process, and when it is effected I can—at any rate, in the case of small trout flies—perceive no advantage whatever resulting. I make, of course, every allowance for the fact that Mr. Hall has had great practice in tying his knot, and that I have had very little; but that argument would apply equally to his or mine or any other knot, and, *cæteris paribus*, I believe mine could still be tied in a third, or more probably in a sixth, of the time that his could, by anyone equally skilful in both knots; whilst in the case of the tyro, I venture to think that the "in-and-out" process would, in practice, be found an obstacle at starting well-nigh insuperable. This is really the gist of the whole matter, and much more important than the relative conspicuousness or otherwise of the turned-up eye.

Once more I say *try it.*

I hope Mr. Hall, whose letters in the Fishing Gazette have given so much instruction and pleasure to your readers, will not for a moment think that in these observations I am wishing to decry or in any way depreciate the "eyed-hook system," of which he has been our latter-day apostle, or the very valuable results to the cause of fly-fishers and fly-fishing, which I cannot doubt are destined to result from his able advocacy.—I am, &c.,

H. Cholmondeley-Pennell.

## HOW TO LAND A SALMON WITHOUT GAFF OR NET AT A PINCH.

Sir,—In Mr. Kelson's interesting paper of Oct. 18th, he speaks thus ; "Salmon fishermen under difficulties are often stirred by deep and knowing impulses," &c.

In the case in point the gaff was lost, and the fish had to be landed somehow—anyhow : â la Briggs.

Mr. Kelson goes on to say : "And so I have heard of wrapping up the hand in a pocket-handkerchief, &c., &c.," and speaks of taking hold "of the lower jaw and putting your thumb in its mouth" (see page 190).

Now I take it that Mr. Kelson is a master of his craft, but, perhaps, ever since his young days, he has used gaff or landing net, probably with an attendant at hand, till now he can gaff his own fish. My salmon fishing was begun in the upper waters of the Tweed, where I had to be my own gillie. Since then I have frequently fished the lower stretches of water, where, after a certain time (I think the last day of September), a gaff is forbidden, and landing nets are used.

If Mr. Kelson, alone and unaided, was to try to land his friend's fish in the way he describes, I will make a bet that his friend would lose a few good fish, and for these reasons : First of all, it is sheer madness to go at a fish's *head*—you are so near the line that you always must risk fouling *that*. Again, to place your thumb in a salmon's mouth is a risky thing, particularly when a hook is present. Doubly, trebly risky must it be when you have a horrid handkerchief, which will catch the teeth or the hook so very readily, and which can protect the hand from *neither* appreciably.

Far better to run the thumb under one gill—close under the jaw—and the forefinger and thumb under the other, and the fish is helpless. But this is mere theory, and I am entirely opposed to the whole practice. Even in a difficulty, whatever one *attempts*, it is well to bear in mind that, in the event of missing one's first grasp, and the fish making a dash of it, that no risk of a foul, or any other muddle, *is possible*.

Again, to effect the landing of a fish by this process, a man must wait till the fish is quiet in shallow water—half dead, in fact. If he tried it with a lively fish in deep water, he might, some day, find the hook in his hand, and the fish "never more" in *his* bag.

Now has Mr. Kelson not been mixing up matters ? for he speaks as if he had only "heard" of handkerchief, &c.

The *real* idea of winding a *silk handkerchief* round a man's hand springs from the operation known as "tailing" a salmon. Some fishermen avow that the *silk* gives a firmer grip. To those who know how to tail a salmon without any such aid I have nothing to say. To those who do *not* know I have much, and, without any boasting, I can say that, given a fairly good chance, a good man, who is cool, is sure of his fish, or nearly so. This is how it is done ; and I will illustrate it by a story, going back to the year 1862 :—My poor friend B———l, now these many years in his early grave, had the salmon fishery at a place on the Tweed, rented. I had been his guest for two or three weeks. At last my visit came to an end. It was the 3rd of November, and the river was brim full, and a succession of small floods kept it dirty, and fish were constantly on the move upwards, so that for a week he and I could do nothing. The evening before I went, the river clearing somewhat, I dressed him a "Jock Scott," and in my city garments, thin boots, &c., went to see him fish the first cast—waiting till my train started. He hooked a fine fresh-run fish with my new fly ; the water at one side was 10ft. to 15ft. deep, the bank 2ft. or so above the level of the water. I said to him quietly, "Give me a good chance, and I won't miss your fish, *but follow my directions*." When he was near shore, I then said, "Hold him up as hard as you can now." This the fish answered by diving head downwards, but every now and then showing his tail. My hand was ready, perhaps, half a dozen times close to the tail before *it* was still enough, and also far enough out of water ; but the hand *followed that tail* whenever it rose. At last it was well above water, and then a thumb and forefinger were very deliberately, but firmly, placed on the root, and, like lightning, the wrist was turned outward and the arm raised straight out, the other three fingers not touching the tail at all, this being of the first importance. But I had never before attempted to lift a salmon of 16lb. so far below me. The strain was enormous. I had to stoop and then lift the fish, with a straight arm, till the hand was as high, or higher, than my shoulder, and then I lost my balance and fell—not into the pool, by good fortune, but on my face, on the very edge of the steep overhanging bank. I *just* managed to fall *on* the fish, and I was rather funky then ; but I wriggled back, sticking to my fish all the time, and got him. B. then went down to fish the "Web Stream," a perfect torrent in the state of the river, and most dangerous wading, amongst sharp slabs of rock from the cliffs overhanging. Here he soon hooked a fine salmon ; but the bank being no longer steep close to shore, I wet my feet, and made dead sure of every fish he brought to my hand, and he got four, the 16-pounder being the smallest. He lost *many* more on the run, and for two hours I never saw so many fish--nor did he—hooked and lost, or come to bank, as the case might be. He rose and hooked *thirteen*, and was "broken" several times. The fish took in the quiet eddy at the side of a *very strong stream*, and when hooked often rushed right through the whole breadth of the whey-coloured flooded river. To follow was impossible, and wading most risky : one false step and he would have been easily carried off and drowned. Wading, too, was essential, for a wooded scaur, or cliff, rose behind him, and he could only fish by an overhand cast, at which he was a perfect master. I never missed a single fish. At last the excitement and fatigue told on him, and he declared that he would not fish more unless I took a cast from the point of the cairn below. I did so to please him, and in a few throws I hooked a lively fish--a perfect beauty, but quite the smallest of the day, only 8½lb., and this I also got, after which, curiously enough, the fish ceased rising. Now he did not expect to get a fish that day, and he went from home more to have "a cast" to while away the time than aught else, and I walked down in my ordinary garments, just for the fun of the thing, to see him "wet my fly."

Since writing the foregoing, I have unearthed an old diary, and I find that the weight of B——'s fish were 15½lb., 16½lb., 19½lb., and 21½lb. each. Mine 8½lb. Many anglers would have said 16lb., 17lb., 20lb., and 22lb., &c., but we were accurate in such matters.

Now this, I feel sure, will not be misunderstood as brag. It is the system, not *self*, I am anxious to write in praise of, and in any case, not being original, *I* have nothing to boast of. But I can vouch for the fact that this wrinkle has saved me many a fish hooked by a trout rod, and when I have gone out, as I often have done, a whole month without attendant or gaff, landing my fish alone and unaided, by my forefinger and thumb as described.

Now for the way *not* to do it, which is to grasp the root *with the whole hand*, for even a silk handkerchief would be of no avail with *me*. I would miss fish after fish in this fashion.

The secret lies in grasping the fact that the thumb and forefinger alone must be used, the others spread out *and not touch* ; and next to this the *wrist* must be turned outwards till the right hand is much in the position in which one holds a single stick on the hanging guard—the back of the hand next you, or, at least, turned towards the river, your face being turned in the same direction, the little finger being the highest point, for the hand is on its edge. Let any one grasp his left wrist with *all* his hand, and he will feel how easily it can be pulled out of the grip of his strong right hand ; but if he will but grip firmly, with a "click" of forefinger and thumb, and turn the wrist upwards till the thumb is lowest and the small finger highest, he will have no difficulty in lifting a dead salmon, which is good practice, and very soon will learn the knack of taking a strong fish long before he is gasping quite as well as I can. When a fish is stranded, gasping on a shallow, this is simplicity itself.

One caution alone : Never attempt to tail a fish by putting the hand under water. His tail is his strength in the water, and he will, with one single lash of that, go away from the strongest of men without effort, and the first real attempt to grasp *should* be the last, if done by a man cool and collected, with confidence in himself. Given a fairly good place, I would never feel afraid of landing any fish for a friend thus, or even for myself. One's footing must be good, rocky ground or slippery wading being awkward ; worst of all, a perpendicular bank and deep water at one's own side. Even to lift a two-pound fish thus is a strain ; but in such a position only the few can tail a big fish successfully, and no weak man would have a chance. The tail once grasped, the fish never seems to give a struggle, and you can deliberately and leisurely *trail him along the surface of the water*, and then *well on to the bank*, ere you release him, in order to give the "coup de grace."

I may mention that the same rule is not in the same degree applicable to large *Salmo ferox*, brown trout (*Fario*), or sea trout, for the root of the salmon's tail is much smaller in proportion, and gives a *grip*. It is just the difference between a fine "clean" ankle and a "gummy one"—"like Lancashire mutton, beef to the heels," as I once heard a gummy pair well described, many a day since.

I hope this rambling paper may amuse, and I can promise that, in "a difficulty," it is really worth while *to know* "the art and science of tailing a salmon."—I am, &c.,

E. M. Tod.

[When fishing in the Dee in the spring we hooked a lively kelt, of twelve or fourteen pounds, and Major Traherne very kindly "tailed" this fish most neatly for us, and another very soon afterwards. The object was to avoid the use of the gaff, and consequent injury to the fish.—Ed.]

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## ON STRIKING A SALMON.

Sir,—It must give anyone who goes in for salmon fishing great pleasure to see any observations from your experienced correspondent, Major Traherne ; but it seems to me we should not overlook one circumstance in this controversy.

Major Traherne agrees with Mr. Kelson in his opinions generally, but differs with him on this point.

Now, I understand from the Major's letters that he has not exactly followed Mr. Kelson's directions. "I did not strike from the winch, which will account for my want of success," says the Major. If this is a stipulation, ought we to place too much reliance upon the Major's remarks in this matter ? That is all I ask.

I am a lake fisherman, and if I fail to give a good "tug" at the right moment, I lose my fish.—I am, &c.,

X. Y. Z.

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## HINTS ON ROACH ANGLING.

Sir,—I notice that you invite your readers to give their views on roach fishing I have great pleasure in giving mine. I may say that I have been a roach fisher for the last fifteen years, and have, on the whole, been very successful among them.

I was fishing the river Waveney in August last for a few days, and succeeded in killing and landing some splendid roach, the largest pulling the scales down at 1½lb. ; and as to 1lb. fish, I killed so many that I really cannot recollect the number, and I have also killed some very nice roach in the Lea this year.

I use an ordinary roach rod (one of Sowerbutt's), the best fine taper gut (not fine drawn, as I find that it frays after the first time of using), a quill float, a crystal hook, No. 13, one shot about a foot from the hook, and the remainder about a foot from that. I also use about 2ft. or 3ft., sometimes more, of fine silk line between the point of the rod and the gut line, so that I am able to keep well back and throw well over the hole ; but am always very particular not to let the line get below the water level when the float is far out, always keeping a taut line, so that I can strike directly, and I may say that I have never lost a fish for the want of striking soon enough. I find that *home-made bread* makes the best paste, and is very killing. I use nothing else ; and as for ground-bait (bran and bread), I use very sparingly—sometimes not at all. As soon as I commence I throw in a little ground-bait (if I have it) and a small handful of pellets of paste about the size of a large pea, which I keep on occasionally throwing in, which brings the fish on the feed, and I have brought them on by these means when the ground-bait would not. Trusting that your readers may be as successful amongst the roach as I have been,—I am, &c.,

Bromley-by-Bow. Wavene.

[We have often found roach take plain bread, not made into paste, when they won't look at any other bait. Cut a square bit, half crumb and half crust, as the latter is far tougher in the water.—Ed.]

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## FISHING IN BALA LAKE.

Sir,—Could any of your readers who have fished Bala Lake, in North Wales, give a short account of their catches there ? And say, also, what part of the lake they considered the best for pike and perch ?

I had eight days' fishing there last month ; but owing (so the boatman said) to the weather being so bright and fine, and the water in the lake being low, I only had two runs with jack, but caught both ; one was 5½lb., the other 3½lb., both very strong fish, and I considered them to be far better sport than Thames jack are. They are also much better eating.

One day I got 34 perch, one of which was 1½lb., and another close on 1lb. ; and another day 33 (with live minnows), but other days I only got seven or eight fish ; but the weather was so lovely and the scenery around the lake so beautiful, that it was almost impossible to complain about the sport.

There must be some very big fish in the lake, as my daughter picked up on the shore a trout about 1½lb. weight that had been seized by a big jack and pretty well cut in half. I only wish I had had the chance of hooking the fellow that killed him, as it must have been a big fish by the marks of the teeth.

I caught both jack trolling with artificial bait, which seems to be the best way in such a large lake.

I was told that one jack, 25½lb., had been caught during August by a gentleman who lives in the district. If any of your readers think of going to Bala next year, they cannot do better than to "put up" at the White Lion Hotel, which has a good boat on the lake, and two men to go in it (as a big boat is necessary) who can be thoroughly trusted, but are not quite so scientific in their ideas of fishing as our Thames men.

This was my third visit to Bala, and I never had a blank day there.—I am, &c.,

Queen Victoria-street. John C. Chubb.

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## THE LOSS OF THE *MIGNONETTE*.

Sir,—On Nov. 1st the Exeter Assizes open, and a bill of Murder will be presented to the Grand Jury against Thomas Dudley and E. Stephens, for the death of the boy Parker in the boat of the ill-fated *Mignonette*.

It was not for us to argue whether, after twenty-one days of starvation and exposure, this death was murder or justifiable homicide. That will be brought out at the trial, which is necessary in the interests of humanity, and for the protection of human life. All such disputable matter we must leave to the proper tribunal. But what we most urgently desire is to place before your readers the fact that two British seamen—men who have filled in their arduous calling responsible situations ; men who, in their time, have been foremost in our great national sport of yacht racing for their pluck and zeal ; men of good character and ability—are now about to be tried for their lives for an action which, however dreadful, is still open to difference of opinion.

These men have lost their all ; they have literally no adequate funds to defend their lives with. The expenses of their defence are already considerable, and will be greater. We ask your readers to give us some assistance for these men who have passed through frightful sufferings, and who now appeal for help in their dire distress.

The appeal has hitherto been but very poorly responded to. We most gratefully acknowledge the receipt of £38 2s. 6d., which has been forwarded up to the present date.—Yours, &c.,

S. Harman Sturgis,
(Vice-Commander Corinthian Yacht Club, Erith).
Augustus G. Wildy,
(Rear-Commander Junior Thames Yacht Club, 13, Furnival's Inn).

Subscriptions will also be received by A. H. Glennie, Esq., 1, Arlington-street Piccadilly ; and H. N. Custance, Esq., Mansion House, E.C.

## SAMPLES OF FLIES—THE "RUTTING STAG," &c.

SIR,—I inclose you three palmers, and shall be pleased if you will give them a trial when grayling fishing. I have only tried them for sewin and trout, and find the first named very keen on them when water is low and bright. Trout take them best in high water.

The two small palmers and olive-winged fly are, I know, very good grayling flies, but I don't expect they are known to the public. The three midges will rise trout when I can't get them to look at any others. The whole nine are my own patterns—at least, I have never seen them with anyone else, unless I have given them. The large palmers I dressed myself; the rest are by James Ogden, Cheltenham.

The winged fly I have never been without for 16 years, and in Welsh rivers or brooks it never fails. I have it dressed a shade or two lighter after April.

How much better it would be if amateur fly-dressers would describe their flies, or, rather, the dressing of them, correctly. In your paper of to-day's date, "Amateur Fly-tyer" describes the "Rutting Stag." I give it up; I expect he means—tag, orange floss silk; body, blue rabbit's fur; but whether the hackle is at shoulder only, or run up body from tag, I am at a loss to know.—I am, &c., N. S. W.

[In the "Rutting Stag" the hackle is put on at the shoulder only, two-thirds of the body is rabbit's fur, and the rest (or tail part) is orange floss silk wound round the hook, and not put on as a tag. The body is pretty full, and tapers to a point. We like the samples "N. S. W." kindly sends us very much, and should be glad to publish the dressings if he will describe them.—ED.]

## FLY-TYING SILKS.

SIR,—"R. A." should write to W. H. Aldam, Esq., Chilcombe, Winchester, who has, or had, a quantity, in all colours, of the best that ever was made. He had these silks specially manufactured to his own instructions by a personal friend at Leek, and I don't think the silks can be got from there or anywhere else now (I shall be glad of correction) so strong, yet so fine, and with fixed, lasting colours.

Mr. Aldam used to give the skeins away to friends in every direction (I got some); but this liberality became spread about over too many, so he now charges. I hope he may have a few sorts left for "R. A."—I am, &c., NOSE.

Sheffield, Oct. 25.

## FISHING IN THE GRAND DUCHY OF BADEN.

SIR,—The kind way in which you received my letter last month induces me to send you a few more notes.

The season that closed on the 19th of October has been, on the whole, a fair one in the neighbourhood of Baden-Baden for trout and other fishing. Owing to the severe inundations of the winter 1882-3, and the no less severe frost of the winter previous to that, the fishing has been much impaired. The establishment of two paper factories on the river Murg has also much damaged the fishing. But to counteract these baneful influences, the Baden-Baden Fish Culture Institution has been specially active in hatching out young trout, and the keepers have been exceedingly successful in checking the operations of poachers, both human and otter. The footprints of the latter I have seen fresh on the sand, and each full grown otter is computed to consume about 7lb. of fish per diem. And one keeper told me that he secured six human poachers in ten days. This was during the drought in the midst of the past excessively hot summer, when the water was very low, and the fish, therefore, easily to be caught by netting.

Undoubtedly the month of April was the best for fly fishing, as there was a fair stream constantly running, and, when the sun came out, the fish rose greedily and hungrily after the flies, owing to their long winter fast from those dainties. I had the misfortune to sprain my ankle during that month, so, personally, I came off rather short; but a great many good fish were landed about us during that month. In July and August the water began to run low and the fish to hide under the stones and weeds. September also continued very dry. October has been wet and stormy. The rivers have filled up again; but in the Oos—the stream that runs through Baden-Baden—trout fishing ends with September 30th, and is not again allowed till March 1st. I see some fine fellows—up to 1lb. weight—now and then, rejoicing in their freedom from attack. In the river Murg the regulations are different. Trout fishing ends only with the 19th of October, and commences again with the 21st of January. Grayling are also caught in the latter river at the rate of about one brace to every six brace of trout, but they are always of good size, rarely under ¾lb., and they are strong in the water with their powerful tail and back fin, thus affording excellent sport. One of your correspondents asked, some time back, for a good grayling fly. I inclose one which has been very successful. In the river Oos we use two flies at a time, the stream being small. In the Murg, where we have a good breadth, three can be used on the line at a time, and the grayling fly is always one of them. The March Brown nearly always kills.

The restrictions as to size in taking trout in these streams are very lenient. A hand's length from the back of the eye to the fork of the tail is all that is demanded. In brook fishing this lenient restriction is of great benefit, for the fish rarely attain any considerable size (except in the deeper pools), and the little dark brook trout make the most delicious fry that ever epicure tasted. They revel in the purest spring water, and are as fresh and clean as it is possible to be.

Really, for anyone who has been a little overworked with the mental strain of our modern times, or who is otherwise out of health, I cannot imagine a more invigorating and recruiting relaxation than a month or two spent in fishing in these beautiful valleys. The cost is very trifling. The ticket for the Baden-Baden fishing is 5s. per day, £2 per month, £4 per annum. This includes, not only miles upon miles of excellent river and brook fishing for trout especially, also grayling, samlet, and chub, but also stretches of backwater from the Rhine, where the winter months can be filled up with pike and perch fishing. The climate is agreeable, the air pure and fresh, the landscape charming. I cannot be too thankful, personally, for the recreation I have enjoyed myself, during occasional outings in the interstices of clerical work, during the past few months. In my own case, some indigestion from which I was suffering, and which induced me to undertake the exercise, has entirely disappeared.—I am, &c., T. ARCHIBALD S. WHITE, M.A., British Chaplain at Baden-Baden.

11, Maria-Victoria Strasse, Oct. 22.

[The fly inclosed is a yellow dun, made in the North of England, we should say. It is a good pattern. We must again thank our correspondent; his letter makes us wish to revisit the Rhine and its tributaries. Twenty years ago fish were neither preserved nor cultivated in Germany.—ED.]

## FLANNEL-WEED IN THE TRENT.

SIR,—I have just received a letter from my brother, at Collingham-on-Trent, and he says: "I never saw the Trent in such a fearful state in my life."

He goes on to say: "You will scarcely believe me when I tell you that, in many places, the flannel-weed is *one yard* thick, and some of it is as black as soot, and stinks enough to knock you down. . . . The fishing in *this neighbourhood* is good for nothing. I have been down several times and have not caught one fish; it is most difficult to find a clear bottom."

So, Mr. Editor, if you, or any of your readers, think of going there, I should say don't, for pike and chub fishing are quite out of the question. They are evidently collecting this weed to use for manure, for he says: "You never saw the like; there are *hundreds of tons* of it in one heap."

Can you tell me anything about this particular weed, Mr. Editor, of an interesting nature? I have noticed it has been increasing and increasing ever since I was a boy. "Ah," says one, "wait until we have a terrific flood, and every bit of it will go." Yes, my friend; but floods or no floods, in the following spring it comes back again thicker than ever. It is just like walking on a carpet. I have seen the same weed—heaps of it—in my water tank, and that *after scrubbing it out*. How did it get there?

I *presume* the roots of the Trent specimen remain; or does the weed shed seed? Please say. Lastly, supposing I wanted to keep a quiet eddying flat, about 10 or 15 yards long, 3 or 4 yards from the shore, 7 or 8 feet deep, could you suggest an *effectual* plan? By so doing you will oblige,—Yours, &c., MARK ANTONY.

## THE HEIGHAM SOUNDS CASE AND THE GREAT YARMOUTH PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

SIR,—After many promises made by me to the subscribers of the fund raised to test the rights of anglers at Heigham Sounds, through your columns, and to yourself personally, I now have the pleasure, after having many obstacles to surmount (some, I am afraid, purposely put in the way), through the assistance rendered by the committee appointed on the 14th inst., to respectfully submit for your consideration and fair, upright criticism you are always ready to give when solicited, the balance-sheet of the Yarmouth Piscatorial Society, from the day on which I first wrote and asked your advice, being the 1st May, 1882, to July 1st of this year, a memorable day to this Society, it being the day after the case was last before the judges, and the day on which, according to a letter you published, that, for certain reasons never yet given, Dr. Mitchell resigned his post of president and treasurer, at the same time requesting that no more subscriptions be sent to him. The sheet is made up to that date in consequence of the doctor giving a written request to our present president that he wished the whole accounts to be audited, which has been done, the result shown on the sheet. I have been informed that the tone of that letter, respecting subscriptions, has left an impression on many minds that something must be wrong, and, personally, I may tell you that where I once had friendship I have experienced a coldness. That coldness has prompted me not be driven away from the fact that it was my duty, if it was no one else's, to show our subscribers what has become of their donations, &c. That being so, I think you will say that I am not overstepping the bounds of prudence when I submit everything, either for your condemnation or approval. Therefore I must inform you at once that, although Dr. Mitchell had resigned the treasurership, he has, within the last month, paid over to the solicitors, not only the balance of the Heigham Sounds Fund, but the entrance fees of members to the society, and the last entrance fees to a fishing contest, and that, although you will observe we paid already the sum of £75 14s. 4d., we have still a bill of £66 9s. 2d., and the costs of the other side amounting to £24 4s. 9d. These last bills have never yet been considered by the society; and, besides that, the solicitor entered into an agreement, which was to the effect that he would indemnify the Society against all costs, and carry the case to a successful issue. This was made on May 13th. Now, not having fulfilled that agreement, or any part of it, how he can claim by simply give the late treasurer an indemnity all the monies in the funds, let alone the entrance fees, I frankly confess I am so illiterate that I cannot understand it. You may say, Why was this done? I am not going to pretend to answer; but it is very plain there will be an answer one way or the other, for the members who have paid every attention to the upholding of the honour of the parent angling and piscatorial society in Yarmouth have, by their resolutions, taken other advice than that of the solicitors to the Heigham Sounds case, so you will at once see that the clearing up of all belonging to this vexed right case must still remain a little longer. One thing I can assure you: we have not yet collapsed, however eloquent some have been in stating so, but we are working now on a system dearly bought by experience that will not allow such irregularities in future. Those that were so loud in voting a test case, when they could have fishing in Heigham Sounds on very simple conditions imposed upon them by Mr. Boult, would have a test case; but where are they now? Just where they were when I came to London for money—conspicuous by their absence, but at once attended when I came back with your subscriptions, declaring eternal friendship and assistance, voting again thanks out of number, but stop when I come home, following the letter I had sent previously, describing what, to my foolish mind, was the greatest bungle I ever saw made of a good case, if even the recommendation I received at the Piscatorial Society and other places had been followed out. You were not wide of the mark when, at the footnote of "I. B.'s" letter, on March 8, you said it seemed as if the case was being muddled away. How say you now, sir? I recollect the reply to that letter, and I cannot say that "I. B." saw things upside down. My impression now is he saw it too straight, and in its true position. I have now endeavoured to do my duty. You must always recollect I have only one voice in all matters, and that has often been one too many for some members. What I have erred in, tell me of! I have not wasted your subscriptions. What has been spent has been practically wasted, of course. I have nothing to do with legal charges, because I think, with all honour to an honourable profession, it's very dangerous to have much money in a law case, because it will take so long to settle it all up. I have now, on behalf of myself and the society, to give you and your readers our cordial thanks for your kindness and assistance in endeavouring to carry this test case out, but which, I am in duty bound to say, has not satisfied anyone at present.—I am, &c., JAMES LARK, sec.

[The balance-sheet would occupy far too much space for us to publish, and any subscriber can get a copy from Mr. Lark. As we have said before, it is abundantly clear to us that Mr. Lark has done all, and more than all, he could be expected to do in the matter, and it is no fault of his if the legal proceedings fell through.—ED.]

## A COMPLAINT AGAINST A RICHMOND FISHERMAN.

SIR,—I wish to bring to your notice the behaviour of Howard, the fisherman of Richmond Bridge. I engaged him on October 18th for Sunday, the 26th, and meantime I wrote to him, saying I should be down with two friends at 7 o'clock on Sunday morning; but when we arrived at Richmond we were told he had gone up the stream with two punts. We then walked half a mile past Eel-pie Island before we saw him, and just as we got there he shoved off with somebody else, and treated us with a certain amount of insolence. Apologising to you for the trouble,—I am, &c., E. HAYWARD, Member of the Cobden Angling Society.

Kensal Green.

P.S.—I think if you publish this it would be of interest to the fishing fraternity in general, as I was told that this party is in the habit of treating other people just the same.

[We are not defending Howard; but should like to know how often anglers engage fishermen and then never turn up or send the money for the lost day, as every angler should who cannot keep an appointment? There are a few insolent fishermen who ought to be shown up, so that anglers can avoid them.—ED.]

## PERCH FISHING NEAR EXETER, &c.

SIR,—In reply to "R. A.," tickets to the end of the year can be obtained of Mr. Hayman, Lamb Inn, Exwick, near Exeter, for 1s. 6d., including perch, pike, and roach fishing in Exwick waters, and fair perch fishing is also to be had in the Exeter Canal at Turf, where the host at the Turf Hotel, Captain Pearson, will give every assistance and advice, and some good carp and pike fishing may also be had at the Limekilns, near Cowley Bridge. The perch fishing has gone off. Should this letter meet Mr. Frank Gosden's eye, he will oblige me by sending his private address. Fly-tying silk can be had at Prickman's, Exeter, I think.

Any of your readers are welcome to any information I can give by writing me as under.—I am, &c., J. A. KELLEY.

1, Linden Vale, Exeter, Oct. 20.

## A NOTE FROM NOTTINGHAM.

SIR,—Angling news this week is only moderate; not a good basket of fish has been taken. On Monday some very good dace were caught at Willington, a member of our club weighing in one over 10oz. I got a nice lot on Tuesday in the Shardlow Water. Mr Draper took a salmon 14lb. on Thursday in the same length; Mr. Jackson several pike, the largest 5lb., one of very unusual size having been caught at Beeston weighing 18¼lb. As we have had a lot of rain these last two days, I expect to hear of some better sport.—I am, &c. A. W.

P.S.—A gentleman told me he caught some nice perch at Colwick on Saturday.

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# RIVER REPORTS.

### TIME OF HIGH WATER IN THE THAMES.

To find the time of high water in the Thames at any of the following places, to the time of high water at London Bridge (given below).

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Add | 30 | minutes for | Chelsea. |
| | 40 | „ | Putney. |
| | 45 | „ | Hammersmith. |
| | 50 | „ | Barnes. |
| | 55 | „ | Kew. |
| | 75 | „ | Richmond. |
| | 80 | „ | Twickenham. |
| | 85 | „ | Teddington. |

Example:—If it is high water at 2 o'clock at London Bridge, it will be high water at Teddington about 3.25, or eighty-five minutes later; but it must be remembered that a strong wind accelerates or retards the tide very much.

For Times of High Water at London Bridge.

| | | | Morning. | Afternoon. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Saturday, | November | 1 | 12.0 | 12.13 |
| Sunday, | „ | 2 | 12.35 | 12.56 |
| Monday, | „ | 3 | 1.17 | 1.39 |
| Tuesday, | „ | 4 | 2.0 | 2.22 |
| Wednesday, | „ | 5 | 2.44 | 3.6 |
| Thursday, | „ | 6 | 3.28 | 3.50 |
| Friday, | „ | 7 | 4.15 | 4·39 |

High tide Nov. 4, 5, and 6.

## THE LOWER THAMES.

### General Remarks.

At one time Teddington Weir was famous for the capture of fine carp, and the names of Messrs. W. Hawkins, F. C. Parker, A. Browne, A. Frickenhaus, and others will ever be associated with achievements for that fish. It is well known that Mr. Parker, as a rule, took the fish he caught to a piece of water near to the Teddington Railway Station, which he at that time rented from the railway company, and there can be no doubt plenty of them have become leviathans by this time, and are still there. It may fairly be assumed that if the carp were fished for at Teddington as they used to be there would be some good ones taken. There was a notice in the Fishing Gazette of last week of the capture of three good fish in one hour by Mr. Abbett, of Twickenham, and since then the same angler has taken one of 10lb., which, instead of being sent to the fishmonger's for sale, he has wisely determined to have preserved as a trophy. It will be remembered that some years ago a large quantity of carp and tench were put into this portion of the river from the lake at Gothic House, Twickenham, through the kindness of Mr. Gustav Class, in the special movement of netting ponds, which originated at that time by Mr. Francis Francis and Mr. W. H. Brougham from a fund raised for that purpose. These fish by this time must have grown considerably in size, as they were put in about 3lb. each. The conviction of a steam launch for running down an angling punt is important, as it evidences the readiness of the Conservators to prosecute if any one will come forward to give the necessary information. The Board has always had a willingness to do this, and the only difficulty has been the unwillingness of those who complain to come forward and prove the facts. It would appear from the reports this week that the jack are on the feed, and only require to be fished for. They have been caught at Weybridge up to 10¼lb-, and at Shepperton up to 9lb., and at Staines up to 7lb. The bream are also taken in nice quantities at Walton. The chub have been taken in goodly numbers at Kingston. Roach and dace fishing in the tidal waters has been keeping up the average. Mr. Thomas Speckley got amongst some good roach at Isleworth at the end of last week, the largest weighing 1¼lb. He had intended to try the water below Kew Bridge, but on his arrival there he found they had been cleaning out the Brentford Dock, and thereby destroyed the condition of the water below which he was desirous of fishing. The anglers have not mustered nearly so strongly this week as regards numbers.—B.

### Angling Results.

**Richmond.**—Christopher Brown, in five days, 60lb. weight of roach and dace and a barbel of 4¾lb. Henry Mansell, in five days, 85lb. and one barbel. F. Brown, in one day, 28lb., and another day 10lb. Job Brain, in four days, 80lb. Henry Howard, in one day, with Mr. King, 35lb., and in three other days 30lb.

**Twickenham.**—Pert Hammerton, in four days, 60lb. of roach and dace and two barbel. J. Dobbin, in three days, thirty dozen and fifteen barbel. John Spong, in six days, thirty-three dozen and nine barbel. F. Wiggins, in five days, thirty-eight dozen and six barbel. H. Spiers, in four days, thirty-nine dozen. George Lee, in one day, three dozen. C. Lee, in the same time, four dozen of roach. W. Spong, in three days, thirty dozen of roach and dace and two barbel. Edward Finch, during the week, some good takes of roach and dace. Samuel Cole, in three days, 34lb. Richard Cole, in three and a half days, twenty-two dozen and three barbel. John Coxen, jun., in two days, 34lb. and three barbel; and George Coxen, in three days, twenty-four dozen.

**Teddington.**—Joseph Baldwin, in four days, twenty-four dozen of roach and dace. Benjamin Stevens, in five days, thirty dozen, and J. Stevens, in two days, ten dozen.

**Kingston.**—John Johnson, jun., in four days, eight barbel (the largest 3½lb.), eight brace of perch, and ten dozen of gudgeon. John Johnson, sen., in four days, twenty barbel (the largest 5lb.), ten chub (the largest 3½lb.), eighteen fine dace, and twenty dozen of gudgeon. Joseph Wilks, in four days, sixteen dozen of gudgeon, six dozen of roach and dace, and four barbel (the largest 4¼lb.) The bank anglers at Kingston, Surbiton, and Thames Ditton have been taking roach, dace, chub, perch, and barbel, but not in such large quantities as they have been.

**Hampton Court.**—Mr. Woods, of East Moulsey, has caugh five jack (the largest 6½lb.) At Tagg's Island Fishery there have been some good takes of roach, dace, and perch.

**Sunbury.**—Edward Clarke, jun., in three days, twenty barbel (the largest 4½lb.) and twelve and a half brace of perch (the largest 1lb.) H. Clarke, in two days, twenty brace of perch up to 1lb. each. Mr. Arthur King, fishing from the bank, a handsome pike of 9lb. The perch are well on the feed.

**Walton.**—Jone Hone, in one day, twelve bream; and another day, twelve bream and roach: R. Watford, in one day, four bream; another day, with Messrs. Abbett and Perrin, 30lb. of bream; and in two other days, eight bream. George Hone, in one day, with Mr. Mackrill, three barbel of 2lb. each, and a perch of 1½lb.

**Shepperton.**—H. Purdue, in one day, six dozen of roach and dace; and another day, two dozen, one brace of jack, and two brace of perch. W. House, in one day, two jack weighing respectively 9lb. and 5lb; and another day, a jack of 5lb. James Haslett, in three days, five barbel, four and a half brace of perch, three jack, and two chub.

**Weybridge.**—Mr. Peters has taken three jack weighing respectively 10¼lb., 3½lb., and 3lb.

**Staines.**—Charles Hone, in one day, five jack; and another day, eight barbel. John Keene, sen., in two days, four jack. George Osman, in two days, one jack, four dozen of roach and dace, and one barbel; and another day, one dozen of roach and dace. John Keene, jun., in one day, five jack, the largest 7lb, and one barbel; another day, one brace of jack; another day, three dozen of roach and dace, and one barbel; and another day, four dozen and two barbel.

## UPPER THAMES.

Very little seems to have been attempted in the angling way during the past week, and consequently nothing done worth record. At Medmenham Bob Young has been having fair sport with perch and chub, and tells me that with a good supply of minnows any quantity of the former fish can be had, but at present they run small. At Hurley a bank angler on Sunday obtained 18lb. of roach from two swims, nearly the whole being taken in the morning and evening, not a fish coming to hand for three or four hours in the middle of the day. Messrs. Fitch and Thompson, out with "The Boy" on Thursday, had a fair take of roach and perch. At Marlow Mr. Foottit, with Barnes as attendant sprite, has had good sport amid the perch, and Mr. Faulkner has also done well. Fred. Saunders, of Streatley, tells me that the fishing there is now first class since tbe weeds have got down. Thursday evening.—Rain has fallen heavily in the Thames Valley within the last 24 hours. This will bring on a little push of water, and conduce to all-round angling success.—Marlow Buzz.

### Thames (Datchet).

There seems to be a change in the weather on the board, the boisterous days in the fore part of the week seem to have made the jack move, as I hear of one or two good ones being taken, and by the only people that have tried this week, to my knowledge. Mr. Stevenson, a beauty, 10lb. Mr. Manning, same day, 27lb., one of 6lb., and some good perch. Richard Gray, on the 28th, three jack, largest 8lb., and some barbel; the latter fish have been biting very greedily, Gray taking 40lb. and 50lb. a day, but very small.—G. Lumsden. P.S.—Water same as usual.

### Thames (Oxford).

Amongst the worst poachers the Oxford Angling Society have to deal with are several members of the celebrated Beesley family, who earned for themselves such unenviable notoriety in their efforts to vindicate the supposititious rights of the Oxford Freemen, by attempting to drown Captain Etheridge, the greater part of the city police force, including the superintendent, together with the Corporation bailiff, and a few river keepers, in 1869—a course of procedure which ended in one of the party taking regular exercise up an endless staircase for a period of six months. Most of the worthies in question are employed by the University authorities in the capacity of watermen, and they have just had it, unpleasantly but conclusively, demonstrated that in future they must discontinue if they wish to serve the University and poach as well. Yesterday (Wednesday) William Beesley was charged before the Vice-Chancellor and delegates with taking up a night-line from the Thames on the afternoon of Saturday, the 8th of September. Being a University servant, this will have a more salutary effect than any prosecution the Angling Society could have entered against him, because, as far as I can learn, a charge of this sort against any of the watermen will entail their immediate dismissal. Fortunately, the Revs. Hopkins and Dr. Boyce, the head of Hertford College, are both fishermen, and another of the gentlemen, Mr. Leonard Courtenay (the Proctor) is also a first-rate sportsman, so that the Oxford Angling Society are to be congratulated at having received such powerful and unexpected allies. A tiny bird whispers to me that the society contemplate turning some grayling in the Thames. The piece of water between Osney Lock and Folby bridge offers splendid facility for the experiment, unless my preconceived idea of what a grayling stream should be is wrong. For the whole of the distance the river alternates in heavy deeps and short shallows, with a medium current. Being very close to the town, it is well fished, and consequently jack and perch are scarce. The present Lord Abingdon, according to all accounts, is a worthy successor to his predecessor the late Earl. Not content with excluding the public from fishing between Godston and Eynsham Lock, he is now endeavouring to prevent people fishing on the river. Only a few days since a rod was seized from a boat pulling over at the weir on Conservancy ground. The river from lack of rain has grown malodorous, and sport is consequently like the shares of the defunct building society, somewhat below par. Pike seem on the move, but they do not feed well. On the 25th, out of twenty people I found one who had a dozen good roach, and another was reputed to have caught a jack of 2lb. On Tuesday, Mr. Corbett, in the canal, 10lb. of chub. On Wednesday Mr. Staymaker had a jack 11½lb., at Broadmoor ditch. At Tumbling Bathe, Mr. Beesley, six jack averaging 2lb. each. Lower down, Mr. Clarke, one jack 2lb. 2oz. In the canal, Mr. Corbett 5lb. of chub. Mr. Davis, eight perch at Kirtlington.—Cherwell Otter.

[Received too late for last week.—Ed.

### Thames (Sonning).

As the water has been so low and bright for such a long time I thought there was no chance of getting any fish; but was very much mistaken. Last Saturday, Mr. Mortimer, out with Clark, got 16 barbel, average 2lb., largest 4lb.; 16 chub, average 2¼lb., largest 4lb.; and 3 perch, all taken float-fishing. They went on Monday, but did not have such good luck—it was much colder; they never got a touch from a barbel. They got 2 chub and 4 jack, but nothing of any size. I hear there have been several jack taken below, the largest being 6lb. They will soon get out of the weeds, which are getting very slimy.—W. Hull.

---

### Ancholme District.

Owing to increasing cold, but few anglers have been out during the past week, and, so far as I have been able to glean, but little has been done. The leaves are falling fast, and the weeds are beginning to rot. At present the wind is high and in the north, with prospect of frost.—Thomas Ford.

### The Bure (Norwich).

Some good sport amongst the roach is reported from Wroxham, two gentlemen landing about 90 during the afternoon, some running ¾lb. Several others have had fair luck at different parts of the river, whilst spinning for jack has been fairly rewarded, though nothing of any size has yet been caught. There must be many very large pike roaming about on the river, as the Broads have abundance of monsters. My opinion is that almost any part from Coltishall down to Thurne Mouth will now yield good sport to the persevering anglers. Prospects first-rate.—Robert Moll.

### Chichester.

Since my last letter little has been done by anglers in this district. Mr. Wright has taken some small pike from the canal, while Mr. Young has been fairly successful among the perch. At Selham the water is much too low and bright. From the Ouse my friend writes me that a couple of small pike is the only record for the past three weeks. Some of the trout streams in this locality are quite dry, and until we get heavy rains, or the springs break, angling is almost a failure.—George F. Salter.

### The Dove.

Since my last the weather has continued its "mugginess." I don't much like that word, though it is exactly what describes the situation It is no more like October than July is like April. Neither grayling nor other kinds of fish are biting with any degree of freedom, and anglers generally complain that no matter what baits they use sport is only moderate. You hear of an occasional good dish, but, like angels' visits, they are few and far between. There will be no great improvement until we get a thorough change in the weather; and, in fact, it is no use looking for it. What few decent dishes have come to hand since last week have fallen to the cockspur worm. The maggot does not seem to "fetch" at all in the present state of the water. Pike are not stirring. They want a hard frost to set them moving; but judging from present appearances we shall not have any this side of Christmas.—The Splodger.

### The Dee and Don (Aberdeenshire).

The weather is now turning very cold, and there has been a good deal of snow in the higher districts during the past week, besides rain over all the country, so that the rivers have risen considerably. Sport has not been quite so good as might have been expected; but some anglers have had very fair results. Sniggering is going on as usual on the Don, which is stocked with fish, and a few of these have been got with fly and minnow. The flies which have been doing well on the Dee are glentana, blue doctor, and Gordon. We hear that large numbers of spawning fish are ascending the higher and back waters, and there is as yet no appearance of disease. On the Ythan some splendid sport has been got, as the sea trout are very numerous there, and two gentlemen who were out one day caught eighty-eight between them. A few salmon have likewise been killed on the Ythan. On the Don at Parkhill, during the last week, A. Muirhead Aitkin, Esq., has killed five salmon, ranging from 7lb. to 22lb. in weight. We have the following report from Mr. George Smith, Ballater:—J. B. Keith, Esq., fishing at Cambus o' May, landed a salmon 20lb., one of 9lb., and a grilse 4lb. John Simpson, Esq., at Monaltrie, had a fish of 8lb.; and Mr. Savage one weighing 6lb. For the Kincardine o' Neil section, Messrs. George Blacklaw and Son report:—On the Borrowstone Water, Walter Evans, Esq., Derby, had on Monday one salmon weighing 20lb.; and on Friday the same gentleman had three, weighing 19, 24, and 25lb. On the same beat Mr. S. M. Smurthwait had on Friday two of 10 and 17lb. respectively. At Ballogie, J. Mortimer, keeper, had one of 20lb. on Monday. On the Norton House water, W. Lamond, Esq., had on Monday, one salmon of 18lb.; on Tuesday, two of 18 and 19lb; and on Thursday, one of 23lb. Albert Farquhar, Esq., had one of 25lb. at Carlogie on Friday. On the Crathes and Kinneskie water General Keane killed one fish weighing 19lb. on Monday; on Tuesday he had three, weighing from 20 to 26lb.; and on Wednesday one of 17lb. On the same water J. White, Esq., had on Monday one of 16lb.; on Tuesday, two of 14 and 15lb. respectively; and on Friday two weighing 18 and 22lb. At Invery, there have been two killed during last week, scaling 8 and 28lb. On the Durris section the Messrs. Knowles on Wednesday had two salmon of 11 and 24lb.; on Friday they had two of 15½ and 30lb. weight; and on Saturday one weighing 21½lb. On Monday of this week a fish of 19lb. was killed. On the same water W. Mosley Dawson has killed three salmon, the largest being 29½lb. weight. At Park Sir George Chetwynd landed a salmon of 24lb. on Saturday, and on Monday this week he had one of 44lb., this being the largest fish taken from the Dee up to present time this season. At Blackhall, J. T. Hay, Esq., on Tuesday, had two salmon of 15 and 16lb.; and on Wednesday other two weighing 15 and 21lb.; and Colonel Boothby had one salmon 19lb. On the Inchmarlo waters, — Douglas, Esq., had two fish weighing 9 and 12lb.; and on the Woodend water R. C. Menzies, Esq., on Wednesday, landed one salmon 21lb.; and on Saturday one of 20lb. On the Cairnton section Captain Mayne killed two salmon on Monday weighing 18 and 27lb.; and on the same day — Biddolph, Esq., had likewise two weighing 17 and 19lb.; and the same gentleman had one of 19½lb. on Tuesday. On Wednesday, on this water, Colonel Sturt caught a salmon of 10lb., and on Thursday one of 26½lb. — Farley, Esq., had one salmon on the same water on Friday. On the Culter House water on Monday Captain Boyce landed two salmon of 10 and 11lb.; and on Tuesday one of 11lb., and on Thursday two, weighing 7 and 15lb. A. J. Fortescue, Esq., landed one salmon of 28lb. at Kingcausie on Tuesday. On the Blairs section six salmon have been taken ranging from 14 to 25lb. A report from the North Esk River informs us that good sport has been got there. Mr. Penn and Mr. Stokes had seven fish weighing on an average 20½lb. each. Colonel the Hon. R. A. Ramsay killed four salmon, weighing from 15 to 24lb., on the Morphie section of this river. During the past week Colonel Ramsay has killed 50 fish with his own rod. While fishing at Cambus o' May on Thursday a salmon of 21½lb. was killed by—W. M.

### The Earn (Perthshire).

The weather is good, fish are numerous, and considering the low state into which the Earn has again fallen, good sport is being got. On Thursday Mr. P. M'Ewen had two salmon, and Mr. Broadley one. On Saturday Mr. Broadley had one 22lb.; Mr. Cameron, three; Mr. Christie, one; and Mr. Stewart, Lawers, one. On Monday Mr. A. Stewart had one of 30lb., and one of 7lb. Mr. W. Cameron secured one, Mr. Hamilton two, and Mr. Cochrane one. On Saturday Mr. David Hunter killed four salmon weighing 18lb. each, and hooked several others. One of those hooked was a very large fish, and did not break away until after it had run for some time. Mr. T. Brady had two fish; Mr. J. P. Whaldon, London, one, 30lb.; Mr. Thomas, Manchester, three fish; Major Doncaster, one, 20lb.; Mr. A. B. Syme, one fish of 9lb.; Mr. A. Cook, one grilse of 8lb.; Mr. Glynn, three fish. On Monday Mr. J. Rutherford killed a grilse of 7lb.; and on Tuesday Mr. Heathcote, one, 17lb. Mr. J. Macdonald and Mr. W. Wilson, Perth, fished Lindores Loch, near Newburgh-on-Tay, and killed 47 pike, all in beautiful condition. Tuesday Oct. 28th: Mr. M'Intosh to-day captured a beauty, scaling 22lb., and in splendid condition; Messrs. Ross, Whyte, and Roy had 36lb. of sea trout. The heavy rain which fell at the beginning of the week has again put the river in flood, and a large number of anglers were out to-day. Friday, Oct. 31: The angling season on the Earn closes to-night. From the opening of the season until within the last month salmon and trout were reported to be plentiful, and good sport was enjoyed; but nothing demanding particular notice took place during that period. About a month ago the river, which had previously been running very low, rose sufficiently to allow the salmon to proceed up the river, and large numbers of anglers began to arrive daily in the locality. Since then, very extensive catches of good-sized salmon have been reported daily. Among the numerous anglers who have secured good catches recently were Mr. Henry Curr, of Pitkellony, factor to the Baroness Willoughby D'Eresby; Mr. Graham Stirling, of Strowan; Mr. Stewart, of Lawes; and General Briggs.—P. M. G.

### Eden (Carlisle).

In my report a fortnight ago I spoke despondingly of sport until we had another fresh to move up some more fish, and so it turned out, though a few fish were killed in the upper reaches of the river. Mr. H. Hodgson got to the blind side of two; Mr. R. Archbold killed one of 16lb.; George Leach had one at Lyke Fort; Mr. Lawson one at same place; and the keeper at Norwich Hall a 14 pounder. On the 25th ult. three fish were brought up from Grimsdale. On that day and the night before we had a fine rain, which raised the river a couple of feet; but it was accompanied by such a strong gale that the river was literally covered with leaves. Still I have no doubt that many good fish will be killed this week, though I have not as yet heard of any.—Silver Grey.

### The Exe and Canal (Exeter).

To-morrow closes our season for salmon fishing with rods, and it is, and will be, unfortunately chronicled as the most unsuccessful for many years, owing to the scarcity of water. Some nice perch have been taken at the Limekilns; also a few near Exwick, and at the latter place the dace have been sporting well, and captured with gentle and paste. The leaves are coming down in showers and blown into the culverts and bank corners, give the float a small chance of ducking unless something substantial communicates with the bait below. Autumn tints on trees and hedgerows add a lustre and beauty to our scenery which must be seen to be appreciated.—J. A. Kelley.

### Ilfracombe.

Sea fishing. Thursday last was a good day with the rod and line fishers, each of those out having good catches. From the flat rock, off the Parade, some fine conger were caught: Mr. W. Robbins, conger 26lb.; Mr. S. Rudd, one 24lb.; Mr. T. Brooks, 14lb.; and Mr. W. Burgess, 7lb. On Friday, Mr. Brede, fishing from the jetty, caught a nice cod 9lb. There were also some good catches from the boats, principally whiting pout, conger, and ling. Saturday, several fine conger and some nice strings of whiting pout taken; hering fishing slack. Monday, a stiff breeze blowing, consequently no fish; hope the ground sea will send the herrings to the surface. Wednesday evening, wind moderated a little, several boats out drifting. The largest quantity of herrings brought in was 1½ maize. Weather still squally.—E. Comer.

### Lea (Tottenham).

The colder weather of the last fortnight sharpened the appetites of the jack, and brought them well on the feed. Most of the anglers who have gone in for jack fishing have been rewarded with one or more. Mr. Bell killed three one afternoon, the lot weighing 13lb.; Mr. Goddard, two, 7lb. and 4¼lb.; Mr. Dod, one, 4¾lb.; Mr. Dequarete, one 4½lb.; Mr. Beresford, one 3lb., and two smaller ones, and last, but not least by a long way, comes the take of Mr. Culfe, who has again been successful in capturing one of the big fish for which this water is noted, viz., a handsome pike, scaling 17lb. 13½oz. It is only two or three weeks ago that he captured one of 14lb., which was duly reported at the time. They are both gone to the taxidermist to be set up, and, when finished will be on view (for a time) in the bar of the proprietors of the fishery, the Messrs. Day, of Ye Old Ferry Boat. Mr. Mills got four good barbel from the "barbel hole" at the top of the water, and a gentleman, perch fishing, captured a good one of 1lb. 9oz. The roach fishers, as a rule, have fared badly until the last two or three days, the fish being off feed; but on Wednesday afternoon I saw that A. Williams, baiting with paste, was getting a "knock" pretty well every swim, and when they come "knocking" at A. W.'s bait, it means the last "knock" for a very large proportion of those who do so. Mr. Bennett has been down (whipping) several times, his best days being two dozen and seven dace and one chub, and one dozen and seven dace. The best killing flies just now are small olive duns. The change of Nature from her habit of joyful green for a robe of sombre russet, and the silence of the songsters—save the cheerful robin—warns the fly fisher for coarse fish that the season for him is nearly finished. When the end, so near, does come, I know that the verdict of more than one wielder of the hickory will be—"It has been the best (especially for roach) I have ever had."—Hackles Red.

### Leicester.

Angling has not been so vigorously pursued as is usually the case during the past few days. The dry weather caused the waters to become low, and this had a prejudicial effect on the fishing. The Leicester Society's preserves at Aylestone have received the greatest amount of attention, and the fishing indulged in has been principally for pike, perch, and chub. Although a few nice takes were shown, nothing worthy of being recorded has been weighed in at the club houses. Just at this period of the year some good pike should be caught if properly angled for, as there are plenty in the waters. Mr. H. Hurst got his line broken last Saturday by a large fish whilst angling in the home waters near St. Mary's Mills, and a fair quantity of good sized pike were caught by Messrs. F. G. Walker and a popular Leicester publican named C. Baugh, at some private waters near Great Glean. The members of the No. 4 branch of the Leicester Jolly Anglers Club had a very pleasant gathering at the Lion and Lamb, Lee-street, on Monday; Mr. W. Holmes occupied the chair, and Mr. L. Butt the vice-chair. After the cloth had been drawn the prizes were distributed as follows:—Perch, 1st, W. Holmes, 2nd, G. Smith; roach, 1st, L. Bute, 2nd, G. Gilmore; dace, 1st, F. Notine; chub, 1st, G. Horton, 2nd, W. Rawlins; bream nil; whiting, 1st, W. Kems, 2nd, G. Pentrill, 3rd, Brown and Mitchell (both of the same weight). Reports from the outlying district show angling matters to be somewhat quiet. On Tuesday morning we experienced a very violent storm of wind and rain, which lasted for several hours, and in many instances caused an amount of damage in the locality. More rain, however, is much needed.—Alert.

### Lugg and Arrow (Leominster).

Both these streams are now in capital order for fishermen, still keeping clear. The late frosts have made the grayling sport freely at the fly, and some very good lots have been taken with the willow and whirling blue. Good dishes of fish have been taken with the grasshopper. A gentleman visited the Lugg on Friday, and with the willow landed a fine lot of grayling. Some capital sport was had the same day in the Arrow. A gentleman tried the water with the whirling blue, and took a nice dish of fine fish. In the Arrow near Stanley, on Saturday, a gentleman, with the grasshopper, landed a capital lot of grayling averaging ½lb. each; four trout were brought to land, but were returned to the watter immediately. A few very good fish were taken in the Lugg, near Bodenham, with the willow. A gentleman visited the Arrow near Eardisland, on Monday, and with the fly took a good dish of fine grayling, weighing 4lb the lot. In the Lugg, near Aymestry, a gentleman, with the grasshopper, landed a fine lot of fish. Some capital sport has been had in the Lugg, near Ford's Bridge, with the willow, and some good fish have been taken. On Tuesday a gentleman tried the water near Kingsland with the grasshopper, and landed a splendid dish of fine fish. A good lot of grayling were taken in the Arrow with the whirling blue. Fishing in the Monkland district is quiet. Some good fish have been taken in the water near Ivington. The Pinsley is in good angling order; the fish are sporting well at the fly. A nice lot of fish were taken on Friday with the willow.—GWYNNE.

### Medway (Tunbridge).

The water is still low and bright as gin, and I have not heard of many good catches, as anglers are waiting for a flood to make things at all lively. Several good jack have, however, been taken from Ballast Pit, where local society think of putting a stock of trout if only funds can be raised to secure them.—YE MEDWAY WATER RAT.

### Ouse and Ivel (Blunham).

Although these rivers are still very clear, some good sport has been had. On Tuesday afternoon six nice pike were taken by Mr. Triplow.—S. E.

### The Ouse (Huntingdon).

The water is in fair condition, and the weather very favourable for jack; but a good rain would make it better, for the jack have not been feeding very freely. A few small ones have been taken, but nothing to boast of. The frost has cut the weeds in various parts of the river, which have been the cover for them. A few more frosts and a flush of water is wanting to bring them on the feed. Dace and bright roach have been the bait used, but dace are the best killing bait.—H. ROUT.

### The Spey.

Anglers for the past ten days have had capital sport, with the river in good size and colour. Some heavy baskets were got in the Aberlour House Water. On the 15th ult., Mr. J. Duff killed a fish weighing 8lb. On the Arkenway Water, on the 15th, Captain Haynes killed a salmon and 12 yellow trout, the heaviest of which weighed 2½lb. On the Wester Elchies Water, on the 8th. Mr. Walter Gordon Cumming killed a salmon weighing 25lb., and John Cruickshank, a salmon weighing 22lb. On the 9th Mr. Gordon, West Park, Elgin, secured a fish 17lb. weight, and on the 13th, one weighing 7½lb. The same water yielded a grilse weighing 7lb. to Captain McLennan. Mr. Cruickshank killed a salmon 9½lb. weight; on the 14th Captain McLennan, two salmon 7lb. and 12lb.; Captain Grant, Glen Grant, a salmon 12lb.; Captain McGowan, Aberlour, five finnocks. On the section opposite the village of Aberlour, Sergt. Jamieson killed a salmon 21½lb. weight; Mr. T. Morrison, a grilse, 5lb.; Mr. James Wilson, Edinburgh, five finnocks, and two sea trout. On the Fiddoch, on the 10th, Mr. John Kelman, Dufftown, secured three grilse weighing 3lb., 3¼lb., 3½lb. On the 11th, Mr. James Proctor, a sea trout 2¼lb.; Mr. Wm. Thomson, a sea trout 3lb. On the 13th, Mr. John Kelman three grilse, 3lb. 4lb., 4½lb; Mr. John Cruickshank, a fish 6lb.; Mr. John Davidson, a grilse 5½lb.; Mr. W. Hood, a grilse 6lb.; Mr. Walker, a grilse 3½lb.; and Mr. Geo. Nutchell a sea trout 3½lb.

[Received too late for last week.]

### Teme (Ludlow).

The latter end of this month (October) promises to be more favourable to the angler than the beginning. We have been blessed for some days past with splendid autumnal weather, and anglers have been generally lucky "in the sport which they court by the gentle riverside." Nearly all the streams around this district have received a fair number of visits from gentlemen anxious to avail themselves of the fine weather before the autumn closes, for I see the next number of the FISHING GAZETTE will bear the impress of Nov. 1st, so that we are almost face to face with winter. But winter or no winter, there are fishermen in Ludlow who visit the riverside weekly grayling fishing all through the winter months. I have seen them return of an evening when the ground has been covered a foot deep in snow. The recent frosty nights and the wind of Saturday night has so far stripped the trees of their leaves that in some parts the Teme has been almost choked up, and nearly impeded the working of the turbine connected with the Ludlow Waterworks. For top-fishing, the best flies in use have been the pale blue, the willow, and the silver dun, all these have proved themselves pretty good killers, and they have been used alternately during the week. The willow did most execution on Saturday. Mr. Cartwright caught eight brace of grayling with it, and sundry small fish, in the Park waters. Down towards Barrett's Mill some good fish were caught with the pale blue and silver dun by a gentleman from Worcestershire. He managed to land eight grayling, four perch, and six roach, the lot weighed 6½lb. The Corve is in good order, and has been fairly top and bottom fished. Some averaged sized grayling caught with the maggot on Monday. The Clun and the Oney are in better order and are improving.—S. LUDLOW.

### Teme (Tenbury).

There is but little difference in the state of this stream, it still remaining clear and in splendid condition for the angler. The grayling are now well on the feed, and are sporting freely at the fly. Some sharp showers of rain fell in this district on Saturday night, but made but little difference to the colour of the water. Some splendid grayling have been taken with the grasshopper. The best killing flies are the whirling blue willow and green insect; and good baskets have been taken with them. On Friday, a gentleman visited the water near the town, and with the grasshopper landed a splendid basket of fine grayling, averaging ½lb. each. A gentleman tried the water in the Little Hereford district the same day, and took a good dish of fine fish with the willow. The water near Berrington was fished on Saturday, and a nice lot of fish were landed with the whirling blue. In the water near to Eastham, a gentleman with the fly took a fine lot of grayling, scaling 6lb. the lot. On Monday, a gentleman visited the water with the maggot, and landed a nice lot of perch and a few grayling. The water near the bridge was fished the same day, and a capital lot of grayling were landed with the willow and whirling blue. The weather being in splendid order for the angler on Tuesday, a gentleman tried the water near Corn Brook, and with the green insect landed a good dish of fine fish averaging 10oz. each. A good lot of grayling were taken in the water near Rochford with the willow. Some very good fish have been taken in the Association waters. Little doing in the Ledwyche. The Kyre and Rea are in good order; but fishing quiet.—WORCESTER.

### Taw (N. Devon).

Peel are running up—a gentleman took four on the 30th ult. and ran more. The rivers have only just begun to rise, and not very much now; if we could get only a foot rise it would do. I heard a gentleman say he had caught with the minnow some few peel in the Lynn. The Board of Conservators are compelled through the scarcity of peel and salmon to increase the size of the mesh of the nets. The destruction was something very wonderful these nets have done lately, and fish are very much less in numbers and size, and a peel of ½lb. could not pass through, and fourteen or fifteen of these nets swept the whole river. The rod fishing closes on Nov. 15, so not very much can be expected this season.—RUSTY GAME.

### Trent (Alrewas).

During the past week the river has been much higher and slightly coloured, but in excellent condition for fishing. A fine barbel, weighing 7lb. 9oz., was landed after twenty-five minutes' hard fighting. Fine roach tackle and cockspur worm was used upon this occasion. Another member, fishing with perch worms, landed in one and a half hours five barbel, weighing respectively 7½lb., 7lb., 5½lb., 3lb. 5oz., and 2¾lb. The Rev. — Webb, rector of Alrewas, landed a pike, 3lb., after a good fight, whilst fly-fishing at the mill.—ANON.

### The Trent (Nottingham).

The river here remains in splendid condition for bottom fishing, a rise of between eight and ten inches coming down on Wednesday. There was a nice tinge of colour in the water, and our anglers were not slow to avail themselves of the change. In the lower waters, Mr. Jukes, of Radford, and Mr. A. Smith, of Nottingham. enjoyed some capital sport amongst the chub, two of which were weighed in at the Alexandra Association (Mr. R. Whalley's) in Carrington-street. There has probably been less doing at Shardlow, Weston, and Willington, and the wielders of the salmon-rod in these noted parts, as, in fact, all others on the Trent, will be compelled, after to-day, to lay aside their tackle until the opening of the spring season. This last summer's returns eclipse everything previously attempted, either with rod or line or nets on the river; and we are well within the bounds of probability when we state that at the three places named above 200 fish have, since February last, fallen a prey to the anglers' skill. This week, Mr. J. Stanley, taxidermist, Trent-street, has received for preservation a monster fish of 38lb. It was caught with the fly on single gut by Mr. Unsworth, of Manchester, who has the reputation of being one of the most expert salmon anglers in the North. Mr. Unsworth played his splendid prize an hour and a quarter, and a more symmetrical fish it has seldom been my lot to see.—THE MAN AT THE CLUBS.

### Trent (Newark).

During the early part of this week the weather was so very rough, blowing, in fact, a gale, that it was difficult to keep a safe footing on the bank. A friend of mine started off in his boat for a bit of pike-fishing, and in consequence of the severity of the gale very nearly suffered shipwreck, so gave it up for that day. yesterday (Wednesday) the weather was much nicer, and the water came on about 18in., and those anglers who were fortunate enough to get to a suitable place on the rising water succeeded in landing some very nice dace. A friend of mine got a few, and among them were two dace weighing over 9oz. each. To-day (Thursday) the water has gone down some eight inches or so. I went for an hour or two this afternoon; but I ought to have gone yesterday in a rising water, instead of to-day in a falling water. I found the water in not very bad trim, a trifle of colour in it, and dropping down fast, so I had to be content with eight good dace, taken with cockspur worms, which, by the bye, I might add was the lure my friend used the day before. This bait will be found the best now for roach and dace, and if water clears down chub should come at pith and brains. I have not heard of any sensational catches being had this last fortnight, except some of the Muskham Fishery members, who got among the bream one day; but I don't care to report imaginary catches. I prefer to mention things as I find them, and not for the sake of writing a glowing report, will I be tempted to report anything but what I know to be a fact: Mr. Levich's statement to the contrary notwithstanding.—THE TRENT OTTER.

### Tweed.

The weather during the past week has, on the whole, been pretty favourable for angling, and the following are the takes that have been got. October 22:—On the Mertoun water the Hon. H. Brougham had fair sport, two of his fish weighing 16 and 18lb. On Thursday, on Sprouston Dub, Mr. Bidder, Q.C., got four fish weighing 7, 17, 18, and 20lb. On the Floors Castle upper water, Major Houston Boswall had two grilse. On Saturday, on the Ednam House water Mr. James Gibson had one of 20lb. On Sprouston water, Mr. Brunlees had one of 9lb.; and on the Dub, Mr. Whatman, London, got four weighing 8, 16, 28, and 30lb.; on the Hendersyde water Captain Waldie Griffith had splendid sport, killing ten salmon of the aggregate weight of 176lb., the heaviest being 28lb; at Birgham, Mr. Denison had three, 16, 17, and 14lb.; and on Floors upper water the hon. C. Barrington had four salmon. On Monday, on the Sprouston water, Mr. Brunlees got two grilse; on the Ednam House water Mr. Drummond killed one salmon of 17lb.; on the Hendersyde water Sir Geo. Waldie Griffith had five, the heaviest being 21½lb.; on the same water Captain Bridges had one of 18½lb; on Sprouston water, Mr. Bidder, Q.C., had three, 18, 18, and 20lb. On Tuesday, on the Ednam House water Mr. Drummond got four weighing 10, 17½, 19, and 20lb.; on the Sprouston water Mr. Brunlees got two, one 30lb. and one 18lb.; on the Hendersyde water, Captain Griffith killed eight salmon, the largest of which weighed 31½lb.; Mr. Barrington had two on Floors lower water. On Wednesday, on Sprouston water, Mr. Brunlees had three salmon; and Mr. Bidder one of 10lb.; on Carham water, Mr. Hay Gordon had one of 22lb.; at Sprouston, Messrs. Whatman and Balfour, London, had splendid sport; they had no fewer than seventeen salmon, four weighing 30lb. each, six 26lb. each, four 22lb. each, the remainder being smaller; on the Hendersyde water, Sir G. W. Griffith had eight salmon, the heaviest 24lb.: and Captain W. Griffith had four—heaviest 22lb. On the Pavilion water, in the Melrose district, on Monday last week, General Dean had three salmon. On Tuesday, Captain Erskine had two, 17lb. and 15lb.; General Henry three, the heaviest being 19lb.; and General Dean three, weighing 17lb., 17lb., and 21lb. On Thursday, General Dean got one of 15lb., and a couple of bull trout. On Saturday, on Boldside water, Mr. Middlemass had two, 9lb. and 11lb.; Mr. John Lang, Broadmeadows, after a fine run of two hours, landed a salmon 31lb.; Mr. Grahame had one of 21lb.; and Mr. Hood one of 19lb.; Mr. W. Pratt, Horncliffe, had two grilse and a salmon of 30lb.; Mr. J. Riddell, of St. Ninian's, Wooler, had one of 19lb. and a grilse of 9lb., on the Lennel Haugh water; on the Boat House water, Norham, Mr. R. Smith, Leith, killed a regular beauty of 28lb.—MAX WHEEL.

P.S.—Since writing the above I have just received the following information:—On October 28th, on Birgham water, Mr. A. Denison killed three fish—20lb., 16lb., and 18lb. On the 29th, on the same water, Mr Denison killed seven salmon, weighing respectively 10lb., 16lb., 18lb., 20lb., 21lb., 21lb., and 23lb. On the Lower Carham water, the same day, Mr. Vansittart killed 11 salmon, the weights of which, however, we were unable to ascertain. October 30th.—On the Sprouston water Mr. Bidder, Q.C., London, had killed five fish up to one o'clock.

### Waveney (Beccles).

Angling generally has been very slow this week. We have had some very high tides the last few days, and there will now be a very good chance for the pike fisherman, as the high tides generally drive the fish nearer town. Mark Mills, out with two gentlemen on the 23rd on the Broad, landed two pike, 5½lb. and 3½lb. respectively. Several other pike anglers were out the same day, but did nothing. Captain James, on Tuesday, two pike, 4lb. and 2½lb. Weather and water now both in good trim.—A WAVENEY ANGLER.

### Wharfe (Yorkshire).

The long-wished-for rain has come at last, and to-day (Wednesday) the Wharfe is in full flood. It is the first heavy water that we have had in this district since March, so that there is little wonder that the present has been the worst season that we have experienced for many years. The bottom of the river has become one mass of slime and weed which the present flood will no doubt clear away, much to the delight of grayling fishers. I expect some good dishes will be made when the water subsides. The anglers' dinner, held at the Queen's Hotel, Leeds, on Tuesday evening, was an unqualified success, and will no doubt become an annual institution. Particulars will be found in another part of the paper. A correspondent writes me to-night that the Yore will be in grand order for grayling fishing by Friday or Saturday.—FRANCIS M. WALBRAN.

### Wye and Derwent.

We have had a high water on the Derwent ever since last Monday, from the heavy rains which fell up in the woodlands. There has been little or no fly fishing; only on the higher lengths, from Rowsley to Ambergate, the bottom fishers, fishing with both worms and maggots, have killed a fair quantity of both grayling, chub, roach, dace, and a few perch. The fish have fed the best in the swims close to the rough streams, and in water from 2ft. to 3½ft. deep. Pike have fed very badly during the week. There ought to be some first-class grayling fishing next week with both fly and bottom, as these flushes have swept away many of the leaves, which were very troublesome to the angler. Fly fishing on the Wye ought to be good next week. Furnace, ash dun, lean, and bumble flies will be found killers when the fish are rising.—GEO. JAS. EATON.

### The Yare (Norwich).

The take of jack on this river during the three last days of the past week was remarkable. Professor Day had good sport each day, catching, I believe, from seven to eleven each day; whilst on Friday, a member of the Champion Club brought home thirteen, and I am informed he returned five to the water. He was down again on the next day, and had excellent luck. Several other friends were equally fortunate. I may add that these were caught spinning in the reaches above and below Buckenham Ferry. Altogether, there were upwards of forty pike hooked and secured in the three days; but after this encouraging state of affairs came the gale of Sunday last, which had the effect of sending the water up to an unusual height. And also I am sorry to say the salts reached as high up the stream as Brundall, with the result that many fish of all kinds down the river have been killed. It was mentioned at the annual dinner of the Norwich Angling Club, on Tuesday last (particulars of which I will forward for next issue) that several bream of large size had been picked up, killed by the salt water; some as heavy as 5lb. were mentioned. This unfortunate occurrence quite put a stop to sport during the early part of this week; but to-day (Thursday) I notice the waters have gone down to their normal condition, and good luck ought to reward those who try the upper reaches, as near Norwich as they please. We ought to hear now of some jack being caught in the vicinity of Thorpe Broad. Some good roach were caught the latter part of last week at several stations. The prospects are now again favourable, and the weather is all that can be desired—slight frosts early each morning, followed by bright warm days.—ROBERT MOLL.

### Yore (Hawes).

Several very nice baskets of grayling have fallen to the "palmers," red and black. The red palmer, dressed with a peacock herl body (the moon of the peacock is the best), the black palmer ribbed with silver tinsel. I was out myself on Saturday, but only succeeded in killing a single fish with a grey partridge fly bodied with peacock herls. The day was most unsuitable. I rose many fish, but they came very short. Other anglers experienced the same thing. The water is now in first-rate trim for fly-fishing. I have never tried the grasshopper, as I cannot obtain the necessary adjuncts (maggots), but I dare say it would kill well here as the streams are most suitable for fishing in. Grayling are very numerous, and seem to be of a good size, as several of over a pound have fallen victims to the green insect and the palmers mentioned above.—JAS. CORRY.

## TURNING TROUT INTO THE TIDEWAY.

SOME time since the Richmond Piscatorial Society arranged to turn into the tideway 50 young trout, with the object of still further improving the fishing in that portion of the river.

Mr. Andrews, of Guildford, from whom the trout were purchased, wrote last week to say 25 of the fish were ready, and it was accordingly arranged that as many members as could attend the ceremony should be present. The hon. secretary, Mr. G. H. Hester, met the fish at Clapham Junction and brought them on to Twickenham, thence to the White Swan at the river side. They were kept there till 4.30, by which time the flood tide water had run off. The chairman, Mr. A. Stikle; the vice-chairman, Mr. H. Dickinson; Messrs. G. H. Hester, Scantlebury, Bingley, Gaunt, Gaynor, Johnson, Matthews Matthews, Marjason, Wright, and others, had by this time assembled, and accompanied the boat in conveying the fish up stream. The point selected was about half a mile below Teddington lock, and above the influence of the mud from below river, and the trout were turned in with many expressions of hope for their prosperity and increase.

It was admitted on all sides that the fish were of splendid quality and size, ranging from 8in. to upwards of 12in. in length, and just suitable for the purpose, as they had never been artificially fed, and consequently well able to take care of themselves.

The river-keepers happened to be passing at the time, and witnessed the affair. This action of the Richmond Piscatorial Society is a very practical mode of assisting the Thames Angling Preservation Society in their efforts to stock and preserve Old Father Thames, to which society they also contribute five guineas annually.

[Came too late for last week.—ED.]

CONSERVATION OF NORFOLK FISHERIES.—We have pleasure in noting that Mr. W. Oldham-Chambers, of South Kensington and Lowestoft, has been appointed by the Justices of the County one of the Conservators under the Norfolk and Suffolk Fisheries Act, in recognition of the valuable services this gentleman has rendered in the preservation and improvement of the fisheries of this district for so many years past. We congratulate our friend Mr. Oldham-Chambers on this honour.

THERE has been in previous years so much sameness about Christmas Numbers, that it is almost startling to hear of such a coming novelty as a Christmas Number which will derive the greater part of its letterpress from the pens of the Earl of Carnarvon and the Earl of Lytton. This, however, is what we are promised by the editor of *St. Stephen's Review*. The Christmas Number in question will be called *St. Stephen's Saturnalia*, and will travel completely out of the beaten track. Lord Lytton's contribution is entitled "Bernardo, a Study of Sentiment," and is illustrated by Mr. Cruikshank. Another novel feature of the *Saturnalia* will be a grand Christmas pantomime, "The Forty Thieves," dealing with the Liberal Party, and illustrated by Phil. May. Henry Furniss will do the principal picture; and among other notable artists engaged are Wallis Mackay and Tom Merry.

THE WATER WAGTAIL.—The wagtail derives its name from the constant habit of elevating its tail with a quick, jerky motion, as though desirous of keeping the plumage clean and dry. It runs very quickly, and flies with an alternate rising and falling in the air. This peculiar flight is one of its most observable characteristics, and the bird may readily be distinguished by it from almost all others. Although so closely associated with water, the wagtail is unable to swim, but the ease and confidence with which it moves over the floating leaves of water-plants renders this accomplishment quite superfluous. Besides its partiality for the water-side, this little bird may frequently be seen on lawns, in meadows, farmyards, roadways, and fields where ploughing is being carried on; indeed, this last is a favourite resort, and the wagtail may be commonly noticed following closely on the heels of the ploughman, and searching for food amongst the newly-turned furrows with great activity and perseverance. In the selection of localities for building their nests, these birds are somewhat erratic, and do not appear to have any particular partiality; sometimes they build in the stonework of some old bridge or in the hollow of a tree, whilst the sides of railway cuttings, the banks of streams, low mud or stone walls, and faggot stacks are very frequently made use of. The nest is built of stems of grass, leaves, small roots, and moss, and is lined with wool, hair, feathers, or any convenient soft substance.—From *Familiar Wild Birds* for October.

# CLUB REPORTS.

### ACTON PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

Another of those piscatorial contests for which the Acton Society has become famous took place on Thursday, the 23rd ult., when the Hammersmith United Society met in friendly rivalry with the members of the Acton Club. The success of the last contest between these societies was so close, and with so productive and friendly feeling, that it was resolved to try again, and this time to entertain the Hammersmith fishermen at Acton. Six men were chosen on each side, and taking train for Twickenham, the contest commenced in the Thames from punts, at nine a.m., being continued until five in the evening. The first part of the day was foggy, but towards noon the mist lifted, and though well into October, the air was not such as to render the spot unpleasant. On the contrary, the fishermen thoroughly enjoyed the outing, and succeeded in securing good bags. At six o'clock most of the fishermen took train for Acton, and, repairing to the George and Dragon Hotel, the club-house of the Acton Society, the task of weighing in commenced. There were some fine fish among the catches, one roach weighing 1lb. 3oz., caught by Mr. W. Eydmann, being especially admired. There were also some fine dace, but not much in the barbel line. The weighing took a considerable time, but eventually the figures were announced as follows:—*Hammersmith United.*—Mr. Penny, 8lb. 9oz.; Green, 6lb. 13½oz.; Bacchus, 6lb. 10oz.; Hobden, 15lb. 6oz.; Smith, 5lb. 9½oz.; Inman, 3lb. 12oz.—Total, 46lb. 12oz. *Acton Piscatorial.*—E. Eydmann, 3lb. 15oz.; W. Eydmann, 7lb. 11oz.; F. West, 7lb. 8oz.; W. Cook, 11lb. 5½oz.; J. Pike, 7lb. 12oz.; W. Howell, 5lb. 12oz.—Total, 44lb. 9½oz. Hammersmith thus won by 2lb. 2½oz. At seven o'clock the fishermen sat down to dinner, which was well served by Mr. Brooks and his assistants. The chair was occupied by Mr. Bocking, and the vice-chair by Mr. Smith, of Hammersmith. There were also present—Messrs. Hobden, Inman, Penny, Green, Bacchus, W. and E. Eydmann, W., G., and J. Howell, F. A. West, Richardson, Townsend, Newark, J. Pike, W. Cook, Clarke, Brooks, Gibson and Hubble. The cloth having been cleared, the chairman read the result of the competition as given above, and proceeded to remark that at the last competition the Hammersmith Society were beaten by only half an ounce; and having, therefore, won one and lost one contest, he hoped there would be a final trial of skill before the close of the fishing season. Mr. Penny returned thanks for Hammersmith. The vice-chairman then proposed "Success to the Acton Piscatorial Society," coupling with the toast the name of Mr. Cooke. Mr. Cooke acknowledged the compliment. Mr. Bacchus next proposed "The Health of Messrs. W. and E. Eydmann," members of a family he had known for 40 years, and who were both excellent anglers. It had given him great pleasure to fish with them that day, and he would ask the company to drink to their health. Mr. W. Eydmann, in returning thanks, said as far as he was concerned these periodical outings were among the most enjoyable days of his life, and he was convinced that if more men would take to angling it would not only conduce to their health, but would cause such a friendly feeling to spring up between neighbours that it must certainly benefit their fellow-creatures. He trusted this contest would not be their last, and that the Hammersmith and Acton Societies would meet on many future occasions and enjoy a few hours together. The chairman next proposed "Success to the London Anglers' Association." Mr. W. Eydmann, in returning thanks, said there was no doubt that the London Association was one of the most useful in existence. If they referred to the FISHING GAZETTE at any time during the year they would find that the Association was doing a grand work for anglers. What would become of the public fishing waters in this part of the country he did not know if this and other angling societies did not look after their interests. Mr. Hobden also returned thanks, and called attention to the Thames Rights Defence Association. The chairman next proposed "The Health of the Visitors," coupling with the toast the name of Mr. Smith, of Hammersmith, who suitably returned thanks. "The Health of the Host" having been drank, the company separated, a most pleasant evening having been spent. During the evening songs were sung by Messrs. Bacchus, Hubbie, Penny, Clark, Green, Newark, and W. Howell, Mr. Bocking presiding at the piano.

### AMICABLE BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

On the 26th ult. twenty-eight of the members competed for the fourteen prizes, but owing to the bad state of the weather only seven got fish. Mr. Binks, 1st; Mr. Harding, 2nd; Mr. Soy, 3rd; Mr. Arnold, 4th; Mr. Partrick, 5th; Mr. F. Plumstead, 6th; Mr. Squires, 7th. After the match the members adjourned to Mr. Coomes, the Five Horseshoes, Hoddesdon, where a most substantial tea was provided. Twenty-three sat down, and did ample justice to the good cheer placed before them. The remaining seven prizes will be fished for in the same water, on Nov. 2nd, all to go down in the same manner as regards fishing and trains.—J. WORLEDGE, sec.

### ANGLERS' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

The next meeting of the committee will be held on Friday, Nov. 14th, at the Foresters' Hall, at 9 o'clock, when members will oblige by their attendance on important business.—R. GHURNEY, sec.

### THE ANGLERS' ASSOCIATION.

The monthly meeting of the commitee will be held on Monday evening next, Nov. 3rd, at the Foresters' Hall. Chair taken at 9 o'clock. The next delegate meeting will take place on Monday evening, Nov. 17th, at 9 o'clock.—R. GHURNEY, sec.

### BATTERSEA FRIENDLY ANGLING CLUB.

The members of this society fished a pegged-down match at Windsor on the 26th ult., for a prize of the value of two guineas, presented by Mr. W. Burgess, which was won after a good contest by Mr. W. Stockman. Mr. Moore, of the Independent Brothers, kindly presented a prize for the largest roach taken during the season over 1lb. At our meeting on Tuesday Mr. F. Newton kindly presented a prize to be fished for by the members. Mr. King also presented one for the largest jack taken during the season. A meeting is called for Tuesday next to fix the junior contest for four prizes. All members are requested to attend. Members are requested to attend on this (Saturday) evening, Nov. 1st, at 9 o'clock, for special business.—GEO. MUMFORD, president.

### BOSTONIAN ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of the above society have had some good sport, Mr. Taylor weighing over 40lb. of barbel and jack from the Thames; Mr. Jennings over 50lb. of roach and dace; Mr. Jamieson and Mr. Brothers have weighed some good jack from the canal; Messrs. Elton, Goodge, Mann, and Cooper have had some good bream and roach. On the 26th ult., we fished for four prizes at Bourne End. The takes were very poor, Mr. Cooper winning the first prize with three roach, weighing 13oz.; Messrs. Brothers and Jamieson, a tie for second and third prize; Mr. Goodge winning the fourth prize. Mr. Elton, one roach, 3oz.; Mr. Jennings weighed two jack, 9lb., from Bourne End.—J. J.

### BROMPTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of the above fished for a supper at Bourne End on the 26th ult, 20 members showing up. After choosing sides, each one went to his favourite swim, and at the close of the day only five succeeded in getting fish, the weather being so rough. Independent of the supper, some valuable prizes were given, by Mr. Herbert, Mr. Brown, and Mr. Ray. The following members weighed in fish:—Mr. Antis, first prize, perch and dace, largest perch 1lb. 4oz.; Mr. Sparrow second, with roach and dace; Mr. Sparkes, third, with roach; Messrs. Saunders and Brown, roach and dace.—W. DUTTON, sec.

### THE CLAPTON.

The usual meeting was held at the Swan Hotel, on Monday last, Mr. R. A. Chillingworth in the chair. After the minutes of the last meeting had been read and signed, the ordinary business was proceeded with; the confirmation of the new members elected last week was ratified. Mr. J. Wood weighed in 9lb. of very handsome roach, averaging from 1lb. to 1½lb. each. Several members reported having been out, but with poor results. The secretary reported having sent out 87 circulars to the members, inviting their special attendance at this meeting, as he had had some very kind offers of capital musical assistance, and he was truly glad to see so large a company present, especially as he recognised so many good anglers and representatives of several important societies. He regretted that it was somewhat unfortunate that the public meeting at the Town Hall, Hackney, called respecting the river Lea pollution, was also held that evening, and as he had been asked by anglers, boatingmen, and others, to protest on their behalf against the continued pollution of the river, he had done the best he could, as in place of being present in *propria persona*, he had written a report to the chairman of the meeting, a copy of which he would read to them. The members expressed their entire approval with what Mr. Howse had written. Several members and other gentlemen came up to the meeting after leaving the meeting at the Town Hall. They described that meeting as being very largely attended, and that several excellent resolutions had been passed. Mr. Howse's letter was read at the meeting, and was approved. The usual hot supper provided by the landlord was done ample justice to; and Mr. Winterbottom then, in answer to the request of the chairman, opened the musical part of the evening with an admirable selection from "Lohengrin" on the pianoforte. Mr. Walters then gave an exceedingly comic song, in character, with a banjo accompaniment, "Funny Little Nigger." Later in the evening this gentleman convulsed the audience with a stump speech, and being encored, gave, in a most laughable manner, "Mary had a Little Lamb." Mr. Bokenham sang splendidly "Good Night Beloved," "Belle Mahone," and other songs during the evening. Mr. Harry Prenton gave the "Little Hero"—his rich voice was very much admired; the brothers Austin sang several songs very nicely. Mr. Beck was loudly applauded in "Philip the Falconer," and kindly responded to an encore. Mr. Parker (Gresham) was, as usual, very funny on his magic flute. The chairman gave, in a truly artistic manner, "The Englishman." Mr. Taylor's rendering of "The Italian Image Boy" was a masterpiece, and, in response to an encore, gave "My Pretty Jane," in his usual brilliant manner. Mr. J. Ellis gave a most humorous comic song, and his "Sham, dan, dah" rang in the ears of the members, as did the burst of laughter which this very funny song evoked. Capt. Harris was loudly applauded for his capital song, "The Sea"; Mr. Wood was, as usual, very amusing with the funny song from the "Ticket of Leave"; "Tom Bowling" was very well sung by Mr. H. Short; Mr. Kidd gave a capital comic song; Mr. Binks sang "The Gallant Twenty-fourth" in his usual capital style; and Mr. Hendy was very comic with an Irish song. A vote of thanks to the visitors, proposed by Mr. Tibbatts, was carried most heartily, and was responded to by Mr. Parker, of the Gresham, in a very neat little speech. That gentleman highly complimented the Clapton on all that he had heard of them, and now that he had seen for himself their splendid club-room and its appointments, also the gentlemen whom he had the pleasure of being amongst that night, he was assured of his former conviction, that the Clapton was a first-class angling society, in which "harmony" in its truest acceptation existed amongst its jovial members. A cordial vote of thanks to the chairman closed the proceedings.—HENRY HOWSE, hon. sec.

### CLAPHAM JUNCTION ANGLING SOCIETY.

The result of the contest on the 26th ult. was W. Maslin, 1st; Mr. Favell, 2nd; Mr. Jones, 3rd. The weighing in caused considerable excitement, as the takes were so near. A jack (4lb.) contained about ½lb. of well-developed ova; is not this unusual at this time of year? Two hon. members are to be proposed on Thursday next. Mr. Withers has been most successful at Cookham, having had heavy takes each day. He sent to the club two handsome cases, one containing a jack 16lb., the other two chub about 9lb., which addition makes our club-room quite a museum of fish. We shall always welcome any brother of the angle who may be desirous of an inpection. A further prize was given by Mr. Withers for the heaviest take of jack (one day) during the season.—W. MASLIN, sec.

[It is rather unusual; but sometimes fish cannot spawn for some reason, and retain the ova a long time, long after it is dead. Disease may cause an obstruction of the egg-bag. Some seasons the eggs begin to develope much earlier than others.—ED.]

### CENTRAL ASSOCIATION OF LONDON ANGLING SOCIETIES.

The special delegate meeting will take place on Friday, Nov. 7th, at nine o'clock.—J. A. FITCH, sec.

### CITY OF LONDON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The following members weighed in on the 26th ult.:—Mr. Chambers, roach, dace, and bream from Amberley, 3lb. 9oz.; Mr. Castell, roach and dace from the Mole; and Mr. Nitz, a small jack from Pulborough.—CAS.

### EASTERN COUNTIES ANGLING SOCIETY, GREAT YARMOUTH.

The usual meeting of this society was held at the Duke's Head Hotel, Quay, on Tuesday evening, the 28th ult., Dr. Mitchell, the president occupying the chair. The result of the audit was not read to the meeting, as had been previously arranged, it being impossible for the audit to be satisfactorily made owing to several of the bills against the society not being forthcoming. The acting secretary, Mr. Seaman, was therefore instructed to have all tradesmen's bills called in and paid before next meeting night. According to instructions given him, Mr. John Lee, the honorary secretary, wrote to Henry E. Buxton, Esq., Fritton Hall, with a view to knowing whether that gentleman would become an honorary member of the society. In reply to his letter, the following satisfactory communication was received by him:—

"Bank, Great Yarmouth, 24th October, 1884.

"DEAR SIR,—I have pleasure in enclosing 10s. 6d. as my entrance fee to your society.

"I am, yours sincerely,

"(Signed) "HENRY E. BUXTON.

"Mr. John Lee."

A proposition made by the president, and seconded by the vice-president—"That Mr. George Archard, jeweller, King-street, be appointed engraver to the society," was carried unanimously. Judges of such matters prognosticate some excellent pike fishing this season; we suppose this due to the fact that an early and severe winter is anticipated. "It is an ill wind that blows nobody any good."—A. M.

### GLOBE ANGLING SOCIETY.

A good number of our members were out on the 26th ult., but only a few succeeded in bringing any fish to scale, and those that did had but very light bags. The following weighed in:—H. Lake, roach, dace, and gudgeon, 1lb. 2oz.; S. Howell, roach, 1lb. 12oz.; G. Brown, two small jack, 4lb.; one gudgeon, 2oz.; dace, 4oz.; G. Jeffries, dace, 6oz.; F. Lawrence, roach, 6oz.; and your humble servant, roach, 4lb. 7oz.—J. J. HOLMES, sec.

### GOOD INTENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of this club, to the number of forty-four, fished a pegged-down match at Harlow, on the 26th ult., for eleven prizes. The following were the winners:—Mr. Granger 1st, Mr. Newton 2nd, D. Sims 3rd, Mr. Hellens 4th, Mr. G. Hughes 5th, Mr. King 6th, Mr. Sampson 7th, A. Sims 8th, Mr. J. Smith 9th, E. Pinckrose 10th, and Mr. Gadbury 11th. The following members also weighed in:—Mr. W. Solloman, Mr. Hallam, R. Murphy, Mr. W. Snook, J. T. Murphy, with some nice chub. On the 25th ult., there was a fair attendance of members, and some important business gone through; two new members enrolled and three propositions taken.—R. MURPHY.

### GRANGE ANGLING SOCIETY.

On the 21st October, 18 members of this society competed for four prizes at Egham. Although the weather was everything that could be desired, the report was anything but good. The first prize was taken by Mr. S. Jones, jun., second by Mr. J. Bailey, and third by Mr. Tagg. The fourth prize was not won; but same is to be fished for on a subsequent occasion, together with a cup presented by Hockley. During the course of the day Mr. Geo. Gibbons, one of the members, caught a very fine trout, which was immediately returned to the river. Mr. S. Jones, jun., weighed in on Tuesday, the 28th ult., four pike, which scaled 24lb. 12oz.—W. K.

### GREAT NORTHERN BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

On Oct. 19th, Mr. J. K. Fitch, 8lb. 9oz. roach and dace, several dace over 8oz. each; Mr. Hambidge, 2lb. 4oz.; E. Smith, 1lb. 5oz.; Mr. S. Baker, 6lb.; Mr. J. Dingley, 4lb. 8oz., one roach 1lb. 3oz.; Mr. Martinelli, jack 2lb. 3oz.; Messrs. Theobald, G. and C. Watling also had roach. On Oct. 26th, Mr. Theobald, roach and dace 4lb. 3oz., one dace 9¼oz.; Mr. G. Watling, 13lb. 4oz. from Amberley; Mr. J. Dingley, one roach 1lb. 4¼oz.; Mr. Baker, 2lb. 5oz.; Mr. Cowper, perch. We shall endeavour to have a show of fish on Thursday evenings in future. Mr. C. Watling, sen., tried a good roach water on Thursday, 23rd ult.; but owing to the rough weather only took six roach, weight 4lb. 12oz. Several members are going out on Thursday next, when we hope to have a good show.—J. S. FITCH, sec.

### GREENWICH ANGLING SOCIETY.

The first monthly smoking concert of this society held at the Prince Albert Hotel, Royal Hill, Greenwich, on Thursday, the 16th October, attracted a large number of members and friends, and was quite a success. The following songs were excellently sung—viz., "The Little Hero" and "For Ever and For Ever" by Mr. G. Young (chairman); "The Slave Chase" and "Welcome, Ever Welcome, Friends," by Mr. H. Ware; "Stay, Johnnie, Stay," by Mr. G. Allen; "Dream Faces" and "Sweet Violets," by J. Ware (secretary); "Jeremiah, Blow the Fire," by Mr. H. Long; and "When We were Boys Together," by Mr. J. Megrath. During the intervals the accompanyist, Mr. C. Howett, played some operatic selections with great taste. The meeting closed with a hearty vote of thanks to the chairman.—J. WARE, Hon. sec.

### GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

The ordinary weekly meeting of the above society was held on Tuesday evening at the Mason's Hall Tavern, Mason's-avenue, Basinghall-street, Dr. Defriez in the chair. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. A letter was read from Mr. Chambers proposing Mr. T. Thornton Green as a member of the society. This was seconded by Captain Alfred, and the ballot fixed for the 4th proximo. It was decided to have a musical evening on Tuesday next. The secretary was instructed to send notice to each member, and to make all necessary arrangements. Dr. Defriez having to leave, the remainder of a very pleasant evening was presided over by Mr. Bentley. Votes of thanks to each of the chairmen were unanimously passed and suitably acknowledged.—H.

### HIGHBURY ANGLING SOCIETY.

A very large muster of our members competed for a series of prizes in the Thames on the 12th ult., but owing to the brightness of the water and other circumstances which operate against sport, only two were won, Mr. S. Howell taking first honours, and Mr. Robert Wright second. The remainder of the prizes will be fished for on the 30th inst. On the 26th ult. Mr. C. Lewis brought up some nice jack, as also Mr. Higley and Mr. Devonshire, supplemented by Mr. Anthony, with 10lb. 8oz. of capital roach, and Mr. S. Howell and the secretary with dace.—J. E. WHEATLEY, sec.

### HOXTON BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

Very few members out on the 26th ult. J. Osborn had another splendid show of roach, weighing over 34lb. J. Morgan had two jack weighing nearly 7lb. Members are hereby informed that a resolution has been passed that prizes may be selected on any Thursday evening to be fished for on the following Sunday without further notice. This ought to bring the members together to look to their own interests.—R. GHURNEY, sec.

### IZAAK WALTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The shows of fish have been very poor during the past week. Messrs. G. Bliss, B. Crook, and H. Butt weighed in roach. Mr. J. K. Charters will give a handsome carved chair for the heaviest weight of roach taken on Nov. 9th, 16th, and 23rd. Nov. 2nd is the last day members can weigh in for Mr. T. Ward's prize.—H. B.

### LIVERPOOL ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

The winding-up contest of the year, which ends on the 31st October, was brought off in the Vyrnwy on the 23rd ult., and for the third time this season the river was found clear and low, and against the angler. The weather turned out all that could be desired, but the grayling would not come. I had two weighing "just a pun," which were taken with the "green insect," with "red floss silk tag," and I lost several good fish after having them on for some little time, principally through their turning sulky, and the hold breaking in my efforts to move them. The above were the best brace taken in the contest, though both Messrs. W. Francis and Ellinger weighed in some. Messrs. Sargenson and Bloomfield weighed in the takes with the following result:—Grayling: Mr. R. Woolfall 1, Mr. W. Francis 2, Mr. Ellinger 3. Other fish: Mr. R. Wilson 1, Mr. R. Roberts 2, Mr. T. Coulson 3. In a previous report I announced Mr. Ellinger as the winner this year of the "Challenge Cup." I did this under the impression that there would be no more competitions this season where trout or grayling (the two kinds of fish which rank for said cup) could be taken, but it was afterwards resolved by the members to have the contest brought off on the 23rd Oct. As on this occasion I won, the cup now becomes, by its conditions, my absolute property, as I have been successful last year and this, *twice in succession*.—RD. WOOLFALL, hon. sec.

### NORFOLK ANGLING SOCIETY.

The second monthly supper took place on the 22nd ult., and was fairly attended by members and friends. The host, with his usual liberality, supplied everything of the best in abundance. After the cloth was cleared the remainder of the evening was devoted to harmony, Mr. Woolbridge and Munday coming well to the front. Great pleasure was afforded by the attendance of the three physicians, whose experience added greatly to the digestion of the viands. Mr. Taylor, through a severe cold, was obliged to be one of the audience, instead of supplying us liberally from his well-filled portfolio. Mr. Wharton's "Two Barrels" was given in fine style, and unless he attends a few more suppers he will be able to go through one of the bung-holes. Great disappointment was felt at the slight attack of rheumatism of Mr. Holloway, as he had promised the Highland Fling in costume. From good experience he can give it in fine style. The musical accompaniment of Mr. Symons was very grand. The next supper will take place early next month, of which due notice will be given.—NIP.

### NORTH-EASTERN ANGLING SOCIETY.

The annual dinner of the above was held at the club house on the 27th ult., when there was a goodly muster of members and friends, who sat down to an excellent repast served up in first-rate style by mine host, Mr. Murdoch, whose viands had full justice done them, all being well on. Amongst the visitors who honoured us with their presence were Messrs. Clout, Bennett, Cook, Taylor, Clarke, Sidney, Wright, Warren, Ghurney, Edwards, Coglin, and others. After the cloth was removed the toast of "The Queen and Royal Family" was given and duly honoured; the chairman started the harmony, which was carried on unflaggingly during the rest of the evening between the various toasts of "The Angling Societies of London," "The Visitors," "The North-Eastern Angling Society," "The Press," "The Chairman," "The Vice-chair," "The Host and Hostess," &c. Amongst those gentlemen who enlivened the company with their songs and recitations must be noted Messrs. Lowe, Cook, Roberts, Rook, T. Clarke, jun., Melbourne, Savage, Edwards, Corner, &c. I have to thank, on behalf of the society, those generous donors for their valuable presents to our prize list, which I don't think I did adequately on the occasion. Mr. Clout, in the course of his address in response to his health, very impressively remarked that it was the first time any public notice or recognition had been taken of his services in respect of the Pulborough and Amberley excursions by any body of anglers: and as Mr. Clout is about to retire from business in consequence of failing health, I think some suitable presentation should be subscribed for by the anglers of London and their friends, as some sort of appreciation for the labour attending the courtesy and kindness ever shown by him to all availing themselves of his excursions, by which he has been the means of thousands enjoying many pleasant and happy days in beautiful, sunny Sussex. Should this be the feeling of other societies, I am open in conjunction with their secretaries to do anything in furtherance of this object.—G. T. Fletcher, sec., 122, London Wall.

### PECKHAM BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

On the 18th ult. Mr. F. Griffiths and Mr. Mackintosh had a fine show of jack; Mr. W. Page, on the 26th ult., had the best show of dace this season, 9lb., besides a fine lot of live gudgeon from Teddington. He and friend also had a visit from Mr. Spreckley, the president of the T.A.P.S., who was out looking after the interest of anglers, even on such a boisterous day. A club match will be fished on the 2nd inst., open match. Members may leave town on Saturday night. Annual dinner on Monday, the 3rd inst. Ticket holders will please muster at 7.45. We shall also be pleased to welcome visitors at 9 o'clock, when I hope we shall spend a pleasant evening.—Gadfly.

### THE PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The usual weekly meeting of this society took place on Monday last at Ashley's Hotel, Covent Garden. Amongst those present were Messrs. Gray, Robinson, Pattisson, Gillatt, Perelli Rocco, Fennings, Jesse, Brown, Lemann, Sachs, Foreman, Huggett, Harden, Bennett, Blundell, Booker, Goodger, Lander (hon. sec.), Meyer, Walker, Dr. Brunton, Rev. G. Sumner, &c. Mr. Sachs was voted to the chair. The minutes of the previous meetings were read and duly confirmed. Mr. Thomas Dawson has made another present to this society on this occasion—a set of trays for the use of the members. Mr. Huggett proposed, and Mr. Fennings seconded, that a vote of thanks be accorded to Mr. Dawson for the same. Carried unanimously. Mr. Fennings stated that the ball committee had met for the first time that day, and that everything, as far as he could see, looked promising for a successful evening. He invited a few more members to join the committee. It is expected the attendance at the ball will number between 200 and 300. The hon. sec. read a letter from Mr. Wheeldon, who is salmon fishing at Crieff; he desired to be remembered to all the members of the society. The waters there were too low at the present for great success with the fly. Everyone is looking forward hopefully to a heavy rainfall, when sport would no doubt improve greatly. The hon. sec. read a letter from the Great Yarmouth Piscatorial Society *re* the Heigham Sounds case, and there was also a balance-sheet accompanying, which was passed round for inspection. Dr. Brunton moved that as a sum of £57 as shown by the balance-sheet was still in hand, and as the case had fallen through, application should be made for our proportionate share of same. Mr. Pattisson pointed out in his opinion the best way of making the application, which the Dr. assented to, and Mr. Pattisson thereupon seconded Dr. Brunton's motion, which was carried unanimously. There were two trays of fish on the table—a fine tray of roach and one chub by Mr. Fennings, a tray of chub by Mr. Huggett. The chairman proposed the healths of these two gentlemen as the successful anglers. They duly replied, thanking the members for their kind wishes. The chairman announced that the perch competition takes place on Monday next, 3rd Nov. Our first smoking concert takes place on Monday, 10th Nov. It is hoped we shall see Mr. Thomas amongst our vocal visitors. "The Continued Success of the Piscatorial Society" was next carried with acclamation. Mr. Huggett proposed "The Health of Mr. Sachs," our chairman of the evening, and thanked him for the way in which he had carried out the duties of the chair. Mr. Sachs had always a stock of good old stories with which to amuse the members. Mr. Sachs briefly replied, and the meeting was brought to a close. T. H.

[We quite agree with the suggestion that any balance over from the fund subscribed should be returned to the subscribers. Mr. Lark's letter, which we publish this week, seems to indicate that the solicitors have been paid the balance.—Ed.]

### RICHMOND PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

There was a large gathering of members and their friends on Wednesday at the meeting at the Station Hotel, under the chairmanship of Mr. A. J. Little, Mr. H. Dickinson in the vice-chair. Twenty-five members had entered for the roach competition in the Thames, and some handsome trays of fish were weighed in, the size being raised to 8in., the three prizes being eventually won in the tideway. The first prize was won by Mr. J. H. Gaunt, the second by Mr. Bingley, and the third by Mr. Margason. The largest fish, 1lb. 2oz., was captured by Mr. Margason, and Mr. Wotton's tray of fish was much admired. Most of the competitors had excellent sport, the day being remarkably fine. Mr. H. Dickinson kindly officiated as judge. The chairman, in handing the certificates, congratulated the winners upon their success, and proposed their healths, which was duly responded to. It was thought advisable by some members in a future competition to combine roach and dace, keeping the standard high as heretofore. The chairman, in proposing "The Health of the Visitors, coupled with the name of Mr. R. B. Marston, of the Fishing Gazette," said the society were always glad to see visitors at their meetings, particularly anglers so well known as Mr. Marston. Mr. Marston, in response, said he was always glad to attend meetings of anglers when possible, and it was his endeavour to do what he could in the way of furthering the cause of fishing, and to take an unbiassed course in conducting the Fishing Gazette. Mr. Davey gave a capital recitation, and the usual musical contributions were much appreciated.

### RODNEY PISCATORIALS.

On the 26th, Messrs. R. Chantry, R. Smith, Dodd, Pyne, Grant and son, Marsh, Bastock, and Hotham visited Datchet to compete for three prizes, and the following is the result:—1st, Mr. Grant, jun.; 2nd, Mr. R. Chantry; and Mr. R. Smith 3rd The takes were small, and the above-named think themselves lucky to get what they did considering how the wind blew, and having to leave off at four o'clock, just as the wind went down and the fish began to feed. They might have continued fishing till dark; but if they had done so they would have had to wait until nine o'clock before they could have got a train to London. It is a great pity there is no train from there between five and nine in the evening. Prizes are offered by Messrs. T. Hughes and G. Dodd for the first and second gross weight taken during the month of November. The November monthly competition will take place on the 30th, the where and how to be decided. Members are informed that the next South London United visit will go to the Angler's Pride, White Hart, Old Kent-road, near The Swan, on the 5th inst. All members that can make it convenient to attend are requested to do so.—Pixie.

### ROYAL GEORGE ANGLING SOCIETY.

A number of the members of the above society went out on October 26th to fish for a couple of prizes, one from our late secretary, Mr. Millard, another from Mr. Hughes. The former was won by Mr. Sinclair with some of the largest dace I have seen this season. The latter is still in the club-room, and will be fished for on November 2nd, as will also Mr. Carter's cup, at Uxbridge. All members wishing to compete must be at Paddington by 8.30. Our first smoking concert of the season will take place on November 11th. Members are requested to bring friends.—W. H. Rider.

### SOUTH-EASTERN ANGLING SOCIETY.

A few of the members were out on the 26th ult., but none turned up to weigh, the catches being so indifferent. At our meeting on the 28th ult., it was confirmed that our outing for prizes on Nov. 2nd be at Ware, all to meet at Liverpool-street Station not later than 7.55 a.m.; start fishing soon as possible after arrival, finish at 5.0 p.m., return by the 7.0 p.m. train. A roving commission within a radius of 100 yards either side of Lock and Bridge. For conveyance to Liverpool-street Station several members will meet at Mr. Keeble's, Brunswick Arms, Brunswick-street, Blackfriars, at 7.30 a.m.; others can join if they desire to do so. Some good prizes to be fished for. Any further information of Host at club house.—T. H. H. Weston, sec.

### WALWORTH PISCATORIALS.

Several members were out on the 26th ult. to compete for the prizes offered by Messrs. Holland and Piolaine for that date, it being an open competition. Members were allowed to go where they like in public waters. The following is the result:—1st, Mr. J. Bedford; 2nd, Mr. Hibble; 3rd, Mr. Griffin. The next competition will take place on Thursday, the 13th day of November, for prizes given by Messrs. Dangini and Piolaine, the where and how to be decided at the meeting previous to the outing. Mr. A. Brodie visited Tring during the past week. He has recovered his bait kettle; it travelled to Rugby and back.—Pixie.

### WELLINGTON.

Our members have had remarkably bad sport this week, the total of half a dozen weighings in on the 26th ult. not exceeding 6lb., all roach and dace. Our next competition has been arranged for the 16th November at Tunbridge, a roving match between 1st and 4th locks for three prizes. On Wednesday Mr. William Walker and Mr. F. G. Howard were elected members. Mr. Isaac Jackson was also proposed and seconded, and will be balloted for next Wednesday.—W. W. Alexander, sec.

### WESTBOURNE PARK PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The weekly meeting of this society took place as usual on Tuesday evening at the Pelican Hotel, Westbourne Park, Mr. G. Evans occupying the chair. After settling the recent sweepstake by payment to Mr. Harrison of first prize, and Mr. H. C. Beatley second prize, a further competition of a similar nature was arranged to take place in the Thames only on the 16th November, and several names were immediately entered. The fish lately weighed in have not been exceedingly large or numerous, Mr. Bowen being credited so far with the largest this month—a tench of 3½lb. Mr. Bonvoisin and several other visitors were present during the greater part of the evening.

### WEST GREEN ANGLING SOCIETY.

Mr. Orridge's monthly prize was won by J. Guyver, with roach and perch. Mr. Wilsher's prize of one sovereign, for November, in any public or subscription water, all fish to weigh, commences on Nov. 2nd.—J. Guyver, sec.

## THE STAINES ANGLING CLUB.

We are glad to see that the angling club recently formed at Staines, promises to become an important body—one which we hope will have a good effect in preserving and improving the fishing. Several matches have already been fished, and as many as 15lb. and 16lb. of roach taken by one rod. We shall be glad to publish reports of the doings of this new club.

## SCOTCH NOTES.—THE STOCKING OF LINLITHGOW LOCH.

The trout hatchery at Linlithgow Palace Loch, established by Mr. Anderson, Edinburgh, the lessee, has turned out a great success. The fry which were hatched last spring have been kept since that time in ponds, and have been regularly fed three times daily on horseflesh, boiled clams, and mussels. On Wednesday last, in order to make room for adult trout, there were turned into the Loch upwards of 300,000 fry, some of them measuring fully [illegible]in., and the most of them being over 3in. in length. There were no signs of disease among them, the whole family being strong and lively. The young salmon hatched from eggs taken from a dead diseased fish (some of which were shown at the Salmon Ladder in the Forestry Exhibition) have also thriven very well; and, although they have not attained the same size as the trout fry, they are very strong and vigorous. Mr. Anderson also commenced on Wednesday to net Cobbinshaw Loch, for the purpose of getting adult trout for the Linlithgow hatchery. In this he was very successful, landing 41 magnificent trout, the smallest of which weighed fully 2lb., and several were over 4½lb. All of them were despatched to Linlithgow in tanks by the afternoon train. Upwards of 200 pike were also landed. In the stomachs of several were quantities of trout fry, no less than 21 being found in one pike. Should the weather continue fresh the netting of Cobbinshaw for trout will be continued for the next month.

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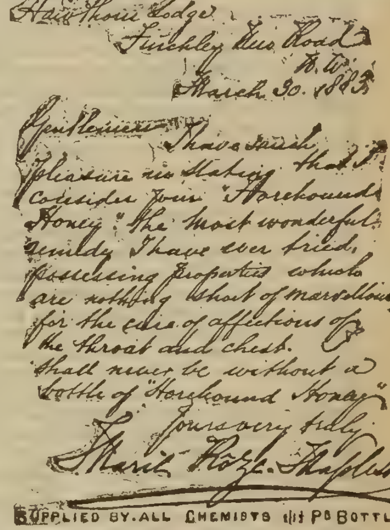

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# The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1884.

## ODDS AND ENDS IN SALMON FISHING.

### BY GEO. M. KELSON.—No. 4.

I HAVE heard it said that "a good repast sharpens wit," and we are told that the one English custom which raises us immeasurably above all other races and types of humanity is that of sitting over our claret after dinner. The faculty of conversation is that which denotes the superiority of man over brutes, and it seems to me that it is not only advisable, but almost compulsory, for anglers to devote a certain part of the day to talk ; then in what other portion of the twenty-four hours have they time, or even inclination, for their debates ?

Fishermen work hard while they are at it, and delight to have all their talk out just in the very moment of their lives when it is physically, intellectually, and morally most beneficial to them.

Indeed, there is much gratification in accounting in pleasant parlance for our daily exploits, and discussing our pros and cons ; not only that the satisfaction and repose which follow a full meal tend to check a disposition to splenetic argument, or too much zeal in supporting an opinion, while the free and easy intercourse which is thus kept up is often eminently conducive to our good, and not unfrequently leads to the solution of piscatorial problems of considerable import.

Yes—certain it is that in the evening, when we are up to concert pitch, we grow more sensible of our defects, ventilate our ideas, surmount or provide for obstacles, not only to guide, but to hearten us in unforeseen difficulties and future conflicts.

I hope I am not running too far from our subject, and that I am keeping well within bounds of "Odds and Ends" ; at any rate, there is no doing away with the fact that at such times we learn a good deal one from another.

In approaching other topics, let me preface my remarks by reminding you that to see a fisherman lose a fish is perhaps sometimes, though not always, a demonstrative proof of his weakness ; however, a little recent incident may be worth mentioning, as no doubt there are some who will draw profit, myself for one.

"Well, what have you done ?" I was asked the other day.

"Lost a fish, smashed my rod, and had a ducking !" I replied.

I need not relate all that passed, but in the course of conversation after dinner the same evening my friends catechised me, and inquired whether my adventure had taught me anything.

"What would you do," said one, "were you in the same plight again ?"

Now, whenever was past experience deterrent enough ? But how dangerous it is, strictly speaking, for young anglers to step down into a rapid. The older ones, to whom this privilege is granted, may know to a nicety just what water they dare wade, yet with all that you see they sometimes overshoot the mark and "get taken in." Well, I remember saying, "Had I placed sufficient coils of line in my hand it would never have happened."

Just so ; the water was not deep, but tremendously fast, and three yards from the bank there appeared to be a sound and safe footing ; once upon that huge boulder showing well up, with the water no more than trickling over it, and you were safe to all intents and purposes. Retracing one's steps was—in fishermen phraseology—a "ticklish triviality," for there was no chance of "throwing out a feeler," or groping one's way at starting, and there are times when to step off a stone into a rapid is the devil to pay.

However, with a gaudy grub—my third fly over from the boulder—up went the rod, as usual under such circumstances, and down went the fish with about five-and-twenty yards of the line, no more. It meant three-quarters of an hour's work to remain where I was, perhaps longer ; therefore I waited for a favourable opportunity and made for the shore. Just at the critical moment, splash, dash—that spirit-stirring sight and sound—the salmon shot up and across the river (then would have been the time to have given the coils of line which I speak of their freedom), and checked me to such an extent that my foot missed its aim, and in I went.

Ah, well, the fisherman's life would not be worth living but for its trials and difficulties. We set ourselves down to the contest as if with a determination of enjoyment, and the more heavily we are handicapped the more heartily we proceed. Our learning is one of those pleasures we can never exhaust ; the very practice of our vocation gives us strength to dare and to endure, and most of us are of that nature even to mask disappointment with an iron strength. It is true we are not all constituted alike ; some with the utmost ease arrive at attainments which are generally the results of arduous study, and occasionally the greatest craftiness can be traced back to the poorest beginnings—the most imperfect impressions. Somehow, I have often thought—perhaps because I have known the feeling myself—we are like infants fresh from non-existence, and as often led by Fate over the track and scene of our destined calling—here to barren catches only overflowing with poverty ;—there to our "seat of war" to find fish feeding or even fighting ;—here to the "rapids," an enticement to the many avoided by the few ; and perhaps with luck at last to that delightful haunt where passion pants with satiety and success !

But we are drifting away again, and in returning let us peep into the particulars of testing the temper of salmon hooks for a minute or so, and say a word or two about flies skirting.

As for the hooks, my plan is to put the point of one into a piece of soft wood—white deal, for instance ; and in pulling away by the shank, if, after you bend the hook, it does not spring back and recover its shape, it is useless. Sometimes they snap asunder like glass ; then they are too hard. To heat them in a wax taper and immerse them immediately in water softens them ; but the game is not worth the candle, as the French have it.

I never used to make a fly upon single hooks without trying them first, some way or another, and I do not think I have ever made a cast before ascertaining whether the fly fishes well.

Then as to a skirting fly, that does more mischief than merely make deep duck trails upon the surface, and for the most part it is one *which induces and leaves in its wake a line of light as it passes through the water.*

Widely different, if not diametrically opposite, views are certain to prevail on plenty of points in salmon fishing, but for the benefit of the uniniated, although I feel like laying down the law—but no matter, as of this, I believe it will be tacitly received—let me emphatically declare that we must not only never use flies that *do* skirt, but that we should never begin to fish without being absolutely certain that they *do not.* Now, a wobbling fly will for a time skirt the water. I say "for a time" advisedly, because if it is mounted unskilfully a few casts may bring it into trim.

A small fly—say, No. 4—if looped on, however well it may be dressed, is pretty sure to play zigzag fashion, even if it does not wobble. A bottle-shouldered fly is sure to come the same game where the water flows fast. And all flies on medium-sized hooks—say, No. 1.—that are unevenly balanced with coarse and reversed feathers in the wing can never fish well.

What, therefore, is the difference between wobbling and skirting ? None, practically speaking, and you may rest assured that if a fly wobbles it will skirt. There are perhaps as many wrinkles in making salmon flies as there are secrets in using them ; perseverance is the watchword, and we cannot do better than keep the whole subject constantly before us, and wait patiently till the dawnings quicken into vitality, registering their own records as they grow upon us to expand and mantle the mind. Then if we are careful, not only in drawing our conclusions, but in tacking them to our memory—the acts being entirely subordinate to the glow of reason—we should always find them ready to inspirit and improve us, and never to mystify nor mislead.

Yes, and with all that, whatever pains and pleasure we may take in the pursuit, we can never exult in the possession of certainty ; for, indeed, there is much of which we must rest contented to be ignorant.

I speak from what I have met, and it is not, after all, so very surprising that anyone having been master of the water all his life could, if he chose, lead the whole village astray with very little persuasion.

"Season after season novices and strangers come and take my favourite flat, a sure catch." And, "I have taken thirty fish, though in odd corners, more than they have there," would I venture to say, although in an after-dinner speech, have been sufficient "negative evidence" for me in my schooldays.

"What would you advise me to do ?" said a young stranger, as he laid the case one day before me.

My first impulse was to invite him to share a private pool with me ; my next, to send him to drop half-a-crown into the hand of a certain old coachman, at the same time asking, "Where ordered for the morrow ?"

And that did it.

On my return in the evening my young parson was in the pantry weighing three fish. He had followed my suggestion, and was up before daybreak. You can guess the rest, of course ; at any rate, the old gentleman's catch was rushed.

I refer to this by desire and for the benefit of others, and it only shows that all such sad selfishness—there, such a mossgrown antiquarian of an artificial age, should never be allowed to reign. In drawing the veil over this affair, and having offered this hint to the other young staff there, I can only trust that their future be not a coming present.

A word or two about the "East Pool," where I was fishing, may not come amiss.

At eight sharp that morning I wended my way along the blackberry path under the shadows of the bold blue mountains, some with snowy peaks, which, hot as the weather was, indistinctly rose against the azure of the skies ; ten to fifteen minutes' walk brought me to my destination. The pool, with its frothy, foaming flakes rolling downwards from the west, looked "angry and awful." I saw at a glance there would be little or no chance just then, for the fog was fearful, and fishing under these conditions would be waste of time ; almost as bad too when it lifted, for every few minutes told me that a bright day was in store for us.

Sometimes I have caught salmon when the sun has been on either side of them, and frequently when at their tails ; but only once when it has been shining straight down stream—that is to say, in front of the fish. On this occasion my hope rested in the possibility of a cloudy afternoon. Not knowing the pool, and the weather being so warm, about 11 o'clock I undressed and took an excursion on a voyage of discovery.

Quite at the top where fish never take, but are, I was told, often seen, was an enormous rock rooted on the opposite side and extending gradually up and across to ours ; it formed a considerable eddy, giddy, but not swirling, and this I fancied was a moral certainly.

After putting two and two together, I decided to fish from the opposite side.

"That," said the keeper, who had just saluted me, "is impossible ; wading is out of the question, and we have no means of holding the boat there."

The head or entrance to the pool was narrow, shallow, and a romping rapid.

With much ado and with the keeper's aid I succeeded in driving in a stake some 15 yards higher up, close to the edge of the river; to that we tied a thick rope long enough to reach down to the place where I meant to wade. Fastening it round my waist, the keeper making it off at the other end, "I tried my luck," as fishermen say, soon found it was all right, and returned for my rod.

Then, with a little care, I buffeted the waves, and walked in far enough to cast the fly left and play it the right, which was impossible from our bank, and having plenty of split shot wheedled it behind the rock deep enough—I suppose, for that was my aim—to be in the shade, and it was seized at once.

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In salmon fishing, I am obliged to believe there are a variety of little things as necessary to the whole as basting is to the stitching of a garment. Surely, every new achievement of matured principle smooths the way for more of a like kind. And odd as it may seem, I think also that anglers always know when they are acting wrongly—why not ? for the law of conscience is undoubtedly written in indelible ink, that we all know, and it is very—very easily understood.

To secure then a position of vantage from which nothing can dislodge, let the acts of anglers be at the bidding of conscience ; let them resolutely "bid away" the suggestions from bad habits, which will weaken from want of exercise, will not only gradually decline to intrude and disturb them, but will drop away unseen, by dull decay.

Then would they quickly realise that they have been no more than creeping and crawling along with only a sort of wormy ambition, and so set their brains to find out—which they could if they liked—what connection there is in each link of the chain, whereby the extremes are held together.

Then would they find a fresh feeling never to grow gloomy; then would they find no leisure to lament, unless in anxiety to aid; and then would they revel and delight in their new and coveted friend—Contentment.

## FLY-FISHING FOR SALMON, TROUT, AND GRAYLING.*

By Edward Hamilton, M.D.

Sir,—Some—nay, I hope many—of your readers have not quite forgotten the series of letters which recently appeared in the Fishing Gazette under the heading of "An Amateur Angler's Days in Dovedale." These letters have since been collected and issued in a small volume, with some slight alterations and additions, and remembering that they were originally written without the remotest thought of separate publication in book form, I confess I have been as much surprised as I have been gratified at the kind and generous way in which the little book has everywhere been received, not only by the press (as your advertisement column will testify), but by many men of the highest literary standing who have done me the honour of writing very pleasant and complimentary letters respecting it. In presence of this unexpected kindness my only regret is that I did not take more pains to make it less unworthy of this kind reception. My object in calling attention to it now is only to present it as a curious contrast to the work of Dr. Hamilton which is now being issued from the same press. The object of the one writer was to exhibit in as light and amusing a manner as he could the angling experiences of one who, for forty years and more "in city pent," had had no experience of, and knew nothing about, the gentle art; instruction from such a source certainly could not be looked for. The object of the other writer has been to present the experiences of one who for forty years and more has been a "fly fisher," at one time wandering on the banks of our southern streams, intent on "trouts bedropped wi' crimson hail"; at another casting a line over the deep pools and glorious rapids of our northern rivers to lure the "stately sawmont" or dashing sea trout, or revelling in the beautiful valleys and streams where that 'lady of the stream,' the thyme-smelling grayling, loves to dwell." Such has been the object of Dr. Hamilton, and the above quotation from his preface furnishes a pleasant foretaste of the delightful style in which he has performed his task.

Surely to anglers there is no literature so fascinating as that which records the experiences of a veteran of the craft, and when that veteran is an educated gentleman as well as a genial enthusiast they will not be disappointed in their expectation of finding in his volume not merely amusing episodes and remarkable personal adventures, but valuable hints and scientific instruction. The plan of the work is simple in the extreme. The first four chapters give us (1) Experiences on Fly-Fishing for Salmon. (2) How to Fish for Salmon. (3) Where to Fish for Salmon. (4) The Natural History of the Salmon. The next two chapters are devoted in the same way to sea trout. Then there are four chapters devoted to trout (*Salmo fario*), and two to grayling, thus completing the little volume in thirteen chapters. To me, who am but an "amateur," the book seems to be quite delightful. I cannot pretend to criticise it as one to the manner born (and an angler, like a poet, must—as my Dovedale experience has taught me—"be born so"), I therefore accept every page of the book as gospel; I have nothing to say about the best method of hooking and landing a salmon or trout, or the various ways of making flies and hooks, or the natural history of a sea trout. I accept all that Dr. Hamilton tells me, and I leave to others the task of disputing with him. I should like to quote some of the many amusing adventures he records just to induce your readers to want more, but for these they must go to the book itself. The following extracts will suffice to show the true Waltonian spirit which animates him :—

"The river side has other charms besides the pleasure and excitement of the sport. It brings the angler in communion with those delightful accompaniments of nature from which his art has been designated, 'the contemplative man's recreation.' Alive to all he sees as he wends his way through the water-meadows, resplendent with culthas and kingcups, he listens with unalloyed delight to the cuckoo's cheerful note, a voice 'at once far off and near,' the jug-jug of the nightingale, the deep, mellow crush of the wood-pigeon's note, which

'Made music that sweetened the calm,'

the mellow song of the ousel-cock 'with orange, tawney bill,' or the warning voice of the waterhen—that bird-ventriloquist; and whilst preparing his tackle his eye is suddenly attracted by that speck of azure blue, 'the timid halcyon's vivid dyes,' as it shoots by in rapid flight."

And again :

"What pleasant associations cross my mind as I recall to memory days gone by—red-letter days in the calendar of life, when forgetting all the cares of a busy and anxious profession, and accompanied by a brother angler, I have sped away to some well-known river, revelling in the bright spring morning, rejoicing in the sun's exhilarating rays, and luring with the lightest of tackle and the smallest of flies the wily trout. And such hours snatched from toil, few and far between though they be, reinvigorate the whole man, dispel his vapours, and are worth a king's ransom."

I shall be very much surprised if this delightful book does not find its way into every angler's library, and take rank with the best books to be found there. Dr. Hamilton is not only an angler, he is an accomplished artist, and the little volume is adorned by four very charming woodcuts from his own sketches. There is also a lovely mezzotint as a frontispiece, by his friend Seymour Haden, who may be regarded almost as the father of modern etching. This picture represents a salmon pool on a dark and cloudy evening, and is quite remarkable for its weird and lurid vigour. One of the doctor's drawings has a peculiar attraction for me. It is quite fifty years since, as a little boy, I sat and fished for minnows on that old bridge over the Teme which he has admirably sketched, and I never saw it again till once a few years since. "Ah! what a river it is," says the doctor, "and in what beautiful scenery"—and so say I. And then he quotes Sir Humphrey Davy, whom I will also quote: "I have been for some time reposing on the banks and admiring the scene below. How fine are these woods, how beautiful these banks! The hills in the distance approach to the character of mountains; and the precipitous cliff, which forms the summit of that distant elevation, looks like a diluvian monument, and as if it had been razed and torn by a deluge which it had stemmed." I have no idea when Sir Humphrey Davy fished the *Teme;* we might have fished it together! I, a little boy of nine years old, for pinks and minnows, and he for the shadowy grayling. I only remember that I spent a few days in that neighbourhood about the year 1834,* and I never saw the old bridge again for more than forty years; but the memory of it, and the lovely scenery with which it is surrounded, has never left me.

I beg you to note, Mr. Editor, that I have not offered these remarks as a review of Dr. Hamilton's book; that I leave to more competent hands. You will doubtless find occasion to refer to it and to him again and again as a competent authority on all matters connected with "Fly-fishing." I will only add that I have read the book through with lively interest, and I felt constrained to take this' perhaps, unusual means of recommending it to your readers—they will not be disappointed.—I am, &c., The Amateur Angler.

## THE THIRD AMERICAN ANGLERS' TOURNAMENT.

Mr. Fred. Mather, sec. of the American National Rod and Reel Association kindly sends us an official Score-Book of the Tournament held at Harlem Mere, Central Park, New York, on the 22nd and 23rd of October. The following extracts from the rules will be useful in studying the results.

Rule 2.—"No one shall be permitted to enter an amateur contest who has ever fished for a living; who has ever been a guide, or has been engaged in either the manufacture or sale of fishing-tackle." In the tournaments which have been held in this country fishing-tackle makers and dealers have been allowed to enter as amateurs, and for our part we must say we do not see any reason to exclude them—that is, if they only fish for amusement, and not as professionals, or for money.

Rule 3.—"No trout rod to exceed 11½ft., and to be used with one hand only."

Rule 5.—"No allowance for distance shall be made for difference in lengths of rods."

Rule 7.—"Five minutes allowed for distance, and five for delicacy and accuracy."

Rule 8.—"Distance to be measured by a line with marked buoys stretched on the water."

Rule 9.—"The stretcher-fly must remain at the end of the casting-line in all casts. The others are not deemed so important. A competitor may claim time for repairs."

Rule 13.—"Black Bass Casting.—No rod shall be less than 8ft. nor more than 10ft., nor less than 7oz. nor more than 10oz. Any black bass multiplying reel may be used; but clicks, drags, or any device to control the delivery of the line, except the thumb, will not be allowed. The weight of the sinker to be 1½oz. Casting to be underhand, and with one hand only. Each competitor shall be allowed five casts, the longest to count, and then will be allowed five minutes to cast for style and accuracy. The scale to be as in the fly-casting—viz., distance, the longest cast in feet; style and accuracy, 25 points each.

"Heavy Bass Casting.—Rods not to exceed 9ft. in length. The casts to be made with sinkers weighing 2½oz. The casts to be made in a lane formed by the buoy line and a line parallel to it, and distant 35ft. Each competitor to be allowed five casts. His casts within the lines only shall be measured, added and divided by five, and the result to constitute the score.

"Light Bass Casting.—The sinker to be 1½oz."

"The opening day," says the *American Angler*, which has just come to hand, "was cloudy, and a strong breeze ruffled the Mere, snarling and twisting into knots the leaders of the competitors. Many well-known anglers were present; the attendance was about two hundred." From this it would appear that it is as difficult to get anglers to attend in large numbers in America as it is here. The platform was 1ft. above the water.

### FIRST DAY.

### SINGLE-HANDED FLY-CASTING. CLASS A (AMATEUR).

For Prizes value £20. There were six competitors.

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|---|---|
| 1st prize, C. A. Rauch | 35 yards 1 foot. |
| 2nd prize, C. G. Levison | 32 yards 2 feet. |

In this competition, Wallace Blackford, age 13, son of E. G. Blackford, and a pupil of Mr. Mather's, cast 25 yards 1 foot.

### SINGLE-HANDED FLY-CASTING. CLASS B (AMATEUR).

For Prizes value £15. Five competitors.

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|---|---|
| 1st prize, Ed. Eggert | 34 yards 1 foot. |
| 2nd prize, S. Polhemus | 32 yards 1 foot. |

### SALMON CASTING.

For Prizes value £19. Open to all. Seven competitors.

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|---|---|
| 1st prize, H. W. Hawes | 43 yards 2 feet. |
| 2nd prize, R. C. Leonard | 43 yards. |

(All the rods used were 18ft. split-cane, weighing between 32oz. and 37oz.)

### SINGLE-HANDED FLY-CASTING. CLASS D (PROFESSIONAL).

For Prizes value £13. Eight competitors.

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|---|---|
| 1st prize, H. W. Hawes<br>(With 10ft. 3in. split-cane rod, weight 5oz.) | 25 yards 1 foot. |
| 2nd prize, R. C. Leonard<br>(With 9ft. split-cane rod, weight 5oz.) | 26 yards. |

In delicacy and accuracy, Mr. Hawes got 42 points as against Mr. Leonard's 30.

### SECOND DAY.

### MINNOW CASTING FOR BLACK BASS.

For Prizes value £36. Open to all. Weight 1½oz. Six competitors.

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| 1st prize, Professor A. M. Mayer | 32 yards 1 foot. |
| 2nd prize, H. W. Hawes | 31 yards 2 feet. |

(The rods used were all between 8ft. and 9ft. in length, and between 7½oz. and 8½oz.)

### HEAVY BASS CASTING. Weight 2½oz.

We do not quite understand the Score-Book record in this case; but the longest cast made was 75 yards 2 feet by Mr. W. H. Wood, whose average would also have been best but for a wide in his second cast. Mr. J. A. Roosevelt made best average, his best cast being 72 yards 1 foot. The prizes valued £15, and there were seven or eight competitors. We are not quite clear whether the weight is cast from the reel, as in the Nottingham style, or first coiled on the ground, as in the Thames style. Will Mr. Mather kindly say? We have little doubt it is in the Thames style.

### LIGHT BASS CASTING.

For Prizes value £10. Weight 1½oz. Casts made on land.

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| 1st prize, H. W. Hawes (best cast) | 49 yards 1 foot. |
| 2nd prize, R. Leonard (best cast—also best average) | 47 yards 1 foot. |

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* "Fly-fishing for Salmon, Trout, and Grayling." By Edward Hamilton, M.D. Crown 8vo, pp. 202. (London: Sampson Low, Marston, Searle, and Rivington.)

* On reference I find that Sir Humphrey died in 1829—so he was there before me.

Single-Handed Fly-Casting. Cass E (Professional).

For Prizes value £13. Nine Competitors.

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|---|---|
| 1st prize, R. C. Leonard | 27 yards 2 feet. |
| 2nd prize, Mr. E. Hawes | 26 yards 2 feet. |

In the above record we have only given the actual distance cast, with no allowance for delicacy or accuracy, as except in the one case mentioned, those who made the longest cast also made the best average. In comparing this with previous American tournaments, it appears that previous records have only been beaten in the salmon casting and black bass casting. Doubtless the weather had a good deal to do with this.

We have little patience with those anglers who affect to see no good in these tournaments, and say that they afford no test as to whether a man is a skilful angler or not. No one pretends that they do; for a man may be able to cast a splendid line, and yet not know how to catch fish. The way they do good—and very great good—is this: they bring amateurs, professionals, and tackle-makers together for the purpose of seeing the best results that can be attained with the best rods, reels, and tackle in the market. This creates competition, and leads to improvements by which the whole angling community benefits, just as shooting matches benefit all who shoot from the improvement the rivalry they cause creates in the manufacture of guns. Apart from this, these tournaments bring anglers from different districts together to see practical demonstrations of methods of fishing which may prove, and do prove, invaluable.

## SOME NOTES ON WORMS, &c., FROM BEST'S "ART OF ANGLING."

### Tenth Edition, 1814.

"How to Raise Worms."—Under this heading we recently published a little account of how some German confectioner had accidentally discovered that the water in which green walnut-shells have been washed will, when thrown on the ground, cause the worms to come up. In looking over Best's "Art of Angling" the other evening, we find he recommends this plan in his chapter on 'Baits."

*The Lob-Worm, Dew-Worm, Garden-Worm, Twatchel, or Treachet.*—Found in a garden or churchyard (!) late on a summer's evening with a lanthorn; when the summer proves a very dry one, they may be forced out of their holes with the liquor produced by bruising walnut-tree leaves in water. The best are those who have a red head, a streak down the back, and a broad tail, from which they derive the name of *squirrel tails.*

*Brandlings, Gilt-tails, and Red Worms.*—The best are those to be met with in tanner's bark after it is thrown by.

*How to Scour and Preserve Worms.*—Get a quantity of moss—the best is that which is soft and white and grows on heaths, but as this is scarce to be had in some parts, in lieu of it any kind that is fresh and sweet—rinse it well from the earth that hangs about, and then wring it (not too dry). Put it into an earthen pot and squeeze it down hard; then strew the worms upon it, and those that are not bruised will soon creep into the moss; those that lay at the top you must pick off. Cover it close that they do not crawl away, and set it in a cool place in summer, and in winter in a warm one, which will prevent the frost from killing them; change the moss every fourth day in summer and once a week in winter, or at least let the old moss be taken from them, washed, squeezed pretty dry, and put it to them again. If you want them to be quickly scoured, a little *bole armoniac* put to them will accomplish your desire; or you may put them in water for three or four hours, and they will soon be scoured, yet be very weak; but, being put to good moss, they will speedily recover. When the knot near the middle of the *brandling* begins to swell he is sick and should be thrown away. Never keep your worms in moss to scour them above ten days, in which time they will be perfectly fit to use.

There is another way of cleansing and preserving worms, recommended by many anglers, and is a very good one for every kind of them except the lob worm. Take a piece of very coarse cloth which has never been shrunk in the fulling mill, wash it very clean and let it dry; then soak it in the liquor in which a fat piece of fresh beef has been boiled and wring it out, but not so hard as to press out all the liquor. Then lay it in a deep earthen pan that has a large bottom, and put your worms thereon that they may crawl in and out and so scour themselves. When they have remained there twenty-four hours, wash out your cloth as before, but do not dry it; then wet it again with some of the same liquor, and, having placed your worms thereon, keep them in a close cellar. Repeat this every other day during the heat of the summer, and you will not only preserve your worms alive for three weeks or a month, but make them *very red, clear, and tough.* When you take them out for angling put them into moss that has been well washed and not wrung dry; and when you come home at night put them again into the pan, by which they will recover and gather fresh strength. Take care that there is no salt in the beef liquor, for, if there is, your worms will purge themselves to death.

[Our angling forefathers took a great deal more care to secure "very red, clear, and tough" worms than the majority of us do nowadays, but there is not the least doubt a great deal of the success of some of our best anglers is due to the care they bestow on preparing their baits. There is our friend, Mr. Alfred Mackrill, for instance, one of the most successful of living Thames anglers: he considers the worm is *the* bait for nearly all Thames fish, and spares no pains in thoroughly scouring them himself. But most London anglers are content to buy their worms the day they intend to use them, and when they get to the water they often enough have a dozen or two dead or half-dead worms at the bottom of a lot of stale mould.—Ed.]

*Bobs*—Found in sandy and mellow ground, and got by following the plough in autumn—are worms as big as two maggots, havered heads, and their bodies full of guts. Put them in a tub with some of the mould you gather them in, keep them in a warm place, and they are an excellent bait from the first of November till the middle of April. You may boil them the morning you intend angling in milk and water for two minutes, which will make them tough, and put them in a box in which gum of ivy* has been rubbed.

*Flag-Worms or Dock-Worms*—Found among flags, in old pits or ponds, in little husks among the strings or fibres of the roots—are small worms, pale, yellow, or white as a gentle; these are very good baits for grayling, tench, bream, carp, roach, and dace.

*Gentles: to breed and preserve.*—Take a piece of beast's liver, scotch it with a knife and hang it up in the shade. When you see it flyblown sufficiently take it down and put it in a large pipkin or small barrel; then, when you see the gentles have attained their proper size, put some oatmeal and bran to them, and in two days they will be scoured and fit for use; thus, gentles may be created till after Michaelmas. But, if you desire to keep gentles all the year, then get a dead cat, or kite, and let it be flyblown, and when the gentles begin to be alive and stir, then bury it and them in moist, soft earth, but as free from frost as you can, and these you may dig up at any time when you want to use them. These will last till March, and about that time turn into flies.

[Our correspondent, "Mark Antony," recommends gentles obtained from dead fish as being large and very white.—Ed.]

## MY FIRST TROUT.

It seems rather a worn-out title, "My First Trout," and yet it is one which must always bring a pleasing remembrance to the mind of every piscator who has followed this—to my idea—most charming branch of the piscatorial art. The first trout may have been some smutty little specimen from a Highland burn, a dainty diminutive Devonshire "speckled one," or some lordly *ferox* from a Scotch or Irish lake; yet, after all, it is the first one which brings such pleasing recollections to the captor as having served to introduce him to a new experience in the capture of his finny prey.

My introduction to the genus *Salmo* was to what seemed to me at the time a veritable monster—namely, a three-pounder.

I was stopping at a little riverside village, and amusing myself principally with angling for roach in a large pond I had permission to fish in. It was situated in a large valley, and was as pretty and romantic-looking a spot as could possibly be found. At one end a small stream entered the pool, escaping through a hatch in a dam which ran across the opposite end, consequently a gentle current flowed throughout. I had no idea that the place contained anything but roach until one day an old fellow, who had been watching and seemingly taking a great interest in the sport I was having, suggested my trying for some of the trout which, according to his account, abounded there. I eagerly followed up the suggestion, and it finally ended in my arranging that my informant should bring down a supply of minnows the following evening and give me some instruction in "spinnin'." The next day, true to time, my tutor arrived at the appointed place, and I was initiated into the mystery of baiting a flight so as to make it spin well and form an attractive-looking morsel to the prey we were in search of. The whole of that evening was devoted to a lesson in casting; it is needless to say that I managed to send my line into every place but the water. Every tyro in the art of spinning knows with what persistency a bait will, instead of shooting out in the desired direction, come curving round, selecting the most awkward place in one's body to fix itself into, or getting hung up in every convenient (or rather inconvenient) bough. However, by the time the darkening shadows necessitated our winding-up for the night, I had succeeded in throwing a short line with some certainty of its reaching the water, if not the exact point aimed at. The next day I determined to try my own hand, and with the remainder of the bait from the previous night started for the pool. Arriving there, the point I decided on trying was the dam, for the the water was deep and the place was easy to cast from. Accordingly, I made my first throw, and was drawing the bait along the side of the wall when I saw a trout come with a rush at the minnow, and, in my excitement, struck before he had touched it, with the result of frightening the fish and landing my trace into a thick bush behind me. The next half-hour was spent in getting my flight clear, and smoking a pipe, so as to give the trout time to recover from his fright; then, having made strong resolutions to control my excitement, I essayed another cast, and rose his lordship at the same place as before—this time, however, with the result of firmly hooking him. How I should have fared unless my tutor had most opportunely appeared at that moment I am at a loss to say; but under his direction I managed to land my capture on a shelving bank, from which he was quickly transferred to the grassy sward, and proved to be an exquisitely-shaped fish of about 3lb. weight. My delight was great at having such luck the first time I had tried my hand at spinning; but though from that time roach fishing was consigned to oblivion, and I assiduously pursued my new art, I never, amongst the many trout I captured from the pool, caught another that at all approached either in shape or size "My First Trout."

H. D. B.

## EXCITING CAPTURE OF A POACHER WITH RABBITS AND NETS ON THE SEVERN AT SHREWSBURY.

During the agitation, which has ended in the riparian owners within the borough of Shrewsbury issuing a notice to all net and night line fishers, warning them against using any of the above instruments opposite their respective lands, I have many times mentioned the fact that these men, of whom there exist more than half a dozen in the neighbourhood, use fishing as a cloak for the more remunerative business of land poaching. It has for a long time been known that more game was brought into Shrewsbury in coracles than many people would imagine; but until Sunday last the police have been unable to find out a clear case, and would not then have done so but that the man made a mistake of a few minutes in the time, it being his intention to land near the Welsh bridge at 6 o'clock, which is the time of the police relief. However, on Sunday, the 26th ult., as T. C. Lloyd was going off duty, on passing over the Welsh bridge he saw something coming down the river. He went down to the Frankwell side, but before he could get down to the river he heard a scuffle and saw a man named Bryan pushing off to the middle of the river in a coracle. Witness ran into the water up to his middle and seized hold of the coracle; but the prisoner jumped out. He (the police-constable), however, caught hold of him and brought him back. He then examined the coracle and found 30 rabbits quite warm, and two nets which had evidently been lately used. He told Bryan he should report him Prisoner said, "All right; but you will give me one for my dinner before I go?" He was then taken to the station. Prisoner is a very old offender, having three times been fined £5 and costs for poaching on previous occasions. He was now mulcted in a similar penalty, or in default two months' imprisonment.

The chairman said they must compliment the constable on his courage and bravery, and they were only sorry they could not grant him some reward. However, they would send a recommendation to the watch committee, and to a society that took up such matters.

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* "Gum of Ivy," says Best in another chapter, "is a tear which exudes from the body of large ivy-trees, being wounded, and is of a yellowish red colour, of a strong scent and sharp taste; that which is sold in the shops is counterfeit and good for nothing. Therefore, to get gum-ivy about Michaelmas or in the spring, drive several great nails into large ivy-stalks, wriggling the same until they become very loose, and let them remain, and the gum will issue thereout. Rub the inside of a small box made of oak with the gum, and when you angle, put three or four worms into it; they must not remain there long, for if they do it will kill them. Then take them out and fish with them, putting more in their places as you want them out of your worm bag." Nearly all the old angling writers recommend this plan, so, doubtless, there is something in it, for certainly fishes have the sense of smell. We have never tried it, but have often felt inclined to do so.—Ed.

### ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

G. N. J.—We will endeavour to get you the information you want.

An Angler, Oxford.—We do not remember any correspondent advising the use of less ground-bait for roach in winter than in the summer. It should be used sparingly at any time, unless you know there are great numbers of roach in the water. The roach will be getting into the deeper swims now.

G. H. Wright and Others.—Many thanks for the address of the Thames Punt Rod-maker we asked for. George Hone, of Walton, will soon have plenty of his rods to supply, price 10s. 6d. each.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

[*We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.*]

### STRAIGHT NEEDLE-EYES v. TURNED-UP.

Sir,—In my letter of October 25th, I stated that I knew no objection whatever to the present form of eye either in size or shape, and to this opinion I adhere. I should hardly deem it necessary to reply to Mr. Pennell's last letter if he had not attributed to me ideas and statements which are now quite new to me, and, as I believe, not to be found in any literal, natural interpretation of my words.

First, he says that my turned-up eye is conspicuous—that is, "unfly like." Surely this is a somewhat free translation of the word *conspicuous*, to say the least of it. I used the word in its most literal sense. I never attempted for one moment to convince anyone that the turned-up eye I advocate was a good *imitation* of a natural fly's head. I cannot find anything in my letter to justify such a supposition. Nor did I speak of any resemblance between the eyes of a natural fly and the eyes of my hooks. It seems to me, therefore, that the proposition Mr. Pennell has enunciated in his italicised paragraph is somewhat far-fetched, and if his reconsideration of the idea propounded by him is to be postponed until I have demonstrated this proposition, we shall have our patience exercised to its utmost limit. All I said was that a natural fly had a large head and prominent eyes—not meaning to make any actual comparison between the eye of the hook and the eye of the fly, but merely to bring certain very noticeable and prominent features to the minds of any of my readers who have been in the habit of examining aquatic insects, and to ask whether, in imitating nature, it was worth while for us to endeavour to reduce to the smallest possible dimensions that which is one of the most prominent and remarkable features in every natural fly. As for the angle at which the head is inclined to the body, I cannot understand how such an item comes into our considerations at all. Until the trout begin to calculate these things with mathematical accuracy, we may safely leave them alone, and content ourselves with the practical utility of our hooks.

As to point number two, I said, "If I understand Mr. Pennell's suggestion about a straight eye, there is nothing to prevent the gut from slipping round it till it stands at right angles to the shank." Apparently I did *not* understand his suggestion, and I don't now see that the rigidity of his knot can ever be so secure as that in the knot I advocate. I am open to conviction, and I may alter my opinion after seeing his knot properly tied; but I am sceptical enough to doubt whether, for hard work and security, it can ever come up to the "extremely simple in-and-out" process.

And this brings me to point number three—about rapid and easy tying of the knot. Mr. Pennell thinks it difficult, and without any advantage in the case of small flies. I think if he fished a season with the finest-drawn gut, and hooks rarely larger than 00, and fished with a dry fly almost exclusively, he would soon alter his opinion. As I understand Mr. Pennell's last letter, he thinks six of his knots could be tied while one of mine was laboriously executed. I should very much like to have the opportunity of testing mine against his, knot for knot—say for a dozen flies. It would be interesting and amusing, and I fancy the result would astonish Mr. Pennell not a little. I have frequently experimented with a friend—he taking his gut cast, well soaked, and a fly from his book ready to be attached by the ordinary slide-knot, and I taking the fine end of my cast to fasten to an eyed-hook, and the result has generally, if not always, been in my favour. I have taught the knot to dozens of anglers, and the difficulty is by no means insuperable to a beginner, as Mr. Pennell thinks. But there are other good knots where the gut embraces the shank; one in particular, much used on the Test, which I have shown to Mr. Pennell, and which also, in my opinion, is preferable to his method, as being more lasting, and more likely to stand the constant flicking necessary in using a dry fly. And this is a point which cannot be settled by Mr. Pennell's tumbler of water and dining-room table. I have answered Mr. Pennell's letter because I fancied that a reply would be expected of me; but, to be perfectly candid, I have not the smallest interest in the question of needle-eyes. All that has been said about them seems to me to be far more theoretical than practical; and my opinions, which are based on actual experience of both straight and turned-up eyes, have not been shaken in the least. It is easy to sit in one's study armchair, and to theorise about the advantages of a fine needle-eye, its simplicity, neatness, the ease and rapidity with which the gut can be attached, and so forth; but as I am *entirely satisfied* with the turned-up eye and the knot I have now used for four years, I am inclined to "leave well alone," and I look upon the needle-eyed question as one which may interest those who are only now taking up eyed-hooks for the first time, but never likely to interest me much, even after years of practical experience. And this is my chief reason: I kill nine-tenths of my fish on 00 hooks, and the remaining tenth on 000 and 0, and the fine wire of these hooks will never admit of being drilled with a needle-eye large enough for the gut to go through.

Mr. Pennell and I must agree to differ on the hook question as we do upon artificial flies. If he takes up the needle-eyes he will, doubtless, have a strong following among those who are not yet satisfied. If, after extensive trial, the needle-eyes are conclusively proved to have the advantages claimed for them, and any real objection (I know of none as yet) can be brought against the present eyed-hook and its mode of use, then I wish them the success they deserve and I shall not be slow to recognise the debt anglers owe to Mr. Pennell. For the present, I am so utterly weary of correspondence and controversy about these hooks, so much valuable time has been spent, and more important matters so often interfered with thereby, that I take leave of the question by saying once more, that as far as the shape, size, and position of the eyes are concerned, I am perfectly satisfied with the hooks as they are, and I wish for no better, easier knot than the one I am used to.—I am, &c.,

November 1st. H. S. Hall.

P.S.—Has it occurred to Mr. Pennell that a large number of persons find it very difficult to thread a needle? To all such the difficulty of fastening the gut to a tiny needle-eyed hook by river side in a rough wind will be a serious matter, "an obstacle well-nigh insuperable," to quote Mr. Pennell's view of my knot.

[We must confess that Mr. Pennell has not shaken our faith in Mr. Hall's eyed-hook in the least. We pointed out some years ago that the eyed-hook was more natural than the ordinary hook, as the prominent head of most flies was well represented by the "eye." Again, in the needle-eye, the sharp edge made in stamping *must* be far more likely to cut the gut than the round wire loop.—Ed.]

### A NOTE FROM MATLOCK BANK.

Sir,—Mr. G. N. Else, Mr. Sam Walker, and I had a day on the Derwent on Friday week, between Watstandwell and Ambergate, on A. F. Hurt, Esq.'s, estate. We started about 10.30, and finished at 4.30, and caught 3½ brace of grayling, all above 1lb., 1½ brace of chub, 4lb. in all, and several dace, with maggots. No fish were killed in the deeps, but on the shallows on the edges of the rapids. There were no fish rising all day. I hooked a trout, about 3lb., in poor condition, and returned it again to its native element,—I am, &c.,

Charles Smith.

### ROACH BITES AND HINTS THEREON.

Sir,—I think the following will prove interesting to your readers. The main portion of it has appeared before, but it will bear repetition, and I particularly wish to draw your attention, Mr. Editor, to the subject, because you laughed at me on a former occasion for saying the same thing as your clever contributor. You thought I was joking, but I was not joking. You will find the following in a back number of the Fishing Gazette, a *long* time after my remarks appeared. Your correspondent said—"Don't let the amateur accept the notion that the roach is a silly fish, easily to be lured at the will of the angler.

"This may apply to small roach, not worth the room in your basket, and which have not learned to hold their scales on; but roach above a quarter of a pound and upwards are as 'cute as Yankees or as cunning as Yorkshiremen.

"You have only to *watch* these patriarchs amidst a shoal of comparative fry, and see how *meditatively* they look at the bait—how *quietly* they sail by it, and, with a knowing cock-o'-the-eye, *they give it a fillip with their tail* in passing—often rewarded, if the bait is *paste*, by its disengagement from the hook, and then the intelligence of Mr. Roach is most *conspicuous*, for the released pellet is then acted upon without artificial restriction of hair or gut, and is down the throat of the clever *Cyprinus rutilus*, to the astonishment of his juniors, who, if they are left to live long enough, will most assuredly profit by so practical a lesson."

And yet, when I related this to "Philo," he said, "Bosh! You must be mad."

I say, can anything be plainer? There are two things of importance, which should be taken into consideration before doubting such a statement.

Firstly, how can you possibly tell that the roach, which *has been seen* indulging in this habit (displaying, as it does, such remarkable intelligence), is only acting from past *painful* experiences? Who can tell what dangers it has escaped, what pitfalls avoided, by exercising the instinct with which Nature has endowed it?

Secondly, almost every angler knows that fish, and more especially roach and barbel, are sometimes most fantastic and finikin in taking their food, and often, to use a vulgar phrase, "mess it about" most confoundedly, and hesitate in taking it.

Here is the hint. If they are in the habit of doing this with food on the ground, are they not more likely to play the same capers with food *dangling* some little distance from the bottom?

The mere fact of a piece of paste hanging one or two inches (perhaps three) from the bottom, supported apparently by nothing, is enough to awaken suspicion in the mind of the roach. I say *mind*, because I call instinct nothing more nor less than mind in animals. What else is it? Oh, very well, we will not quarrel on that subject. I say it is enough to make the roach believe there is *something* wrong. Why? Because a pellet thus dangling is in an unnatural position; but that on the *ground* is in a natural position. Therefore fish on the bottom when you can.

Many old anglers fish for roach with the bait on the bottom on this account: it takes the roach off his guard. Why? He sees the bottom dotted with ground-bait, and it is more difficult to detect the lure. When it is in a dangling position there is a certain doubt comes across the mind of the roach that all is not right; and I quite believe it is this doubt that—as Charlie South said in a back number of the Fishing Gazette—makes the roach *butt the bait*, and that in such a manner, as he truly said, "there is not the shadow of a chance to hook them."

Every angler is *agreed* about the craft and intelligence displayed by oldish carp; you can catch baby carp as easily as gudgeon—this fact is admitted on all hands. Why is it? It is the wisdom they reap with age. But I believe that a pound-and-a-half roach often displays as much prudence and cunning as a carp *the same weight*, and if a roach lived to the same age as the carp they would be quite as difficult to catch. But when persons talk about the artfulness and cunning of a carp, let us say of 10lb., they little think the years it has lived before getting to such a weight. —I am, &c.,

Mark Antony.

### SALMON FISHING AT NOTTINGHAM.

Sir,—My report for the past week is better than I expected considering the unfavourable weather at the beginning of the week. Two salmon were taken on Monday, about 12lb. each; on Tuesday, Mr. Wilkinson, of Derby, and a Birmingham gentleman got three fish; on Wednesday, Mr. Newton killed one, 26½lb.; on Thursday, Mr. Stanley, of Nottingham, the celebrated taxidermist, got two very nice fish, 14½lb. and 16½lb.; on Friday, Mr. Wood, one of 14lb., and lost one they guessed to be 30lb.; on Saturday, a Nottingham gentleman took three more—all caught in the Shardlow and Weston water, thus finishing one of the most successful seasons for salmon fishing on the Trent that has ever been known.

If some of your correspondents would kindly inform us Nottingham anglers what sort of fly to use, and how to use them, for salmon fishing, I have no doubt another season we could kill fish the same as they do in other rivers; such a thing as fly-fishing for salmon we never see on the Trent.

A few pike were taken in the backwaters at Cavendish Bridge on Friday, a friend of mine getting a nice lot of roach and dace. Mr. Baker has been among the pike again, getting nine fish at Hickling. Very little doing at Colwick. I tried chub fishing on Friday with pith for bait, and never caught a fish. We want some colder weather to bring this fish on the feed.—I am, &c.,

A. W.

[Will "A. W." kindly send us a sample of the tackle used in killing these salmon, and a bit of the reel line?—Ed.]

### BRANDY AND PIKE BAITS.

Sir,—If, through the medium of your esteemed Fishing Gazette, I may be allowed to thank Mr. W. O. Chambers for his splendid hint as to brandy being administered to bait before being used for pike fishing, I shall feel much obliged to you; and, thanking Mr. Chambers, beg leave to state, at the same time, how I went to work, and with what result. I started last Thursday week, about 1 o'clock, in search of my favourite sport, and reaching the spot where I intended to commence business, I took from my bait-can a nice bait, and gave it two or three drops of brandy, which seemed to have a remarkable effect on its nerves, and made it very lively whilst out of the water; but in this case I had no opportunity of seeing what the after-effects were, as, as soon as I threw it into the water, it was instantaneously taken by a nice pike of 6½lb., which I landed successfully. No. 2 bait was also treated with a drop or two of something warm, and was thrown in; this time I had more chance to see how he worked. By Jove! sir, he went about like a small steam-engine under water, backwards and forwards, round and round with amazing rapidity for about ten minutes, then under went my float, and I soon landed another nice fish of 5lb. No. 3 bait now coming on the scene, was treated in like manner to his companions, and worked with much more vigour than No. 2 had done. He was allowed to swim about for about fifteen minutes, and away went my float again; this fellow, however, I am sorry to say, got me hung up in the roots of a tree, so I lost him (for the present). No. 4 bait came next, and he also had some grog (cold), and was allowed only a few minutes to enjoy himself, and a 3lb. fish was the result of that bait. No. 5 bait, and the last I had, after taking a parting drink, was soon swimming about well, and seemed to be in a great state of excitement, which proved fatal to him, as he was very soon attacked by a very hungry-looking long fish, measuring 2ft. 7in., and weighing 7½lb.; this fellow gave me some capital sport, and after rather more than half an hour's good play he was lying with the other finny tribe of his own species on the grass. Thus, four pike I caught in about two hours, 7½lb., 6½lb., 5lb., and 3lb., making a total of 22lb., which is rather an extraordinary take in these waters, and I firmly believe the greater part of my success was due to following Mr. W. O. Chambers's valuable hint in your Gazette, Oct. 25th—viz., "Give your bait a little brandy before using them." I wonder if the smell of brandy attracts pike at all. Do you think it possible? Or do you account for it in consequence of the extra liveliness of the bait through the dose of brandy? Apologising for taking up your valuable space,—I am, &c.,

A. S. Isaac.

Maldon.

## THE RELATIVE MERITS OF SNAP AND GORGE TACKLE.

Sir,—I should feel much obliged if you could find space in your valuable columns for a few queries on the above. In the first place, might I ask if there is *really* such a thing as any gorge tackle, or, more strictly speaking, any tackle with which it is necessary to let a jack gorge (or nearly so) the bait otherwise than a single hook through the lip? With this it is necessary to give the fish a certain time to turn the bait in his mouth. I am aware it is the habit in fishing with the ordinary double-threaded hook to give the fish about ten minutes, but is this necessary? A double hook, when threaded on the top of the back, should surely be snap tackle. Another question is, "What are the merits (if there are any at all) of gorge tackle as *versus* snap tackle." Fishing last week I very nearly lost a fine fish with the dead gorge; he sailed away with 60 yards of my best line, and only through the precaution of having another 60 yards of line on did I have a chance with him at all. When I struck him he had taken all but about 10 yards off the reel, so that makes him having out nearly 110 yards. Now if that fish had rushed *away* from me instead of coming towards me nothing could have held him; but luckily he did not, and in a week I hope to see him comfortably installed over the mantelpiece, in a glass case; he weighed close on 15lb. Of course, in a river or canal one would not experience the necessity of having such a length of line; but in a large lake, a quarter of a mile in breadth, what is to prevent a fish from taking the bait right to the opposite side? When one is fishing with the dead gorge there is always a small risk; but then the fish is generally enticed out of his bed of weeds, where a live-bait could never be worked, so that the risk in this case is reduced to a minimum. But in live-bait fishing the case is totally altered: the bait is thrown out about 30 yards from the shore, and then most of the fish that are caught are rovers in search of food, and some a long way from their haunts. In such a case snap tackle is, in my mind, absolutely necessary. The objection to the ordinary snap tackle, *i.e.*, one single hook and a triangle below it, is, I find, that with two or three casts the single hook, hooked through the back fin, becomes loosened and comes unhooked, though the back seldom gives, it being one of the strongest parts of the fish. This is easily rectified by threading the gimp crossways, the same as you would put the hook, and then drawing the hook close up to the back; nothing then except the breaking away of the fish's flesh can make it come off, and the only difference to the fish is that he has a piece of gimp through his back fin besides the hook, which makes very little difference. Another way that I have often done is to fasten on a second small hook on another piece of gimp, about ¾in. in length, above the other hook, allowing it to hang exactly level with the fixed single hook, and then having a small ring loose on the whole concern. The way I bait it is by passing one hook one way and the other the other way crosswise through the back, and then sliding the ring down over both shanks. This does not do with small bait though, as it is more liable to kill the live-bait than the single hook. Threading the gimp in this way will not answer with a single triangle, consisting of two large hooks and one smaller one joined together, as the larger stick into the fish. If some of your readers would kindly give me their opinions I should feel much obliged.

I should also like to know, *re* the late experiments on reviving fish with spirits, what is the proper quantity of brandy to give a dace, as, though I have tried it several times, I cannot say it has resulted satisfactorily? Perhaps I made them slightly intoxicated.—I am, &c., H. G. Rolt.

30, Fitzroy-square, W.

[We think that Mr. Jardine's live-bait snap and paternoster snap are all that are required for live-bait fishing for pike. You can work the weeds with the "pater." quite as well as with the dead gorge. The comparatively small hooks on Mr. J.'s tackle intended for holding the bait are inserted at the base of the back fin and the pectoral fin, care being taken to avoid all injury to the spine. We are glad to know the "gorge" system is going out of fashion. A fish hooked in the mouth (as is usual in snap fishing) fights far better than one whose entrails are being pulled out. You can let a pike under size go without hurting him if he is hooked by snap, but the "gorge" kills all. We prefer spinning for pike from the reel far and away better than any other plan; but in many pike waters spinning is out of the question.—Ed.]

## THAMES FISHING RIGHTS ABOVE GODSTOW.

Sir,—Your Oxford correspondent, the "Cherwell Otter," whose interesting River Report I always read with a considerable amount of pleasure, has, in his report in your last issue, made certain complaints against the Earl of Abingdon, who, it would appear, is the owner of a considerable portion of the Thames above Godstow Lock. I refer to the following extract from his report:—"The present Lord Abingdon, according to all accounts, is a worthy successor to his predecessor, the late earl. Not content with excluding the public from fishing between Godstow and Eynsham Lock, he is now endeavouring to prevent people fishing on the river."

It is greatly to be regretted that statements such as these should be placed before the public—statements which, so far as they refer to the fishing, are absolutely incorrect, inasmuch as any person can fish with rod and line the whole of the water owned by Lord Abingdon, from Cassington Lock (below Eynsham bridge), up to Pink Hill Lock, and thence up to Bablock Hythe, a distance of six miles, on payment of the small sum of 5s. for a season ticket, or of 1s. for a day's fishing. It would appear that, so far from desiring to exclude the public, his lordship is but too pleased to assist them so far as fishing is concerned, for I believe I am correct in stating that he actually rents from Mr. Harcourt certain fishing rights over the river from Pink Hill up to Bablock Hythe, on purpose to increase the extent of fishing he throws open to the public. Certainly he has the right to prevent the issue of tickets to objectionable persons; but his own words, as reported in the minutes of evidence taken before the select committee on the Thames River Preservation are these, "I merely let the fishing to him (referring to one of his tenants) in order that he may preserve the fishing. Anybody can have a ticket for 5s. for the whole year."

I do not presume herein to call into question the exclusive right of Lord Abingdon to this portion of the river; but for the purposes of this letter it will be sufficient to assume such right does exist, therefore, we ought to be much pleased that, having such right, he is content to share them with such of the public as choose to avail themselves of the boon offered them. Would it not, Mr. Editor, be a grand thing if owners of other fisheries near London were to copy his lordship's example, and grant us the privilege of taking a day's fishing on their preserves? But is it to be expected they will do so when, to use an Americanism, "ink is slung about" in such a manner as has been done by your correspondent, the "Cherwell Otter"? It will never serve the purposes of the anglers if every writer, when he suddenly finds out that he has no right at all in what he had long considered as his right, proceeds to make ambiguous and derogatory observations.

This portion of the river Thames I know well, and have for the last four years regularly fished it. The person who rents it of Lord Abingdon is Mr. R. Treadwell, who is also the keeper of the weir at Eynsham, and in the pay of the Thames Conservancy, and of him the tickets are to be obtained.

During the last three years the number of persons fishing, or pretending to fish, has much increased, many of them coming up the river in boats, accompanied with dogs and guns, and many absolutely refusing to recognise the keeper in any way, and behaving somewhat after the manner of the "river rough" of nearer town. It is these people to whom objection is made, and very properly, too. Their right to use the river for the purposes of navigation cannot be, and is not, questioned; and it would also appear they have some sort of a right to shoot on the river (which right is more often abused than used); in other respects they are on private property, as much so as is the visitor inside the British Museum. He has a right to be there for a special purpose, and there his right ends. From the statements made by the various owners who gave evidence before the committee herein referred to, there seems to be every wish on their part to allow all well-disposed people the use and privilege not only of the river, but in very many cases of their grounds; and certainly, any remarks on the actions of such gentlemen made by us should be made in such a form as not to annoy. It is only of recent years that the great increase of pleasure traffic and the greater increase of angling has occurred, and with it there has also grown up certain abuses, and it is in most cases to protect themselves against these abuses that owners are advancing their claims. From the published report of the Thames River Committee we obtain their opinion that the fisheries are more or less exclusively owned by the various riparians, and if such is the case, would it not be far better if, instead of disputing such claims, we could induce the owners to follow the example of the Earl of Abingdon, and either do as he has done, or else let their right to any existing society on similar conditions?—I am, &c.,

23, Blomfield-road, W. Robt. W. Hobden.

[Mr. Hobden will pardon our pointing out that although it would be a gracious act of a riparian to permit fishing on the conditions mentioned, if he had proved his right to impose those conditions, it is quite another matter when no proof is given. The opinion of the Committee of the House of Commons is nothing more than an opinion, and it is disputed by those well acquainted with the legal aspect of the question. The Committee have conferred no rights, and can confer none, or confirm them either.—Ed.]

## OVA FROM LARGE THAMES TROUT.

Sir,—Can you tell me how I can get some ova from large Thames trout? My friend, the Rev. F. Wethered, tells me I cannot get any, and I think you may be able to assist me.—I am, &c., Chas. M. Foottit, Hon. Sec. Marlow T.P.A.

Marlow.

[We wish we knew how you could get them. It could only be done by the T.A.P.S.; and only done then with big nets, and by keeping the fish in stews as they were caught and waiting till they were ready to spawn.—Ed.]

## HAMPSHIRE TROUT.

Sir,—In your issue of Oct. 25, you, in a foot-note to "Trout for the Thames Tideway at Teddington," state that "Hampshire trout are the best to put into the Thames. . . They are the fish which stocked the New Zealand trout streams—superb trout, unsurpassed in sporting or eating qualities, or in beauty of appearance," &c.

Have you not, for the moment, overlooked the fact that Mr. Francis Francis supplied High Wycombe trout, as well as the ova from some Alton trout, which I fancy came from the river Wey, whereas the late Mr. F. Buckland supplied the Hampshire trout from Admiral Keppel's, on the Itchen methinks? I only write from memory, as, worse luck, I am unable to refer to my books or papers as I should like to do.

If, after you have had the coachman (Teme dressing), green insect, and rutting stag copied from the Richmond "Amateur Fly-tyer's" patterns, and do not want these dressings, I should be much obliged for them, as it was through my query that the "Amateur Fly-tyer" dressed the above.—I am, &c., J. B. J.

Hull.

P.S.—Thanks for your prompt insertion of my queries *re* silver Wickham and coachman dressed without the usual white wings. The silver tag or ribbing on the latter fly makes it a good deal like "the Hudson," a great Wandle fly, used wet, and which, again, is very like one dressing of the Alder fly.

[Our correspondent is quite right—we ought to have included the Wey trout. We will send the flies he wants.—Ed.]

## EXTRA LONG GUT.

Sir,—In an article in the Fishing Gazette, October 4, 1878, I find the following:—"Another worm of the same genus, *Atticus Prometheus*, which feeds on the spice bush and sassafras, has an equally good reputation, according to Dr. T. Garlick, the well-known writer on fish culture. The doctor says that gut, to the length of three to four feet, can be obtained from this worm, 'and strong enough for salmon fishing.' It appears the moth is very plentiful in the United States. The *Chicago Field* recently saw three hundred cocoons in the shop of a taxidermist this last spring, all gathered by one man, who is making a life-size picture of Washington on horseback of the moths. The insect measures about 4½in. across the wings, which have eye spots upon them, and the body is stout and hairy, of a reddish colour, with a row of white spots. The prevailing tints are reds and rich browns."

Has anything more been heard of this discovery? I am afraid it did not prove a success, or we should have seen some of the gut at the "Fisheries."—I am, &c.,

E. Gosling.

## FLY-TYING SILKS.

Sir,—"R. A." can obtain silk of the very finest quality specially made for fly-tying purposes from most of the Leek silk manufacturers, amongst whom I may note Messrs. J. J. Brough, Nicholson and Co., T. and V. Myatt, Wm. Milner and Sons, Wm. Broster and Co., F. Hammersley and Co., &c.

Fast and unfading dyes are dyed best by Wm. Hammersley and Co., of Leek, who make this class of work a speciality, I believe.—I am, &c., Fisherman.

## THE ERSKINE ROD.

Sir,—We have an inquiry for an "Erskine" rod. We should be greatly obliged to you if you can give us any information about this rod, as to what kind of rod it is, or inform us where we could get one for our customer.—We are, &c.,

Redditch. S. Allcock & Co.

[We do not know it.—Ed.]

## THE NATASHQUAN WICKHAM.

Sir,—I beg to apologise for troubling you, but some of my customers have called upon me for the purpose of seeing and purchasing "Natashquan Wickhams," and have expressed astonishment when they found it an ordinary salmon fly at a moderate price. Possibly Mr. Bankart's letter may account for this. I inclose my dressing of the fly:—

Tag: Gold cord and red silk.

Tail: A topping and two rather large Indian crow feathers (roofed or gabled).

Butt: Peacock's herl.

Body: In three joints; gold tinsel over a foundation of red silk; at each joint a red cock's hackle.

Wings: Indian bustard tail, with white points, and dun tar covered with sandy mallard.

Cheeks: Summer duck and jungle cock; a topping over with horns of red macaw.

Head: Peacock herl.

I found so many of the hackles were broken by the tinsel and the teeth of the fish, it became expedient to find some method of preventing the damage thus done, and the jointed body supplied it. The smaller neck hackles, wound close into the joint on the silk only, certainly stood more wear and tear than the saddle wound all over the tinsel, and the fish, whatever may have been the "prime attraction," seemed to like the one quite as well as the other.

In reply to Mr. Bankart's lines, commencing "Besides, what with the cost of 'toppings,' &c., &c.," I can assure him that professional fly-dressers, especially those who are practical fishermen, are quite as keen to obtain "flies of efficiency when made," regardless of cost, as are those gentlemen who dress their own.—I am, &c.,

George Currell.

George James Eaton, of Starkholmes, Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required, from gentlemen who can fish, to prove whether they may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices; Point Flies 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—(Advt.)

SALMON & TROUT-FISHING.

CHAS. FARLOW & Co.,
191, STRAND, London, W.C.,
MANUFACTURERS OF FIRST-CLASS RODS AND TACKLE,
SALMON AND TROUT FLIES, SUITABLE FOR
ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD.
**Mahseer Tackle in Great Variety.**
**Makers of Split Cane Rods.**
**Improved Folding Trout Landing Nets**
(Very Light).
**New Patent Lever Salmon Winch**
(Can be regulated to any stiffness at will).
**PENNELL'S TACKLE KEPT IN STOCK.**

CATALOGUES GRATIS. PRIZE MEDALS. IMPORTERS OF SILKWORM GUT.

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# RIVER REPORTS.

## TIME OF HIGH WATER IN THE THAMES.

To find the time of high water in the Thames at any of the following places, to the time of high water at London Bridge (given below).

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Add | 30 minutes for | Chelsea. |
| | 40 " | Putney. |
| | 45 " | Hammersmith. |
| | 50 " | Barnes. |
| | 55 " | Kew. |
| | 75 " | Richmond. |
| | 80 " | Twickenham. |
| | 85 " | Teddington. |

Example :—If it is high water at 2 o'clock at London Bridge, it will be high water at Teddington about 3.25, or eighty-five minutes later ; but it must be remembered that a strong wind accelerates or retards the tide very much.

For Times of High Water at London Bridge.

| | | Morning. | Afternoon. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Saturday, | November 8 | 5.3 | 5.29 |
| Sunday, | " 9 | 5.56 | 6.23 |
| Monday, | " 10 | 6.53 | 7.26 |
| Tuesday, | " 11 | 8.3 | 8.41 |
| Wednesday, | " 12 | 9.23 | 9.59 |
| Thursday, | " 13 | 10.34 | 11.10 |
| Friday, | " 14 | 11.38 | 12.0 |

New Moon Nov. 17.

## UPPER THAMES.

The river is rising and slightly colouring in consequence of heavy rain, which has been falling persistently for some two days all up the valley of the Thames. The frosty nights have lowered the weeds, and good sport may safely now be looked for amid the perch and jack. Roach also will have to give up their vegetarian diet, and take to that of worms and other delectable luxuries. At Bray Mr. Foster has had one or two pretty takes of roach and perch, and at Maidenhead chub have come to punt or bank in grand style. The Maidenhead Angling Association has recently held its half-yearly meeting, and the report seems favourable in every way—funds being in hand, a grand stock of trout and other fish in the association water, &c., &c. H. Wilder, the bailiff, reported that, to his knowledge alone, 175 trout had been taken in the waters—best fish scaling 10¼lb., and many seven and eight-pounders. From Cookham, that excellent and civil fisherman, W. James, tells me that, out with Mr. T. Worboys, he has lately had some fine roach, and one jack going 6lb. 10oz. At Henley, Messrs. Fitch and Thompson, fishing those comfortable angling quarters, The East Arms, have done well with roach, and Mr. Corneby, with "The Boy," in two hours had a pretty sample of the same class of beauties. Thursday evening.—River hourly improving for all-round winter fishing. Jack, so far as I can glean from correspondents and interrogatories addressed to fishy-looking individuals, are not as yet madly on the war-path ; but their biteability, I am sure, will be enhanced by this improving water and the decadence of weeds. The frosty nights are inducing the perch to herd, at least, so I heard ; so I should advise an application of minnows, the dose to be repeated after each meal. Roach are now well out of the weeds, and will take gentles ; but, if the water colours a bit, there is nothing to beat tail of lob to "fetch" the sogdollagers. Wind west, and barometer quietly rising to the occasion.—Marlow Buzz.

### Thames (Datchet).

Sport has been very good in the neighbourhood the past week, and barbel fishing seems up to the mark. J. Hoare has been doing well with them, his largest fish going about 9lb., and a bream of 5lb. A patron with me on the 2nd had seven barbel and three chub. To-day nine barbel, going 30lb. good fish, and a few dace. The jack seem to move now and then. Mr. Manning, on the 3rd, got one 8lb. Mr. Manning and Mr. Stevenson, on the 4th, five fish—largest 5lb. One of them was determined to commit suicide, for he collared both their baits, the one live gorge and the other snap. They had the misfortune to lose a monster by breaking a new line. Prospect charming.—G. Lumsden.

### Thames (Goring).

Water in very good order for jack and perch. Jack coming on better, too. Jack taken at Hart's Lock Wood—one 8lb., and one 6lb. My best day, four dozen of perch.—F. Rush.

### Thames (Oxford).

On the higher reaches of the Thames it is difficult to find a swim unless it is in the deepest holes, and these, from want of current, are sluggish, and, at their best, wearying to the temper. On Thursday Mr. English, between Wolvercott and Eynsham, had a chub of 2lb., and a perch of ½lb. with live gudgeon ; Mr. Corbett, in the Canal, six chub, the largest 3lb. On Sunday Mr. Boscott, at Wolvercott, grassed two splendid perch, weight 3lb. the brace. On Monday Sergt. Cooper took a nice jack of 7¾lb. On Wednesday, at Bolscott Bridge, Mr. Marsh caught a nice little jack, going 3lb. 1oz., besides losing a larger specimen. To-day (Thursday) Mr. Corbett, by a strange coincidence, had six more chub, which weighed the same as his preceding catch, save that the largest went 3lb. 1oz.—Cherwell Otter.

### Ancholme District.

The weeds are now rotting fast, and some good sport amongst the pike and perch may soon be anticipated. The weather has been very fine and mild all through the week—in fact, more like September than November, consequently more anglers have been out than during the previous week. We had a little rain on Sunday ; but the ground is so dry with the long drought that the watercourses were not affected thereby. It has been the driest season on record in this neighbourhood, and springs which were never before known to fail have in many cases ceased running.—Thomas Ford, Caistor.

### Chichester.

The water in this locality still remains much too bright for successful angling. Spinning can now be indulged in, the weeds having cleared materially. Mr. Young has during the week been busy among the perch, Mr. Terry landing a nice fish weighing over 1lb. A good pike was lost paternostering through biting the gut in the lower reach. At Selham not much has been doing, a few roach being all I hear of. Pike are reported numerous, a flush of water being all that is necessary to insure success.—George F. Salter.

### Coquet (Weldon Bridge).

The Coquet in grand trim ; a big flood here to-day. Bull trout running by hundreds, up to 15lb. weight.—Frederick Brown.

### Dee and Don (Aberdeenshire).

The angling season just ended may, without exception, be regarded as the least productive ever experienced in the North. Few of the fish got can be said to have been of first-class quality, notwithstanding the fact that disease was almost entirely absent. Had poaching, to a greater or less degree, not been practised in some of our best salmon rivers, there would still have been a great scarcity of autumn fish. Up to Friday last there did not appear to be, in the Dee, Deveron, Don, Ugie, and Ythan, one autumn fish for every twelve these rivers contained at the close of the rod season of 1883. On many hands anglers, not aware of the proper state of matters, were heard to complain that the fish were not rising freely ; but our own impression is that they rose just as freely as ever they did before—that is to say, in proportion to their number. We feel altogether at a loss to account for the scarcity of fish. In autumn the lower and middle reaches of our rivers usually teem with large fish that have ascended to spawn. These, this year, have either been very much scarcer than usual, or else, after having settled about the mouths of the rivers waiting for a sufficient volume of water to take them to the spawning grounds, and not finding it at the proper time, they have moved off the coast and taken to the Awe, or some other river high enough, in all conscience, at any time, for angling as well as for fish ascending. Though we are quite cognisant of the uselessness of prating about the insufficient protection from poaching with the net and practising the "sink and draw" which the rivers hereabouts receive, we cannot refrain from adverting to the subject. We throw no reflection on anyone in particular—if they think so, they are mistaken. Lessees of fishings may judge for themselves how matters have been managed, and fit the cap at discretion upon those deserving it. Though river-watchers, aye, even head water-bailiffs, grumble at our remarks, and say we have no business to interfere, we care not a straw. Our contention is simply this, that the staff of watchers is ridiculously insufficient to thwart poaching effectually. If, as a lessee remarked to us the other day, the bailiffs are all well-known by the poacher gangs, and every move they make is closely watched, how can poaching be prevented? Are the lessors, notwithstanding the enormous rents they receive, still to remain niggard in their allowance for the purpose of strengthening the watching staff? When proprietors receive very high rents for their fishings, they ought certainly, if their is anything of the sportsman in them at all, to do everything in their power to secure good sport for their tenants. We are afraid, however, that extreme neglect on this score is sadly prevalent. The autumn fishing, it is safe to say, has proved even a greater failure in the Dee than the spring fishing proved a success. In spring, the fishings at Glen Tana, Cambus o'May, Ballater, and Braemar were splendid. On Glentana some of the keepers had as many as 200 fish each before the end of May. Mr. Broadhurst, on the Cambus o'May water, had considerably over a ton weight of fish during his two months of angling. The Invercauld Arms Hotel water, at Ballater, produced an average of seven fish daily for three months. Mr. J. C. Wordie had some splendid takes on the Invercauld private water at Braemar, occasionally as many as 16 fish a day falling to his party's rods. The Fife Arms and the Invercauld Arms Dee fishings were likewise fully stocked with fish, and good sport obtained on them. The fine open weather prior to the commencement of the rod season tended to make the salmon run in great numbers, and by the opening day the river was splendidly stocked, with the result that in March, April, and May very fine sport on the whole was experienced between Banchory and the Linn of Dee. Very early in the season, when the weather was cold and the water pretty high, large Gordons and Whitewings, from 2½in. to 5in., were used with goodresults. Later on, as the day advanced and the river decreased in volume, Small Gordons, Blue Charms, Jock Scotts, Logies, and Jeannies were the favourites. Late in the spring, and during the early summer, disease manifested itself in the upper and middle reaches of the river rather decidedly. This year's spring fish averaged fully 9lb. in weight. If the fish, like the fisherman at the various places we visited during our angling peregrinations this autumn, had shown the same partiality for certain flies and colours, the vast pile of information we were vouchsafed ought to have stood us a good stead. "Try on the Thunder and Lightning, sir, it's the best fly here," was the advice at one place. "Put on a Jockie," was S——n's theme at Ballater. "A fly with plenty of blue about it" was a *sine quâ non* at the Cambus o'May. "If ye dinna get him wi' the Gordon ye needna' try onything else here, sir," was the assurance of our gillie at Glentana. "Gae them a look o' a guid grey heron," is what we were told at the Commonty ; and for killing on the middle Durris water, the best fisherman informed us that "a 'Butcher' or a 'Gardener' was the proper dunt." During the autumn the best killing flies generally were : Jock Scott, Gordon, Blue Charm, Butcher, Gardener, and the real Grey Heron. Some of the finest Dee flies, such as the Peacock, Rintoul, Akroyd, and Glentanar Glede were rather at a discount—more, we should say, through want of being used than anything else. Up to within a fortnight of the end of the autumn fishing, the flies used throughout were smallish, probably averaging not much over an inch in length, except, indeed, when the river rose to any extent. During the last fortnight the water rose and fell too frequently, and was altogether out of good fishing order ; pretty large flies were then used, 2in. to 4in. Very high rents were paid for the two months of autumn fishing. Some idea of the facts may be obtained when we remark that £500 was paid for less than a score of fish, £220 for about 40, £330 for less than 50, £100 for about a dozen, and £50 for three or four. The Cairnton, Blackhall, Crathes and Kineskie, Inchmarlo, Durris and Park sections—the very cream of the autumn water—afforded little sport. Park produced the largest fish, 45lb., and a total of 15 as against 90 last year; Durris 50, to 160 last year; Crathes and Kineskie 44, to 138 last year; Inchmarlo 12, to about 80 last year; Cairnton about 20, to over 100 last year; Blackhall 12, to over 120 last year; Woodend very poor sport. Duncan Davidson, Esq., on Sluie, had the second largest fish, 39lb., and another 35lb. The average weight of the fish landed this autumn would turn the scales at 21lb. As against 500 or 600 grilse got last year, we should say not more than 30 were caught in the Dee during the past summer. The run was a poor one at the best, and the nets, owing to the lowness of the water, intercepted nearly all that sought to push up the river. A gentleman angling in the Banchory district during the summer was so satisfied that illegal netting was being practised that he offered a pretty handsome reward for the apprehension of those engaged in it. Ever since the beginning of September fish in great numbers, owing to the smallness of the river, have lain about the mouth of the river and in the tidal waters, and to this fact we attribute the dark discolouration most of those got recently with the rod exhibited. Few silvery fish were got, and equally few heavy red ones. Messrs. Blacklaws and Son, Kincardine o'Neil, in sending us their last report for the season, remark of it that it is "a poor end to the worst autumn fishing we have yet seen." Norton House water: Wm. Lamond, Esq., two fish, 6½lb. and 8½lb.; Wm. Blacklaws, Esq., two fish, 18½lb. and 30lb. Borrowstone: Walter Evans, Esq., three fish, 16lb., 17lb., and 22lb.; S. W. Smurthwaite, Esq., one fish, 21lb. Carlogie: Captain Michell, one fish, 20lb.; G. Campbell, Esq., one fish, 10lb. On Crathes and Kineskie, General Keane and another had five fish, 16lb. to 23lb. On Durris, W. Knowles, Esq., and party had one grilse, 8lb., and six salmon, 18½lb. to 28lb. On Park, Mr. Potter and party had five fish, 14lb. to 26lb. On Blackhall, Cairnton, Lower Durris, Drum, Culter, and Kingcausie a few fish were got; R. C. Menzies, Esq., had three. The Deveron, Don, Ythan, and Ugie have all done very badly, the Deveron and Don especially having been worse in proportion than the Dee. The silting up of the former at its embouchure and the dykes in the latter prevented any run of fish. The Ythan, though its salmon fishing was almost a blank, afforded particularly good sea trout fishing near its mouth during the last two months of the season. The same remark applies to the Ugie. The netting on all the rivers mentioned has been up to an average. We cannot conclude this summary without expressing our thanks to all and sundry who have assisted us with our reports throughout the season; and now that we dry our pen we do so in the conviction that we have not sought to perform in a slipshod manner the duties the Editor of the GAZETTE intrusted us with.—W. M.

### The Dove.

There has been a good deal of rain in our district this week; but sport has not greatly improved. A few fair dishes of grayling are reported, and that is about all. The Uttoxeter length of water has turned out as good samples as any. This stretch is fishable to the general public on payment of half a crown a day, which is a reasonable charge considering how well the water is stocked with fish. The best flies have proved to be the red tag and olive dun. A lot of chub have been killed since my last with cow's brains and maggots on the river's lower lengths. The deep holes are the places where the fish chiefly congregate about this time of the year, and they should be there angled for and nowhere else. I am afraid the presence of so many chub in the river does a great deal of harm to the spawn and fry of trout and grayling.—THE SPLODGER.

### Eden (Carlisle).

In spite of the quantity of leaves in the river, there has been some very fair salmon fishing during the last ten days. On Oct. 25, Mr. Alfred Brisco had one, the two Bones two, below Grimdale. After this we had a fine fresh supply of both water and fish; and on the 29th ult. the river was in good order. Sergt. Fox killed two, T. Parkins one 18lb. These all in association water. On the same day, Mr. E. L. Hough, the Carlisle, Mr. Kelson landed four, 28lb., 25lb., 21lb., 18lb., at Crosby; and there was also a grand fish of 36lb. taken in the Rickerby water, which no one seems inclined to own. The Rickerby keeper, Major Riley, and a boy had a hand in it; but why they are so shy about relating the whole adventure nobody knows, and perhaps nobody cares. But I am such an inquisitive beggar in all fishing matters, I have my own suspicions, for I know they had salt with them, and the boy is a capital diver. Other fish were caught to which I cannot attach dates. Mr. Butler killed a good fish in the Crosby water, and Major Riley two, and Mr. Berkeley one in the Rickerby water; Sergt. Fox two more, 29lb. and 22lb.; Mr. Stratton one, 22lb. On Monday in this week, Mr. E. L. Hough began the week with three, weighing 25lb., 21lb., 18lb.; Dick Routledge landed a heavy fish; and "Champion" Stubbs had three. I hear he looked a bigger man when he returned than he started. Mr. Berkeley killed one in the Rickerby water, and the Priest of Houghton got one out of the Crosby water. The Archdeacon of Carlisle has landed a few good fish in the water the Dean and Chapter reserve for themselves. They don't care to fish in the part let to Mr. Behrens, and which is fished by Dick, Tom, and Harry. I am speaking about the piece about Syke Foot. The river was in fine water yesterday (Tuesday), but I think the heavy rain with wind will raise it again, in which case we may fairly hope for a clearance of leaves, and a good closing week.—SILVER GREY.

### Elstree Reservoir.

J. Amies, fishing here last Saturday, caught fine jack spinning, weighing 14lb. On the 2nd inst., W. Aldis, ten jack, weighing 20lb.; C. Smith, six jack, weighing 15lb.; F. Rollington seven, weighing 16lb.; Mr. Cross, one jack, weighing 3½lb.

### Exe (Tiverton).

On Friday week the salmon fishing ended for the season in this river. The anglers all round have had a most unprofitable time of it from the cause that has effected most rivers—want of water. Nothing could be more promising than the prospect of sport early in the year. High water had brought up a good supply of fish, and for a few days they gave capital fun, as many as five fresh-run fish averaging 11lb. each falling in one day to one rod. After that fishing was a more precarious affair; the river rapidly fell, and became little more than a dry channel, studded with stagnant pools crammed with slimy weed, so that even trout were sickened and would not look at the fly, and so matters remained till the end of August, when a slight rise partially whetted the appetite of the smaller fish, but, of course, did nothing for salmon. As September and October passed away one or two very slight freshets occurred, mostly towards the end of the latter month, and anglers met with better encouragement, one of them getting three fish one day, weighing collectively nearly 40lb., and being "broken" by a big one; these were all taken on small flies. Other anglers got an occasional fish; but most of the fish were discoloured, and bore marks of their lengthened sojourn in fresh water. These catches were made in the waters below Tiverton. Above the town the salmon fishing has been almost a blank.—R. A.

### Ilfracombe.

Sea fishing: Our town has presented a very busy appearance this past week, the fishing having been good; the lovers of rod and line have had some good sport. Friday: Mr. E. German, fishing from the jetty, caught a pollack 3½lb., and a conger 14lb. Monday: A large cod and several conger caught from the jetty and rocks. R. Souch, fishing from a boat, in a few hours caught 190lb. of conger, and three cod weighing 45lb. The herring fishing has been very regular, Friday averaging 1 maize per boat; Saturday from 2 maize down to a few herrings; Monday morning, largest catch, 3½ maize. In the evening there was a splendid moon shining, and the boats all had good catches, the largest being S. Ley, 10¾ maize; C. Buckingham, 7½; J. Comer, 5, and others 3 and 4 maize each. Several fine hake have been caught in the nets. Tuesday and Wednesday blowing strong, with a heavy ground sea; weather still unsettled.—E. COMER.

### Lea (Tottenham).

The weather, the last two or three days, has not been particularly inviting, thus preventing many anglers who, under more favourable circumstances, would have been found at the river side doing their best to "circumvent" some of the finny tribe. Mr. C. Rita killed a nice little jack of 5½lb. on the 2nd inst.; Mr. Bell, the same day, got two a little over 2lb. each; A. Williams and one or two others have been getting a few dozen roach and dace, baiting with paste, and fishing from the island. The bright weather on Monday tempted one or two fly-fishers down to try their luck, they succeeded in getting a few dace. No change to report in the state of the river.—HACKLES RED.

### Leicester.

A change in the weather has tended to improve the sport in this county, a large quantity of rain having fallen since my last report appeared in your columns, which has not only benefitted fishermen, but the whole of the community. It is a noteworthy fact that the two large reservoirs that supply Leicester with water have never previously been so low as has been the case during the past few weeks. In the home waters a fair number of anglers have been bottom fishing, with satisfactory results. Roach, perch, and dace have bitten well. The best sport was had amongst perch, several excellent lots being shown. Mr. T. Hardy weighed in a good basket on Tuesday, the largest fish being over 1lb. 12oz.; and among other lots were several scaling over 1lb. Good lots of dace have also fallen to the share of a few members. Pike fishing shows an improvement, a great many being landed, although none very large, the average being from 4lb. to 6lb. each. Items of news from Narborough, Barrow-on-Sea, and The Wreak, show piscatorial matters to be rather quiet. A few good fish were taken at the last-mentioned place. On Thursday the weather still continued of an unsettled character, sharp showers succeeding each other frequently. Water in fair order.—ALERT.

### Lugg and Arrow (Leominster).

These streams are now in capital fishing condition. Rain has been had in heavy showers in the beginning of the week, which has made scarcely any difference to either of the streams, and has made the fish sport well at the fly. The best flies are the claret body, whirling blue, and red tag, and good sport has been had in both streams with them. Some very good lots of fish have been taken with the grasshopper. On Friday some capital sport was had in the Lugg, near Fingsland, a gentleman with the red tag landing a capital basket of grayling averaging 10oz. each. In the Arrow, near Ivington, a good lot of fine fish were taken by a gentleman who was fishing with the grasshopper. The Arrow was tried on Saturday with the whirling blue, and some very fine grayling were landed, the lot scaling 5lb. In the Lugg a good dish of fish was taken with the claret body the same day. In the Arrow, near Stanton, on Monday, a gentleman tried the water with the maggot, and took a capital lot of fish. A gentleman fished the Lugg, near Aymestry, and with the grasshopper landed a very good basket of fine grayling, averaging ¾lb. each. On Tuesday some very fine fish were landed by a gentleman in the Lugg, near Ford's Bridge, with the red tag, The Arrow, at Eardisland, was tried the same day, and a capital dish of grayling was taken by a gentleman with the whirling blue and claret body. Some nice fish have been taken in the waters near Bodenham with the fly. Little doing in the Monkland water this week. The Pinsley is in capital angling order. The fish are rising well. A few nice fish were landed with the fly this week.—GWYNNE.

### Medway (Tunbridge).

Although we have had a few showers, the water is still low and clear, and there have been but few anglers out. A few baskets of bream and roach have been taken, and if I had the time I would try by well baiting a good swim for some bottom fish. A few good jack have been caught, but they do not hang on well, owing, no doubt, to the clearness of the water. What is wanted is a good shower to make a run.—YE MEDWAY WATER RAT.

### North and South Esks.

CLOSE OF THE ROD FISHING.—The rod fishing on the North and South Esks closed on Friday. The season has generally been most unsuccessful. The fish that have been caught have mostly been salmon, and generally of large weights, ranging from 20lb. to 46lb. Want of a spate has been the cause of the failure, as the fish are very abundant, lying in hundreds in many of the pools. Captain Kennedy killed four fish on Wednesday, weighing 21lb., 16lb., and two of 9lb. A spate came away on Friday, and a run of clean spring fish entered the rivers. One fish was caught on the Knab by William Crow, of 13lb. weight. Several others were seen, but none hooked. The most successful rod during the season was Colonel the Honourable Robert A. Ramsay. There has been some unsportsmanlike fishing, but in some pools it was quite an impossibility to avoid cross hooking. At times several so taken were returned to the river. The disease was not nearly so bad as last year, but it has been gradually increasing. There was no disease in the North Esk at the end of the net season, unless at that nursery of disease—the Burn, and gradually it has come down. The smolt were affected during the summer months, and it is to be hoped the disease will disappear. The newly-altered goil at Craigs Dyke has turned out satisfactorily, the salmon going through it freely, and if the fish have a clear run up from the loups of the Burn into the upper waters they would find plenty of room, and the river would be universally benefitted. It is understood the proprietors are determined that a good pass shall be eventually put there.

### The Ouse (Huntingdon).

Water still in fair condition for jack, and they have been on the feed this week. I took two weighing 9¼lb. W. Woodward has been amongst them, taking fourteen, the largest two going 6lb. each, and there is a good prospect for the next week. Dace and roach are the bait used now, for they will take roach as well as dace. The wind has been very boisterous, which has been the cause of not many of our fishermen going out. I was out on the 5th, and had to turn it up, for I found I could do no good, but it is very favourable now, and plenty of jack are in the river. F. D. Veasey, Esq., took three one day, two going 5½lb. each.—H. ROUT.

### Pickering.

Continued dry weather has got streams around here lower than ever; angling has therefore been very poor. The flood of 12th August put a fresh into Pickering Beck, and gave it a good scouring, consequently, grayling have fed better there than in many surrounding waters, to which that flood did not extend. Some anglers have had good sport; one local fisherman basketed 115 in one week, all with worm. In other waters the grayling have not risen well, nor have they taken worm or other baits at all kindly. The best basket we have heard of in preserved waters was twenty-two, taken by a party of three anglers in one day, all by worm. These were heavy fish, several of them being from 2lb. to 2¾lb. each. Such fish as these soon let you know where the basket strap is. On the Yorkshire Esk, the salmon season just closed has been the worst for about fifty years past. The small run of fish that got over the lower dams the day or two after the 12th August flood lay in the river between Sleights and Egton until about the middle of October, when there came a little rain, and a few inches rise, which set the fish off to the higher parts of the river above Egton; but very few fresh fish got over the lower drains, so the best lengths of the river were almost bare of stock. At a guess, we should say that not 100 fish have been killed by the rod this season, instead of from 300 to 450. Very large numbers are now waiting in the tideway for the long-looked-for freshet. The netting season in the Esk district has been an uncommonly good one.—NORTH EAST.

### Teme (Tenbury).

This stream still keeps in capital order for fishing, and has greatly improved since the rain which was had in this district on Saturday night and Sunday. The rain has made but little difference to the colour of the water, which still keeps clear. The fish are sporting freely at the whirling blue, green insect, and red tag, and some very fine grayling have been taken with them. The grayling are biting freely at the grasshopper. The water has been visited freely by the anglers this week; but great complaints are made about the leaves getting on the flies when fishing. A gentleman visiting this district tried the water near Rochford on Friday, and with the red tag and green insect landed a fine basket of grayling, scaling 6½lb. the lot. In the water near Easton Court a nice dish of four grayling and three perch were taken with the grasshopper. On Saturday the water near Corn Brook was fished with the fly, and some good-sized fish were landed. The water near the town was tried the same day, and a gentleman with the whirling blue took a capital lot of grayling in good condition. A gentleman visited the water near to Berrington Court on Monday, and with the grasshopper landed a nice lot of grayling ½lb. each. The water near the Bridge was tried the same day, and a few nice-sized grayling were landed with the maggot. On Tuesday a gentleman visited the water, and with the grasshopper took a splendid lot of fish, weighing 5lb. the lot. Some very good fish have been taken with the whirling blue and green insect in the water near Little Hereford. The Kyre, Rea, and Ledwyche are in good angling order, but low, and very little fishing has been had this week.—Worcester.

### Teme (Ludlow).

The fishing this week has fallen off to a certain extent, but good fish have been landed from the Teme and most of the tributaries. On the 1st and 2nd inst. a steady rain fell, improving the streams considerably. One or two of the tributaries are very low; in fact, I don't recollect some of the waters remaining so low for such a length of time for a number of years. The best time for grayling is from mid-day until half-past two o'clock, and on very bright days until towards sunset. The best flies for killing are (and I have Mr. Thomas Hodges, the well-known maker's, word for it—and if he don't know, who does, for that wily gentleman can land a grayling with as much ease as he can make a fly ?) the whirling blue, the silver twisted blue, the red tag, green insect, and claret body. Good fish have been taken with all these flies. Leaves still continue to accumulate and rest at the bottom of the water till they decay; a sharp flush would carry them all away down into the Severn. We saw a pike 3½lb. in a fish shop window on Saturday, caught by Mr. W. Jones (a well-known expert) the previous day. A gentleman caught on Saturday, in the Teme in the Saltmoor district, seven nice perch weighing nearly half a pound each, three fair-sized grayling, and six roach. Most of the fish were caught with the maggot and the remainder with the claret body. A gentleman up beyond the Burway waters had nine nice grayling with the red tag and silver twisted blue; when placed in the scale they weighed altogether 5½lb., all fine fish, caught in less than three hours. Up the Ony, on Friday, a veteran fisherman caught eight brace of grayling, all fair fish. The Clun is very low, and not so much improved as might have been expected.—S. Ludlow.

### Taw (N. Devon).

Salmon running up in thousands. A rise of water has taken place, and on Saturday they were leaping all over the river, and I heard of one 30lb. leaping into a boat and was captured. Good fishing with the minnow; flies no use—too many leaves. I have heard of many caught during the last few days.—Rusty Game.

### Trent (Newark).

Since sending off my last week's report, the water dropped down very rapidly, and by Saturday afternoon was again running very low; but sport, taking things on the whole, was a little better. A few very nice catches, principally of dace, were had. I tried myself on Saturday for an hour or two, and got eleven very good dace, several of the fish going from 7oz. to 8½oz. each. I also heard of another fairish bag or two of those fish being had in this locality. I also saw a pike angler or two out, but could not get to see whether they were having any sport or not. Roach, I understand, up to nearly 1¾lb. each have been weighed in at the local clubs—also a chub going 3¾lb.; so by this we may infer that sport has not been amiss this week. At the time of writing, Thursday night, the water has come on again some 12in. or 14in., but there has not any colour come down with it to speak of, although, as is natural with this time of year, when, owing to heavy winds, there are a lot of dead leaves floating down, the water is a sort of a dully peaty colour. But still, I think fish can be taken now, as the weather is so very open and mild. Maggots and cockspurs have been the most successful bait this last week among the roach and dace; and the angler cannot do better than stick to those baits for another week or two under the present circumstances, as this last little fresh or two down the river has slightly improved matters piscatorial. Thursday night, water about 12in. or 14in. higher than it was last Saturday, not in very bad condition though; but on Tuesday night it rained very heavily, so probably we may have a little more extra water before Saturday.—The Trent Otter.

P.S.—A fortnight ago Mr. Levick wrote a letter to the Fishing Gazette accusing me of not doing my duty as reporter. I had thought of replying to that letter; but, on second thoughts, fancy it will be best to take no notice. For over seven years, Mr. Editor, have I tried to do my duty to myself, my readers, and the Fishing Gazette, and will only say, in answer to Mr. Levick, that the next time he essays the rôle of reporter I hope he will be accurate in even small things, for one of the members of his association tells me, that if he had accurately reported the catches, instead of the tremendous haul he makes one member have, he should have written 9lb. after his name.—T. T. O.

### The Trent (Nottingham).

The weather has favoured angling operations during the week, but there does not appear to have been quite so many anglers out as usual. Maggots have been employed with success amongst the roach and dace at Shardlow, and so mild was the weather on Thursday that several barbel were seen to "pick" in what is known as the "Long Swim." Salmon are still running up to the Dove in considerable numbers, and a busy spawning time is expected by the water-bailiffs, who have received strict orders to keep a watchful eye on the spawning beds, especially in the neighbourhood of Tutbury. On the concluding day but one of the season Mr. J. Stanley, of Nottingham, whilst endeavouring to take a farewell fish, hooked and landed a grand chub of nearly 4½lb. Apart from the river, excellent accounts reach me of the doings amongst the pike in the lakes and canals of the district, one of the number turning the scales at 18¼lb.—The Man at the Clubs.

The salmon season in this district closed on Saturday last. The season opened well, but since Easter very little good has been none; in fact, very few anglers have tried for salmon since Whitsuntide, owing to the fish being off the "bite," which is attributable to the very low state of the river (there having been no real "fresh" since February) and the large quantity of matter which gets into the river from Burton. I have made careful inquiry, and find about 100 salmon have been caught with the rod and line in this district during the season. Several salmon were taken just before the season closed, but they were not in very good condition, and it really does seem a pity to take them whon they are so near spawning. Very little good has been done at Willington this year, which is owing to the low state of the river and the fish being unable to get up. Anglers experience much difficulty owing to the large quantity of "flannel" weed and other rubbish they have to contend with, and unless there comes some heavy rains I am afraid there will not be many good takes. The Eggington sewage farm is almost completed, and the Burton sewage will soon be conveyed there, and anglers will be much pleased when they see the last of the gelatine matter which has troubled them for several years, it not only covering the bait, but the fish, no doubt, feed on it.—Spinning Bait.

### Trent (Newark).

Since I last wrote you a fortnight ago, there has not been quite so much fishing done. Mr. Allcock had 10 barbel on Thursday, Oct. 23rd, but could only raise one on Friday, and another on Saturday. I think we may now bid adieu to these fish until another season. On Friday, a friend of Mr. Butler's had a nice bag of chub about 35lb., best fish not over 3lb. On Saturday, I met the same gentleman, and though we tried some of our best chub swims, could not get a fish. I believe all that was done on that day was Mr. Bragg, one chub. After chub fishing, I tried the jack, and just at dusk I hooked a fish; but after a few moment's game at see-saw round a post we parted, the fish taking the hooks with him. None of our members managed to get out and catch the water at its best last week; but on Saturday Mr. Hickson got eight splendid roach in a very short time: they weighed 9lb., the best, a grand fish, 1lb. 11oz. Several others were out, but no one did anything that I heard of. Monday, Mr. Dale, 4 dozen dace; but nothing above 8oz. I had two friends pike fishing; but they don't seem to get hold right yet; Mr. Chatterton, one small one, and Mr. Lane, another. Yesterday, Mr. Edlington, six small bream. This about finishes my list at this end of the town. These, as well as the catches, particulars of which I sent you a fortnight ago, are not "imaginary catches." I have not the time to go through the last twelve numbers, Newark reports, or I could point out to your correspondent several things which were anything but facts; but as he promises not "to be tempted to report anything but what he knows to be a fact," we shall accept this as a good omen for the future.—F. T. L.

### Waveney (Beccles).

Weather during past week has been all that the angler could wish for, and those who have taken advantage of it have been well rewarded. Mr. Cowles, of Stratford, has again been after the pike, and landed several, two turning the scale at 6lb. and 4lb. respectively. Several roach fishermen were out on Saturday last. Mr. W. Oldham brought a dozen for my inspection, which weighed upwards of 5lb., one close on 1lb. Wind and weather now in good condition for all-round angling.—A Waveney Angler.

### Wye and Derwent.

The past week has been a very bad one for fishing, with the exception of to-day (Thursday), owing to the wind being so rough and boisterous, and lots of rain falling. The Derwent has a beautiful porter-coloured water on it to-day, a good killing water for either fly or bottom, and some good size baskets of grayling and coarse fish have been killed with maggots and cockspur worms. Mr. William Smith killed 4½ brace of large grayling with worm close to Matlock Bridge, the largest fish being 1lb. 2oz. D. P. Pearson, Esq., of Tottingham, got 5 brace of beauties, and several others have had similar baskets. There has been a fair quantity of anglers out on different parts of the Wye, and their takes, as a rule, have been very bad. They complain very much about the scarcity of grayling in the Wye. No doubt the fungus disease has something to do with it. Angling prospects are looking A1 for next week for either top or bottom; that is, if weather holds fine.—P.S. Since writing I hear that Mr. William Crowder, sen., Matlock Bank, has killed something like five brace of large grayling to-day, with maggots for baits.—G. J. Eaton, Nov. 6.

### The Yare (Norwich).

From all accounts the fish are up stream, and this seems to be proved by the fact that two Norwich anglers were successful at a spot known as the "Alder Carr," which is very close to Norwich. They caught between them 176, all roach except two dace; and, although they tried, they could not tempt a bream. A fair number have been out during the past week, and varied fortune has attended their efforts. The weather is extremely mild and bright (green peas are being gathered in Norwich), so that, if unsuccessful in sport, the angler has the enjoyment of splendid weather. The accounts with respect to jack fishing have not been good; they evidently have not been on the feed. The water has been very low and clear, still some success has been met with on Thorpe Broad, one man recently catching six and another two fish of about 3lb each. Some good catches have been had on private waters this week and last, 9½lb being the heaviest that I have heard of; that, of course, we Norfolk anglers consider only a medium fish, and I trust before long to hear of some three times that weight. Prospects good.—Robert Moll.

### Yore (Hawes).

Water in splendid trim for any kind of grayling fishing. The fish are somewhat shy of feeding, but one or two very nice catches have been made. On Saturday last I was out the whole of the day, but it was no use, I could not get a fish with the fly. Tommy Sproats was out the same day, and took one with the fly; and about four o'clock he took it into his head to try the worm, and he was successful in landing four and a half brace from one stream. A few nice fish fell victims to "gardenia" yesterday.—Jos. Corry.

## DEATH OF THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL.

Every angler will hear with deep regret of the almost sudden death of Mr. Henry Fawcett, an enthusiastic angler in spite of his blindness. Mr. Fawcett's name will always be remembered by men of all parties with respect and admiration.

## CLOSE OF THE FISHING ON THE EARN.

The rod-fishing on the Earn closed on Friday with a heavy flood, which put a stop to successful angling. A great many anglers were out, but had to give up fishing. Most of them went to the dykes to see the fish passing up, everyone stating it had been a wretched season. The flood coming three weeks too late, the higher reaches were very poorly stocked for want of water to take the fish up, and it was very tantalising to see the fish running up in hundreds the last day, when there would be no chance of catching them. Numbers of the fish were perfect beauties, newly from the sea. The lower part of the river has done splendidly, but the upper has almost been a failure. On Thursday, Mr. George Pople, on Kinkell water, landed a fish of 30lb.; and Mr. Hunter, a grilse. Drummond Castle water, which is let to anglers by the day, week, or month, has fished very badly. During the last three days a great many anglers were out, and the captures were :—Wednesday, two grilse (Mr. Blair, Dundee, one 6lb.; Thursday, Major Hoskins, two, 18lb. and 7lb.; Mr. P. D. Malloch, three, of 20lb., 10lb., and 9lb.; and Major Hanna, one, 17lb. Sea trout and yellow trout are spawning in great numbers in almost every stream. We have not heard of any diseased fish being seen or caught. So far as the Dupplin Water is concerned, there was not much done worth mentioning till October, but after the first few days of that month the sport was excellent; in fact, it never was better. The Earl of Hardwicke has had fine sport, killing in sixteen days fifty-five salmon, weighing 1038½lb., and ten grilse, weighing 74lb. One of his Lordship's best days was nine fish and a grilse, and on several days he had eight fish and grilse. He had also twenty-nine sea trout, mostly whittling, all the whittling being clean run. Col. Hardy had pretty fair sport. In five days he killed eleven salmon, weighing 199lb., and three grilse weighing 22lb. Mr. Montgomery also killed in five days five salmon, weighing 81½lb., and six grilse, weighing 44lb. The Hon. E. Villers had pretty fair sport, killing in six days nine salmon, weighing 149lb., and ten grilse, weighing 73lb., and 41 trout. Mr. Villers killed one or two of his fish (with worm) in September, when the river was very small. Lord Langford killed three fish of 50lb. in two days. Lord Stanhope killed in one day two grilse of 14lb. Viscount Ednam on one day, in a few hours, had three salmon of 55lb., and one grilse of 8lb. The Earl of Dudley killed one grilse of 8lb. one afternoon in about half-an-hour. Col. Montague had also excellent sport, killing in four days thirty-one salmon, weighing 521½lb., and sixteen grilse, weighing 123lb. Mr. Montague's best day was twelve salmon and six grilse, some of the fish weighing 27lb. Another day he killed twelve salmon and one grilse, mostly all out of two pools. He also killed five sea trout. Lord Ruthven likewise had good sport. He killed in three days, twelve salmon of 215½lb., and five grilse of 42½lb., and five sea-trout. His Lordship's best day was six salmon and two grilse. Col. Curtiss killed a fish of 28lb. on the 30th ult., and Mr. Hadow, the same afternoon, killed a fine fish of 34lb., which finished the season. The river came out on 31st, and was not fished. Several other gentlemen had a fish or two during the season. Since the nets were taken off on the 20th August, there have been killed on the Dupplin water by the several parties, 133 salmon, weighing 2,400lb., 57 grilse, weighing 432½lb., and 82 sea-trout, 1lb. each. This has been a good rod-fishing season. During the last three weeks of October the river was swarming with salmon and trout.

## CLUB REPORTS.

### AMICABLE BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

The result of the roaming match was as follows (five out of the seven prizes only won):—Mr. Medcalf, first; Mr. Robinson, jun., second; Mr. Pedley, third; Mr. Chevalier, fourth; Mr. A. Plumstead, fifth. The remaining prizes are to be fished for in the same water and under the same regulations on Nov. 9th. Members are requested to note that quarterly night is on Nov. 19th.—J. Worledge, sec.

### ANGLERS' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

Since my last report I beg to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of 2s. 6d. donation from H. A. Vincent, Watford Piscators, and 10s. from the donation box of the West Green Angling Society. The next meeting will take place on Friday, November 14th, at 9 o'clock, when members of the committee will oblige by their attendance.—R. Ghurney, sec.

### BIRKENHEAD ANGLERS' ASSOCIATION.

The first annual meeting of this association was held on the 29th ult., and was very fairly attended. In the absence of the president (Mr. O. Jones) the chair was ably filled by Mr. W. H. Hughes. After the minutes of the proceedings of the last meeting were read and approved, the treasurer submitted his annual statement of receipts and expenditure, which showed a flattering balance to our credit in the bank, and which goes without the saying was much approved of. The report of the hon. secretary was next submitted, and from which it appeared that the progress made during the year was such as to be proud of, less the fact that some of the members had not devoted that attention which is necessary to insure complete success. Special attention was drawn to the want of success in procuring a concession in the charges for travelling, but, thanks to the true spirit of angling, such drawback counted for nought. The prizes offered for specimen fish were won by the following gentlemen—viz., perch, grayling, roach, and dace, the hon. sec.; bream, R. Higginson; tench, J. H. Rogers. Private prizes for the heaviest baskets of tench, peach, and rudd were won by J. Holliday (tench), and J. H. Rogers, perch and rudd. The association's prize for the heaviest basket of fish was won by R. Higginson, and those for the best results in match fishing were accorded to Messrs. Poole, Robinson, Rogers, the hon. sec., and Baxter, in the order named for value. A challenge cup, kindly presented by a member, Mr. Robinson, for the greatest number of "wins" in match fishing, resulted in a tie between Messrs. Rogers and Poole, who have to arrange for the "tug of war" shortly. Many members offered prizes for competition in matches, and amongst others may be named Messrs. G. A. P. Brady, C. Petersen, O. Jones, L. Robinson, C. Durie, J. H. Rogers, E. T. Turpin, W. Godsell, R. Higginson, R. Ellis, Mr. A. Hodge, fishing tackle manufacturer, and the hon. sec. The late treasurer (Mr. R. Higginson) having removed to Nottingham, presented a prize, as a sample of the industries of that town, which was won by a non-Benedict, Mr. Poole. The prizes were presented by Mr. Councillor Simms in most felicitous terms, he at the same time observing that those who did not compete must be thankful in seeing others reap the rewards of their persistent angling. The officers having been accorded a vote of thanks for the able and courteous manner in which they had severally performed the duties of their respective offices, the meeting proceeded to elect the officers for the ensuing year, with the following result:—President, Mr. Councillor Simms; vice-president, Mr. W. H. Hughes; treasurer, Mr. J. H. Rogers; auditors, Messrs. Godsell and Robinson; hon. sec., Mr. Robert Edwards. Votes of thanks having been accorded Mr. Simms and Mr. Hughes for their offices for the evening the meeting dispersed.—Robt. Edwards, hon. sec.

### CITY OF LONDON ANGLING SOCIETY.

Our show of fish on the 2nd inst. was very small: Mr. Nitz, a jack from Pulborough 4lb. 2½oz.; Mr. Castell, dace, chub, and gudgeon from Harlow; and Mr. Chambers, gudgeon from the Thames.—Cas.

### CLAPHAM JUNCTION ANGLING SOCIETY.

Several members were out on the 2nd inst., but not much fish was got. Mr. Boisseau had a jack 5lb. 2oz.; and other takes of about 2lb. or 3lb. came to the scales. A match will be fished on the 9th inst., at Twickenham, between four members, two in a punt—Mr. Wilson (or "Speed") and Mr. Boisseau against Mr. Favell and Mr. Maslin. Hope to see a good number witness the "weighing-in." A remarkable incident occurred to me at Weybridge on the 2nd inst. Not getting any "knocks" in the swim I had selected, I placed my rod on the bank and went to see how my friends were getting on; on returning I found that a robin had taken the gentle left on the hook. The poor little thing was in a terrible flutter on being handled, but by using the wire disgorger (which, by the way, I think quite supersedes the bone), I managed to remove the hook from its stomach without the slightest injury, and with a "twit, twit, twit," it disappeared in the opposite bushes.—W. Maslin, sec.

### THE CLAPTON.

The usual weekly meeting was held on Monday last, Mr. C. B. Parry in the chair. The minutes of the preceding meeting were read, approved, and signed. The secretary reported that those members who had arranged for a trip to Suffolk with him were prevented from so doing, only he and one member going down by the first train on Saturday, and returning by the first train on Monday. The secretary gave an account of the trip, which he and his friend enjoyed thoroughly. The private lake which they had the privilege to fish being a grand fishing spot, one jack, some bream, and an innumerable quantity of roach being taken. Much amusement was caused by the description of the "fisherman" who accompanied them in a sort of man-of-war boat. He numbered 80 years of age, 40 of which he had been keeper for "the reverend," the owner of the lake and surrounding lands. He, with pride, referred to bream of 9lb., perch of 5lb., roach of 3lb., and pike of 26lb., taken by him in that lake. His tackle comprised a rod, the bottom joint of an old jack rod, a long stick, and the top joint, the rib of an umbrella, line quite as crude, and fishing at a depth of 20ft., necessitated the rod being thrown back over the shoulder and then jerked forward, the result being the line going into the water like a small rope, and the top of the rod also bobbing in and out of the water. The butt of the rod was then fastened under a piece of string across the seat of the boat, and then the "fisherman" settled down to his work of watching the float, and smoking furiously. You may fancy our wonder at gazing on such a man and tackle capturing the splendid specimens before referred to. By inquiry, we found his statements to be thoroughly correct. We fished the river next day, and got about a dozen jack, but some were very small and had to be returned, much to the regret of the fisherman, who expressed himself thus: "Darn the critters," "I always kills 'em," "The river's too full of 'em," "They eats up too many of the other fish," "Don't'e throw that one back, Sir," &c., &c. This was my third visit to this water. I can report it as full of fish, and I can further report a really good, clean, comfortable (to the letter) old hostelry, with as obliging and attentive a landlord as I ever came across; an exceptionally good caterer, and a very reasonable tariff. Anyone wanting good jack or perch fishing let him go to Bures, in Suffolk. Prior to so doing write to Mr. Cousins, the Queen's Head, where he will get permission for angling, and I can promise good sport and thorough enjoyment. Mr. Graham Bennett had two small jack from Day's water, and Mr. Kidd roach and dace from the same place. A splendid jack of 17½lb. was taken there last week. A vote of thanks to the chairman closed the proceedings.—Henry Howse, hon. sec.

### COBDEN ANGLING SOCIETY.

A peg-down match took place in the running-pound at Uxbridge, on Nov. 2nd. There was a very good muster of members; between 20 and 30 started at a given signal, and left off fishing at 5 p.m. They had very poor sport, but still, the prizes were all taken, the result being as follows—namely, Messrs. Simmons, 1st; Sharland, 2nd; G. Jenkins, 3rd; Green, 4th; Baker, 5th.—C. Reeves, sec.

### EASTERN COUNTIES' ANGLING SOCIETY, GREAT YARMOUTH.

A meeting of this society was held at the Duke's Head Hotel, on Tuesday evening, the 4th inst.; the president, Dr. Mitchell, being in the chair. In accordance with instructions given them at the last meeting, the auditors and secretaries went over the accounts. The result of their audit proves highly satisfactory to the society, which now, although but four months old, numbers over 100 members, many of whom being the most representative gentlemen in the district. After paying all expenses, we find there is the considerable sum of £10 9s. 3d. left in the hands of the treasurer, Mr. Brasnett. We think no better proof could be adduced of the want felt in our neighbourhood of such a society as this, properly conducted by gentlemen interested in piscatorial matters, than the advance made and success achieved by it in the few months it has been established, and it is hoped that by the inducements offered in the shape of prizes, &c., that greater numbers will still join. All gentlemen wishing to become members will, by sending their names to either of the secretaries: Mr. John Lee, 9, Kent-place, or Mr. Seaman, Duke's Head Hotel, be proposed and elected according to the rules of the society; and anyone joining on or before Monday evening, the 10th inst., will be competent to compete at the next contest. It was proposed by Dr. Mitchell, and seconded by Mr. Freeman, and carried, that, in addition to the prizes already offered, the society, out of its funds, should give a fourth, to the value of £2 2s. A special meeting, to which all members are earnestly invited to attend, will be held on Monday evening, the 10th inst., to make arrangements as to time, place, &c., and to enter names for the next angling tournament, for pike and perch only, which is to be fished on Thursday, the 13th inst.; as we anticipate a large and influential contest, intended competitors will please enter their names early. By the way, touching matters piscatorial, Mr. Lowne, Fuller's-hill, naturalist to the society, will next week have on show in his window, a large collection of beautifully stuffed specimen fish. The time occupied in viewing his display will be most profitably spent, as such a sight has never been seen in Yarmouth. Amongst other fish, there is a pike which scaled over 25lb., and several large perch, bream, tench, rudd, and roach. The greatest credit is due to Mr. Lowne for the amount of perseverance and energy he has applied to the study of the beautiful profession he has chosen.—A. M.

### GLOBE ANGLING SOCIETY.

On the 2nd inst. the following members weighed in:—Mr. S. Howell, roach and dace, 6lb. 1oz.; Mr. J. J. Holmes, roach and dace, 3lb.; Mr. G. Jeffries, one small jack, 2lb. 2oz.; Mr. H. Lake, roach, 1lb.; Mr. J. Lawrence, roach, 1lb.; and Messrs. A. Harris and G. Brown, roach and jack, too late to weigh in.—J. J. Holmes, sec.

### GOLDEN BARBEL.

On the 26th ult., the members of the above competed for several prizes at Windsor; the following is the result: First, J. Roach, with dace, perch, and gudgeon; second, G. Bigsby, roach; third, J. Jones, roach. Messrs. Chapman, Kemp, Crowe, and Stanton exhibited roach, perch, dace, and gudgeon. On the 30th Messrs. F. Kemp and Drury fished in the tidal water, and managed to get 26lb. of nice roach and dace in a short time; five of the roach turned the scale at 5lb. On the 2nd inst., Mr. Harper had roach and dace from the Thames. Messrs. Chapman, Bigsby, Hall, J. Jones, Shore, succeeded in getting a very nice show of roach and perch from the Grand Junction Canal. Messrs. J. Green and J. Stanton added roach and dace from the Upper Thomes to the exhibits of the evening.—Pixie.

### GOOD INTENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

There was a capital show of fish at our club on the 2nd inst., Mr. W. Snook with handsome roach and dace, Mr. J. Bell capital roach, Mr. Devon roach, Mr. Maybury roach, Mr. Haines roach, Mr. Hewett perch, Mr. W. Wheeler good dace, Mr. Gadbury jack, Mr. Pullham jack, and Mr. Philpott jack. The members will fish a pegged-down match for ten prizes, at Ware, on the 16th inst.—R. Murphy.

### GRANGE ANGLING SOCIETY.

On the 31st ult. Messrs. S. Jones and W. Kayes weighed in a fine show of fish, mainly consisting of rudd, with the exception of a couple of tench which had been caught by Mr. Jones, and although the whole of his catch had been carelessly thrown into his basket and carried a distance of thirty miles, it was found on arrival at the clubhouse, some five hours after, that the tench still showed signs of life. Mr. J. H. Rich (one of the members) noticing this, determined he would try if possible to bring them into full life. He, therefore, gave them a little brandy and a few breadcrumbs and put them into water for a few minutes, with the result that they began rapidly to revive. Mr. Rich then took them out of the water and gave them a little more brandy, finally placing them in his aquarium, where they are now in full health.—W. Kayes, hon. sec.

### GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

The ordinary weekly meeting of the above society was held on Tuesday evening at the Masons' Hall Tavern, Masons-avenue, Basinghall-street. Mr. Crumplen presided, and the society's large hall was completely filled with members and friends. Being a special musical night, the business of the evening was quickly despatched; the minutes having been read and confirmed. Captain Alfred proposed, and Mr. Bentley seconded, Mr. G. Fitzhardinge Rose as a member of the society. The ballot for this gentleman will take place in accordance with the society's rules on the 18th inst. Mr. Rose, as an earnest of what is to be expected of him in the future, weighed in a magnificent pike, in splendid condition, and weighing 26lb. Captain Alfred informed the meeting that Mr. Rose was willing to present this excellent specimen to the society, an offer which was readily accepted with the best of thanks. It will be set-up, and added to the society's already numerous collection. The Chairman reminded the meeting that Tuesday next was the day fixed for the pike competition; two good prizes are offered, the first a valuable bull-pup, given by Mr. Ellis; and the second, a jack rod, by Mr. Bentley. Very keen competition is expected, as a great number of members have signified their intention of taking part in the contest. The business having been concluded, the lighter portion of the evening was opened by an excellent pianoforte solo by Mr. Winterbottom, who, with Mr. Brown, ably managed the accompaniments during the evening. Both of these gentlemen sang several songs, which were very well received. The honours of the evening, however, fell to Mr. Wheeldon, whose musical contributions, and humorous as well as interesting account of his recent visit to the North, called forth the highest encomiums. Dr. Defriez gave two very nice songs; and other *morceaux*, all of equal excellence, were contributed by Messrs. Lake, Sheen, Beck, Salmon, Harris, King, and Belfont. Mr. Warren gave an excellent rendering of one of Mr. G. R. Sims' pathetic effusions, and violin solos and duets were executed in a manner which astonished the hearers by the youthful Masters Wellsted. Especial mention must be made of Messrs. Marsh and Nicholls, whose pianoforte duets added greatly to the pleasure of the evening. The meeting was brought to a happy termination by votes of thanks to the chairman and gentlemen who had done so much towards the success of the evening, both vocally and instrumentally. The toast of "The Visitors" met with cordial reception, and was most happily responded to.—H.

### GREAT YARMOUTH PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

Much satisfaction was shown on Tuesday at the meeting of the society when Mr. Pretty was presented with the prize awarded him by the referee on Thursday's competition, more especially when he could have claimed it on a previous occasion when no weight was stipulated, only sizeable fish; and it would be well in future to make certain restrictions as to weight, as well as length. So the bottom-fishing is ended for the time being; but thanks to the generosity of both president and vice, we shall have a jack contest next week, the first being a cup from Mr. D. S. Bayfield, who, by the way, has just been elected at the head of the poll to the honour of councilman, representing Regent Ward in this centre of fresh and salt water fisheries town; the second prize is from Captain Blake, Vice-Commodore N. and S.Y. Club, to be used by the winner in purchasing fishing tackle, and it will be decided on Tuesday which of the remaining prizes will be used for 3rd or 4th. Should the weather hold fine I may have the pleasure of sending you the report of some good catches.—J. Lark.

### HIGHBURY ANGLING SOCIETY.

Several of our members have had some excellent sport this week, the result showing a weighing of nearly 50lb. of jack, barbel, chub, roach, and dace, the principal contributors being Messrs. H. Temple, White, Shipley, Devonshire, C. Lewis, Anthony, and Highley.—J. E. Wheatley, sec.

### HOXTON BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

A good show of fish in the club-room on the 2nd inst., and a fair attendance of members. Mr. J. Osborne had 38lb. of splendid perch, and a friend (not a member) who accompanied him, had about 16lb. of roach; Mr. A. Dean, 9¾lb. of roach; Messrs. Hattemore and W. Midson also had roach; H. Steadman, chub; E. Harris, jack, 6lb. 2½oz.; J. Morgan, jack, 9lb. 9½oz.—R. Ghurney.

### LINCOLN ANGLING SOCIETY.

Our members went out on the 2nd inst. to fish for two prizes. A splendid show of roach, dace, bream, and jack was brought in. Mr. Embleton won the first prize, and Mr. Ulph the second, both of whom brought in heavy shows. Mr. Shee brought in from Weybridge a fine show of roach and one jack, weighing 2lb. 7oz.; Mr. H. Blyth, one jack, 2lb. 5oz., and a good show of roach from Bourne End; Mr. Pearce, dace and roach from Richmond; Mr. Johnson, dace only.—H. Bingle, sec.

### NORTH-EASTERN ANGLING SOCIETY.

Only two or three members out on the 2nd inst.; sport meagre. Mr. Savage had a singular roach from the Lea, with an enormously extended stomach; size of fish, 13¼in. long; 11¼in. in girth; weight, 1lb. 11oz. Gone to Cooper's; will be on view at the club when finished.—G. T. Fletcher.

### PECKHAM BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

The following gentlemen were the winners of the club prizes on the 2nd inst.:—Messrs. Parsons, Gafney, and Stidolph. A match for the cup on the 16th, at St. Margaret's, usual conditions. Our dinner on the 3rd inst. was a grand success, and the members of the P.B.A.S. desire to return their thanks to those gentlemen that favoured them with their company—"good old Second Surrey"; also to Mr. R. Rayment for his kindness in lending such a handsome lot of flowers and ferns for the room, and also the staircase. An abler pen than mine will report the speeches, &c.—Gadfly.

### THE PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The perch competition and the usual weekly meeting of this society took place on Monday evening last at Ashley's Hotel, Covent Garden, there being a very numerous attendance of members present. Mr. D. Goodger was unanimously voted to the chair. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. The chairman reminded the members that he had some fine photographic albums belonging to the society, and asked those members who had not already forwarded their portraits to do so for insertion in same. The hon. sec. announced there would be no returns of any monies subscribed *re* the Heigham Sounds case, as the greater portion had been expended, and the balance handed over to those legally claiming it. Our first smoking concert takes place on Monday next; the programme will commence at 8.30 precisely. Mr. Harrisson has consented to take the chair, and will not wait! The following candidates for admission to this society were now balloted for:—Mr. J. Hollams, jun., proposed by the hon. sec., seconded by the hon. treasurer; Mr. Thomas Aldridge, proposed by Mr. Arter, seconded by the hon. treasurer; Mr. George Watson, proposed by Mr. Arter, seconded by Mr. Phillips. The chairman announced that all these gentlemen had been unanimously elected, an announcement which was received with loud cheers, and the healths of the new members drank with enthusiasm. There was a splendid show of fish, our tables being literally covered. About 11 o'clock the competitors had all returned, and the following fish were shown:—Mr. G. Robinson, 14lb. 4oz. perch; Mr. Wright, 10lb. perch; and these gentlemen were respectively declared winners of the first and second prizes of the competition. Several of our members tried the Thames; but although they could take plenty of perch, failed to get them large enough to be shown on our tables, nothing under ½lb. being eligible. The following fish were also on the tables:—A tray containing a fine show of roach, about 20lb., by Mr. Fennings, and one pike and three chub by the same gentleman; a fine tray of eight Thames chub by Mr. Lemann, the largest between 3lb. and 4lb.; a tray with 27lb. of pike by Mr. Robinson; a large tray of roach over 30lb. by Messrs. Wright and Robinson. The above gentlemen were all toasted as successful anglers, and each gave suitable replies, the utmost cordiality and good feeling existing throughout the proceedings. Our friend, Wheeldon, fresh back from his salmon fishing, was again amongst us, and gave a most amusing and graphic description of his fishing at Crieff. Sport was not good—he took two fish 10lb. and 13lb., and hooked another, which he saw, and which was at least 30lb. in weight, and nearly killed the fish; the gillie unfortunately gaffed the fish upwards, broke the gaff, and the fish ultimately escaped. Mr. Hodson related his experiences of a week's fishing at Killaloe, which were listened to with deserved attention. He engaged a professional fisherman for the week, and succeeded in taking 140 trout and two salmon. Mr. Sachs gave some reminiscences of a lost diamond; but several of the members did not seem inclined to give entire attention, as the remarks were not of piscatorial interest. The chairman proposed "The Continued Success of the Piscatorial Society," which was responded to in the usual manner. "The Health of Mr. Goodger," who had carried out the duties of the chairman in a thoroughly efficient manner, was next proposed, and with a few suitable remarks the last of our competitions for 1884 and the usual business of the evening was brought to a close.—T. H.

### RICHMOND PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

This society held its weekly meeting at the Station Hotel on Wednesday, Mr. A. J. Little in the chair, Mr. H. Dickinson in the vice chair. Mr. E. H. Smith weighed in a large number of barbel, the largest a very handsome fish of 7¾lb. in good condition. The chairman congratulated Mr. Smith upon his success, and requested him to state where the fish were captured. Mr. Smith said they were all caught at Datchet, fishing with J. Hoare (a fisherman he could speak of very highly, with whom he always fished). In three days he had caught over a hundredweight of barbel, the swims being baited by Hoare with worms from the neighbourhood, for which no extra charge was made. Mr. Smith concluded by highly eulogising the up river fishing in preference to the tideways. This, of course, raised many dissentient voices, tideway enthusiasts contending that as good roach, barbel, carp, and better dace fishing could be obtained in the tideway than in the upper reaches of the river. The chairman remarked that the only test was to fish on the same day for the same class of fish; that although Mr. Smith had been very successful with the barbel, no one had been recently baiting in the tideway, and as to the sizes of fish, he reminded the members that Coxen had taken two, with his patrons, over 8lb.; and Mr. Temple, spinning at Teddington Weir, during the close season, had caught two barbel, 13lb. and 10lb. respectively, not forgetting Mr. Blamey's eighty-eight fish in one day. These observations immediately induced Mr. Smith to contribute one guinea to a roach competition, to be fished on the Thames, on December 10. No roach less than 8in. to weigh. Other subscriptions followed, and several members entered, the entrance fees, 2s. 6d., going to the prize fund, and a portion to the funds of the society. The chairman reported the capture of several pike in the deeps at Twickenham, and reminded members that the smoking concert would take place on Wednesday, punctually at 8.15, as there was a very long programme.

### RODNEY PISCATORIALS.

On the 3nd inst., several of the members weighed in their first show for the gross weight for November. Mr. C. A. Grant came first, with roach and perch; Mr. R. Smith, second, with bream; third, Mr. Bastock, with perch from the Lea. Messrs. Dodd, Chantry, and Co., visited the Thames, but their takes were small. Members wishing to visit Tunbridge on the 16th at the reduced fare are requested to send in their names as early as possible before the 12th. All members are requested to attend on Wednesday evening next, November 12th, to consider a charge made against a member of this society.—Pixie.

### ROYAL GEORGE ANGLING SOCIETY.

A considerable number of the members of the above society went out on the 2nd inst., to fish for a cup given by Mr. Carter, for the gross weight of roach from the bank. It was won by Mr. Palmer, as was also a prize given by Mr. Hughes for the largest roach. Mr. Holden followed him very close with 5lb. 2oz. of very handsome roach. Mr. Sinclair and others had some nice fish. Mr. Hewitt had a nice show of roach and dace, something over 12lb. from the Lower Thames on Tuesday. Members are requested to be early in attendance at the concert next Tuesday night, also to bring friends with them, when they will be welcomed by—W. H. Rider.

### SOUTH LONDON UNITED.

The members of this society mustered rather stronger than was anticipated at the Angler's Pride, held at Mr. Bates's, White Hart, Old Kent-road, on the 5th inst. The musical abilities of the members were well displayed as long as the time would permit. Among those who contributed were Messrs. Austin, Grant, Smith, Tyler, Richardson, &c. A gentleman sang "The Shoeblack Boy," which called forth much applause. Previous to the roll being called, Mr. Allen stated that he was happy to say these visits had proved a great success, and he hoped that they always would do. He wished secretaries to bear in mind that to insure a visit that it was necessary for their respective societies to be represented at the visit previous to their own. Societies not doing so will lose their visit, which will go to the next society on the list. Societies that have not received the new list of societies enrolled on the visiting list of the South London United, are requested to communicate with Mr. Allen, Trothy-road, Bermondsey, who will forward a list to all societies entitled to receive them. The next visit will go to the Excelsior, the Hope, Bird-street, Kennington, the date of which will be given shortly. In consequence of the South Eastern having lost their visit, it was suggested that a complimentary visit be paid to them, as it was not entirely their fault that they did not receive a notice as to the date of the Wellington visit. This met with the approval of all members present, and it now only remains for Mr. Weston to state the date when it will be convenient for the South London United to pay a visit to the South Eastern, held at Mr. J. Frith's, the George, George-street, Blackfriars.—Pixie.

### SOUTH-EASTERN ANGLING SOCIETY.

Some fourteen of our members were out on the 2nd inst. at Ware, to fish for the three remaining prizes from the last contest at Pangbourne a month since, and the winners were as follows:—Mr. F. Allard, 1st; Mr. Sherman, 2nd; Mr. Westoby, 3rd. Some others weighing in, but the catches being small, owing to little water and its brightness. Our meeting on Tuesday the 4th was fairly attended, but at a late hour. I do hope our members will please attend more punctually to time. The challenge from the Busy B's was discussed, but owing to the absence of Mr. Keeble could not be thoroughly gone into. Should he not accept, our friend, Mr. Barrett, can be otherwise accommodated, I have no doubt, on behalf of others.—T. H. H. Weston, sec.

### STAINES ANGLING CLUB.

The members of the above club, numbering twelve, fished a match on the 2nd inst. for a prize, Mr. A. Palmer being the successful candidate by a fine bream.—F. Sykes, sec.

### STANLEY ANGLERS SOCIETY.

I beg to forward you the weights of fish taken by members of this society during the last fortnight. Mr. Ellis, thirty-one roach, 13lb. 10½oz.; Mr. D. M. Humby, two roach, 1lb. 11oz., one fish 1lb. 4¾oz; Mr. W. R. Humby, twenty-four roach, 10lb. 6oz.; twelve dace, 3lb. 11¾oz.; nine roach, 3lb. 9½oz.; two dace, 8¼oz.; Mr. C. Scull, twelve roach, 6lb. 5¼oz., one fish, 1lb. 14oz.; four dace, 1lb. 1½oz., twenty-six roach, 12lb. 15¼oz.; one fish, 1lb. 7½oz.; fourteen dace, 4lb. 13¼oz.; one fish, 8¾oz., and two ditto 8oz. each; Mr. C. P. Wheatstone, eight perch, 2lb. 15oz.; thirteen roach, 5lb. 4¼oz.; one perch, 1lb. 6oz.; Mr. A. F. Wrightson, thirty-three roach, 21lb. 7½oz.; two perch, 1lb. 6oz.; one jack, 2lb. ½oz.; two jack, 9lb. 11oz.; five perch, 3lb. 13oz.; one roach, 10¾oz.; four perch, 3lb. 9¼oz.: four roach, 2lb. 3½oz.; two perch, 1lb. 9¾oz.; three tench, 11lb. 9½oz.; four rudd, 6lb.; one fish, 1lb. 14½oz.; one fish, 1lb. 13½oz.; one tench, 4lb. 13½oz.; five roach, 8lb. 12oz.; one fish, 2lb.; one ditto, 1lb. 12½oz.; one ditto, 1lb. 12oz.; one ditto, 1lb. 10½oz,; one ditto, 1lb. 8¼oz. The society is to be congratulated upon possessing among their members two such energetic men as Mr. Scull and Mr. Wrightson, the latter gentleman's perseverance having been rewarded by some splendid specimen fish. We have at last received our diploma from Fisheries Exhibition, and certainly the document was well worth waiting for, as all the members who have seen it are highly gratified with it.—G. E. W.

### UNITED BROTHERS, DEPTFORD.

Not many of our members have been out lately; but I expect to see some out on the 9th inst. On October 26th, Mr. J. Payne, bream and roach; and on November 2nd, bream.—H. Tyler.

### WELLINGTON.

On the 31st October Mr. Hopkins weighed in roach 1lb. 13½oz., and barbel 6lb. 13½oz.; total, 8lb. 11oz., thus at the last moment winning the first barbel prize for August, September, and October (presented by Mr. George Mayo) with 18lb. 9¼oz. Mr. Charles Newbury will take the second prize (presented by Mr. Frank Keene) with 16lb. 12oz. On the 2nd inst. we had a very poor show, only four members weighing in a few roach. On Wednesday evening Mr. Isaac Jackson was balloted for and duly elected, and two new members were proposed and seconded. Donors who have not yet sent their prizes in will oblige by letting them be in the hands of the society not later than Wednesday, the 3rd December.—W. W. Alexander, sec.

### WESTBOURNE PARK PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The weekly meeting of this society took place as usual on Tuesday evening at the Pelican Hotel, Westbourne Park, Mr. R. F. Lines occupying the chair. After confirmation of the previous minutes, the secretary read out the fish captured and weighed in during the week, notably a pike, by Mr. T. Oatley, of 10½lb., in addition to a handsome show of roach up to 1lb. each in weight. Mr. H. Thompson also had a good take of roach, eight of the best fish weighing 7lb. Mr. Adeane had an afternoon at Godfrey's Water, West Drayton, and was a very short time securing eight pretty perch of ½lb. each. The Thames competition of this society will take place on the 16th inst., so that members intending to compete should enter their names with the secretary at the next meeting (Tuesday).

## ANNUAL DINNER OF THE NORWICH ANGLING CLUB.

Among the many angling societies that Norwich boasts, the Norwich Angling Club takes high rank; in fact, it has become one of the institutions of the city, thanks to the admirable management of Mr. R. Moll, the secretary and local piscatorial historian, aided by an influential committee. The annual dinner of the club was celebrated on Tuesday evening, October 28th, at headquarters, Mr. E. H. Corbyn's, the Walnut Shades, Market-place, and a goodly number of members sat down to a first-class repast, capitally served by the worthy host. The chair was again occupied by the president, Mr. G. Diggens, with his accustomed geniality, and the company included Councillors J. S. Offord and S. Matthews, Messrs. I. O. H. Taylor, F.R.H.S., J. B. Pearce, A. L. Littleboy, G. Daniels, J. J. Hunt, C. Fendick, T. E. Gunn, F.L.S., G. G. Whincop, E. E. Southall, O. E. Winter, A. E. Bunnett, C. J. Campling, F. Ellingham, C. Daniels, S. F. Howitt, J. W. Wilkins, J. L'Estrange, A. Bush, M. J. Bailey, W. Burrage, B. Beatley, J. D. Beeston, H. Wilkinson, E. H. Corbyn, R. Moll (hon. sec.), W. Mace, &c. Mr. C. J. Greene occupied the vice-chair. The room was nicely adorned by Mr. T. E. Gunn with a choice selection of cases of preserved specimens of fish-eating birds.

A liberal dessert was placed upon the table by the president, and while this was being partaken of the president proposed the loyal toasts, which were received very heartily.

The Vice-President (Mr. Greene) proposed "The Health of the President," and said that those who knew him most respected him the best, and those who were not acquainted with him certainly ought to know him. For several years he had been their president, and he (Mr. Greene) hoped he would long remain in that position, for he not only contributed to the enjoyment of their annual gatherings, but he offered handsome prizes for competition. (Cheers and musical honours, Mr. Beeston afterwards singing an original song composed by himself in praise of pike fishing.)

The President, in responding, said he was amply repaid if in his office he had gained the approval of the members of the club. He had been president for a number of years, and he had always met with the greatest kindness from all with whom he came in contact, and he was always happy to promote their enjoyment as much as possible. (Hear, hear.) Before he resumed his seat he should like to give "The Health of the Vice-President," without whose ready assistance there would, he believed, have been no Norwich Angling Club. If any members wanted advice as to the best bait to use or the best waters to fish in he was sure Mr. Greene was ready to render them every information. (Cheers and musical honours.)

The Vice-President, in reply, said if he was the father of the Norwich Angling Club he was very proud of his children, and he was always pleased when in competitions they beat an old fisherman like himself. (Hear, hear.) The club was rightly, he thought, confined to thirty members, and there were no vacancies, or he believed they might enlist twenty anglers in the space of a week. (Cheers.)

Mr. I. O. H. Taylor proposed "The Norwich Angling Club," and said he took a great interest in the prosperity of angling, although he was not able to go out upon the water himself. The city owed societies like this a debt of gratitude for enabling men to gather together to enjoy legitimate sport. The work of the Yare Preservation Society had been a grand one in preserving the fish in our magnificent waters so as to enable sportsmen from a distance to come here and gratify their inclination. (Hear, hear.) Norfolk and Norwich men might well be proud of their broads and rivers, from which not only good sport was obtained, but about which most delightful scenery was to be found. (Hear, hear.) The pursuit of angling brought men together in one bond of good fellowship, and it was this social feeling that ought to be more cultivated in the city of Norwich. (Hear, hear.) With the toast he coupled the name of Mr. Moll, the indefatigable hon. secretary, who worked well and had contributed greatly not merely to the success of that club, but to the promotion of the innocent and healthful science of angling. (Applause.)

Mr. Moll, in response, said this was the ninth occasion on which he had had to acknowledge this toast, and traced the progress of the club upwards from the time when they could only offer £4 15s. in prizes to the present, when they gave £26. (Applause.) The deaths of members had been very few, and nearly all the withdrawals that had taken place were owing to the fact that gentlemen had removed from the city. He alluded with satisfaction to the circumstance that the club had adopted the suggestion of Mr. Pearce that no fish should be taken by the members that were under six inches in length, and said that though at their last competition they caught 11 stone weight, not one of them was below that size. (Applause.) During the winter season some interesting papers would be read by various members, and the first would be supplied by Mr. Beeston on the first Tuesday in December. (Cheers.)

Mr. Beeston offered the toast of "The Yare Preservation Society and Local Angling Clubs," and fully acknowledged the great service the former had rendered in securing good sport for sportsmen. (Hear, hear.)

The Vice-President, as secretary of the Y.P.S., responded, and said he should like to see every anglers' club in Norwich follow the example of that which he was now addressing and give an annual subscription to the Y.P.S. funds. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. G. G. Whincop (secretary of the Champion Angling Club) also responded, and alluded to the great loss his society had sustained by the death of Mr. Chettleburgh. (Hear, hear.) His club, like the Norwich Angling, subscribed to the Y.P.S., and since he had taken the secretaryship he should endeavour to keep it in its present satisfactory condition. Having alluded to the destruction of fish that was caused lately by the salt water coming up as far as Brundall, he said that no steps could be taken to avert this, but it was a matter of regret nevertheless. (Hear, hear).

Mr. C. Daniels (President of the Norwich Piscatorial Society) also replied, and said the work done by the N.A.C. was duly appreciated. (Hear, hear.) He then gave the health of "The Visitors," who were always welcome at their meetings, and coupled with the toast the names of Mr. I. O. H. Taylor, who was a man of large heart, keen wit, and wide sympathies, and Mr. C. J. Campling, who was always ready to contribute to the harmony of their gatherings. (Cheers.)

Mr. Taylor responded, and in the course of his remarks alluded humorously to the successful experiments made by Mr. Oldham Chambers in restoring fish to liveliness by the administration of a few drops of brandy. (Laughter and applause.)

Mr. Campling and Mr. Councillor Offord also replied, and

Mr. T. E. Gunn proposed "The Host and Hostess," for whom Mr. E. H. Corbyn responded.

Mr. R. Moll gave "The Press," which was acknowledged by Mr. E. J. Lord (*Norwich Argus*); and the last toast, "The Ladies," was given by Mr. M. J. Bailey, Mr. Beatley and Mr. D. Fendick responding.

During the evening Mr. A. E. Bunnett contributed some pleasing pianoforte selections, and there was some good singing by Messrs. Bush, Campling, Offord, and others.

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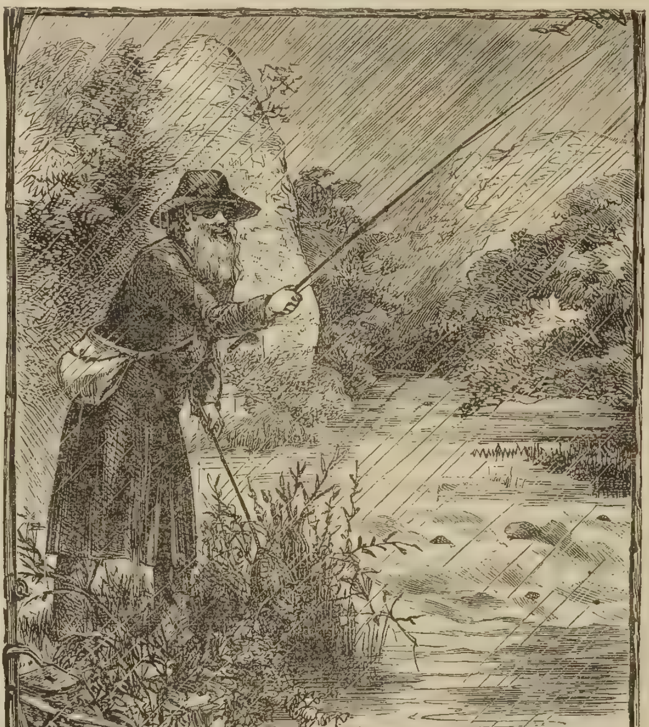

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The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1884.

## TROUTING IN NORMANDY.

By Cotswold Isys.

You will remember, Mr. Editor, that before starting for my autumn holiday, I asked you if you could give me any information respecting the trout streams of Normandy. With your usual courtesy towards the lovers of your favourite sport, you wrote to your French correspondent ; but he could give no information respecting that part of France to which I was going. I had, consequently, to proceed in the dark on a voyage of discovery, and I have thought that some little account of my experience in that search might be interesting and possibly useful to some of your many readers, both at home and abroad.

My place of sojourn, then, was Dieppe ; but it would be beside the purpose which your journal has in view to occupy your space with any description of that interesting watering-place and its ways. I confine myself strictly to angling matters. No holiday is now worth anything to me unless I can get some fishing, and so I had not been at Dieppe more than two days before I was scouring its neighbourhood in the search for brook or river. I could see by the map that the river Arques emptied itself into the sea at Dieppe ; but whether the Arques contained fish worth catching—still more whether it contained trout—or whether it were at all fishable, all this I had to discover for myself. One morning, therefore, I walked up the valley through which it flowed, but with very chequered hopes, since the lower part of the river looked far too mariny to excite my sanguine anticipations as an angler. It had a muddy shore much too like Wapping to be pleasant to my eye as a fly-fisherman, while its tidal character and the hulls of old broken-up fishing smacks and the skeletons of new ones being builded to replace them, made me fear that all hope of trout must certainly be abandoned. However, I walked on and on until I arrived at Arques, glancing constantly at the narrowing river in the hope of seeing a rise of some sort or other on such a fine day—all the more eagerly since the river began to look clear, and, beyond the weir and floodgates, decidedly fishable. But, alas ! for my hopes. The flow of the river was unbroken by a splash, and unwrinkled by a ring. Not a sign of a fish of any sort could I see ; yet if ever I saw a likely-looking trout stream, it was that same Arques near the village of that name. Nay, more : at said village I discovered that the river had three branches which spread out on either hand at very wide distances, and, on walking along the banks of one of these branches, I saw a rise—actually a rise—nay, more, actually a fish leap out of the water, and, oh, "auspicious hope !" certainly a trout. "That will do," said I. The presence of one trout was proof demonstrative that there were more about ; so, with that happy knowledge, I wended back to the Hotel des Etrangers (my quarters, and exceedingly comfortable quarters, take note, all whom it may concern, especially of the fact that it has a first-rate *chef*), and put my rod and tackle in order that very night with no little longing for the morrow.

The morrow morning came, and, rod in hand, I was off in that mood of mind which I have expressed elsewhere,* in lines which I hope I may be pardoned for here quoting, as I cannot so well express my feelings in prose :—

> "Hope in my heart, health in the air—
> The freshness of morning everywhere ;
> Pleasure before, and care behind,
> I tramp to the river with gleesome mind,
> And with brotherly love to all mankind !
> And the tramp of my eager feet doth say :
> 'I wonder, I wonder, what luck to-day !'"

But, alas ! my luck was bad after all. I got to Arques, and of the three streams, of course, as a stranger to the locality, I hit upon that which was decidedly the worst—viz., that which I afterwards discovered was named the Eaulne. (Note, in passing, that the names of the three streams here are the Bethune, the Eaulne, and the Arques.) Well, it was very strange, but I could not get a rise ; nay, more, I did not to-day see a fish, and yet I had on one of the daintiest little quill gnats that could possibly be set before even an epicure of a French trout. What could be the reason ? Did these French trout expect me to dress my fly in garlic or tomato sauce before they would look at it ? For that trout *must* be in such a stream—so clear, so sparkling, so flowing, so curvy, so watercressy—was as clear as that the Republic is a dreadful come-down from the Empire. Anyway, they would not look at the quill gnat nor at the alder, nor at the red palmer, for I tried them all. And when I returned to my *cara sposa* with an empty creel in the afternoon—well, I could hardly face her, and you know what *that* feeling is, for Mrs. Editor has a little pleasant banter in her, and I believe *you* have sometimes gone home with an empty creel, at least once in your married life. But I bore her jeers (as patiently as you did on that one occasion), and, to tell you the truth, I think she was a little disappointed to see that she did *not* put me out of conceit with my superior self, for I only sang to her another of my angling ditties :—

> "If we find disappointment, yet spirits like ours.
> So tutored to patience [*Aside :* as I am by you, Madame !], may laugh
> as it lours ;
> We have always this solace to comfort our pain :
> That in seeking we find, and in losing we gain."

Angling brother, always sing to your wife when she teazes you : *that* will cure her, and considerably add to your domestic bliss.

But I confess that though, in order to promote *my* domestic bliss, I thought it policy "to assume a virtue, if I had it not," I was not in the best of spirits as to my prospects after my day's experience ; and it was with somewhat chastened steps and slow that I went riverwards next day. I walked along the river, and it looked so sluggish, ringless, and lifeless, that I hardly thought it worth while to put the rod together, and I put it down beside me while I lay down myself on the bank near a weir, and gave myself up to "miscellaneous impulses." Presently, to my diversion, there trudged on to the bridge over it an old spectacled Frenchman—wondrously like Shylock—with a rod under his arm, which he immediately began to put together ; and as, with no sign of a rise, fly-fishing seemed hopeless, I thought I would spend an hour or so in watching results. What a rod, and what a line to fish with for anything, much less trout ! And I soon had proof that he was indeed fishing for trout. Fancy, fishing for trout with no reel, and a taut line that could not give an inch, save what is got from the play of a long stiff rod. Yet that was the apparatus, and the bait was Dr. Brunton's *gardenia* fly—*i.e.*, a worm. I wonder if he will possibly catch anything. I think I'll just wait and see. An hour passes, and the float curls round and round the eddies of the weir without any apparent intention of ever sinking, and I begin to think that Frenchmen and Jews have patience as great as Englishmen and Christians. But, look ! What is Shylock about ? He bends with excitement, and is lifting his rod hard. Surely he has got into a great weed ! No, indeed ; it really is a trout that comes up, and a good one, too—at least 1½lb. Ah, Shylock, I say to myself, as he tugs and the fish wobbles, why don't you keep him in the water ? In half a minute you will certainly lose him ! I had hardly thought the thought, when flop went the fine fish into the water, and up went the long bent rod, and back in consternation went Shylock ! I felt for the poor old boy ; but what could he expect would be the result of trying to lift a big and lively trout up 20ft. on a taut line ? Angling in France is evidently quite a century behind the condition of the art in England. I had, subsequently, other opportunities of witnessing it, both in the form of worm and fly fishing, and was obliged to come to that conclusion. I have seen a worm-angler in a boat jerk a trout clean over the boat into the river at his back ; and I saw another man, when fly fishing, jerk a trout right over his head into a streamlet at his back, into which the trout escaped. I often marvelled what the texture of the mouth of a French trout can be like, that it ever could endure such jerking, especially from such tackle. I put by one of their flies to bring home to you to put into your museum of curiosities ; but, unfortunately, I lost it. The gut, Sir, would have held a conger eel.

But to proceed. After Shylock had given up fishing (for he had brought no other cast than the one the big trout had gone off with), and gone home a sadder but, I hope, a wiser man, I took a turn up the river, and lay down on another part of its bank to drink in the beauty of the scene. Watching the water beside a large pool, I fancied I saw a feeble rise at its edges, and presently another and another. But the rings were so faint and small, that I concluded they must be dace. So I put my rod together, thinking that a little dace fishing was better than nothing, and that I might as well see whether they cared for English flies. Ere long, to my joy, I got a rise ; but it was very undecided, and nothing came of it. Presently, I saw a more decided rise, and away I went for it, and was immediately into something that, if a dace, must be a very fine one. Up he leaps, and, there is no mistake about it, it is a trout, and a good one, too. I had no landing net with me, for I came out without any hope of fish, and hardly of fishing ; and this was an exceedingly awkward circumstance, for I was on a high bank fringed with tall reeds, and how to get my fish up there without repeating Shylock's folly was a problem. This difficulty was weakening the hold in the fish's mouth, and just as I drew him to the edge of the bank at the foot of the weeds, the hook gave way. But there he was, wriggling on the mud—a good three-quarter of a pound fish. Fearing to lose him, and without thinking of the consequences, I laid down my rod, and leapt down through the flags on to the shore, when the mud yielded, and I went up to my knees in the water with my hand on the fish, and my body on the bottom joint of my rod, which snapped beneath my fall like a carrot. I, too, had lost my fish, like Shylock, but not, like him, through want of skill in handling him, but purely through accident. However, this was my consolation : there were certainly trout here, and good ones, and, moreover, they would rise to a fly. So I looked disconsolately at the fragments of my butt-end, and considered whether it was possible to fish any more. While considering, I saw another rise or two. That settled it. I must do something. So I took my reel off the lower fragment and tied it on to its upper broken limb with some string, and made as good a job of it as I could, and began to cast. When, lo ! I learnt that "there is a soul of goodness in things evil," and that what seem very adverse trials often turn out blessings in disguise. So it was with my unlucky *contretemps ;* for I found, to my delight, that the rod was a far better rod thus shortened, and that I could cast even better with it than before its amputation ; and I resolved never to have a twelve-foot rod with a heavy butt for trout fishing again, and during the remainder of my fishing found the shorter and lither rod far less tiring and far more pleasant to wield. But now it remains to be seen whether I can land a trout with it. And here comes an opportunity to test it ; for, see, there is another nice curling rise under the flags. Away goes the quill gnat (one of Holroyd's dainty ones). But, ah, this breeze ! Why has it sprung up just now ? and why is it blowing right from the opposite shore ? (Did it ever blow from any other quarter when there was a specially good rise ?) And why does it blow my fly into the flags and fasten it there, so that I am bound to go down to it to disentangle it, and, of course, to frighten the fish ? But so it is. Wait awhile—he may come back. Ah, there he is ! Now ! Doesn't he quite like it ? Try again, then. He *does* like it, but not quite, else why that frantic leap ? But he cannot get rid of it, and I *can* land a fish with my broken little rod, and he is not an ounce less than a pound. I flatter myself that is not bad, with such a rod, in such a place, and with no landing net. So cheerily I set to work again, and ere long got another of three-quarters, and, as the shades of eve were falling fast, went home with this fine brace to gladden the eyes of my wife.

I need hardly inform the reader that, having now found at last where trout were, I visited the same pool the next day with hope. But what was my chagrin when I came to it to find two young *gamins* in a boat, which they had moored right in the midst of the pool, and close to the flags. And there they were, playing at rock the cradle with the boat, and frightening every fish in the neighbourhood away. It mattered not that I put together my rod, hinting that I wished to fish there. Still they kept on, and that out of pure *diablerie.* I felt inclined to offer them half a franc to go; but I felt that that was the best of all plans to make them resort to the same profitable practice to-morrow; and there was nothing for it but to lie on the bank until they were tired out and went home to tea. Happily, tea-time, or *café* time, came, and they did go. And presently, quiet being restored, the big fish out of the pool began to creep toward the sedges, as was evidently their wont, for their evening repast on the flies that should drop from them; and I felt, you may be sure, exceedingly happy to set meat before them. Nor did they all disdain it, for, though it was now getting late, owing to my spoilt afternoon, I got another fine brace wherewith to gladden my wife's eyes again.

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* "An Angler's Strange Experiences," page 76.

Not to be too prolix, let me add that I visited the same pool each day for a week, and only on one occasion returned with an empty creel, and all I took were large trout, ranging from ½lb. to 2lb. Yet, if ever there was fishing under adverse circumstances, mine was that fishing during that week. In the first place, it was a boat station, and the boat boys were nearly always there larking, as idle boys will do, and disturbing the water by cradle-rocking, stone throwing, and worm fishing from their boats just near the place where the fish chiefly fed. Then the river shot all its rubbish, in the shape of weeds, just at the edges of that pool, and round and round great patches of them were nearly always sailing in concentric rings about the backwater, where I had chiefly to cast, and constantly, when a nice rise would occur, over would come a great mat of weeds to spoil it. Furthermore, a report of the success of Monsieur L'Anglais had been spread around, and drew some worm fishers to come and try their luck, sometimes over my favourite bank, and sometimes moored in boats in the pool, and often I had to lie for hours on the bank without a chance of a rise, waiting till they had packed off. Said fishers rarely caught a fish; indeed, I only saw two caught with worm all the time. But one of the boat boys, to my horror, was one day seized with an ambition to imitate my success by trying a fly, and I could have fainted one morning, when I came to the pool, to see him, armed with a hazel twig and a line of string, and a kind of artificial house-fly at the end of it, whipping away for very life right over my dear sedge bank. Poor Jeshimon!—(for that was his strange name). All the good he did was to cause me to lie down on the bank in patient waiting until he got tired, and Despair should do her work on him. But I can hardly wonder that he was so ambitious, since he helped me to land two fish one afternoon. I wished him at Rouen for attempting to do it, but he would not be restrained. Directly he saw that I hooked a fish, when he happened to be in his boat, he would excitedly ply his scull towards it, and it was in vain that I intimated to him that I would much rather he let it alone. In regard to one I was particularly anxious, since he was evidently a big fish; but Jeshimon sculled towards him in a passion of energy, and I trembled lest he should touch the line. He would do it, however, and I had to submit with the best grace I could; so I shouted: "Doucement, Jeshimon; très doucement!" and that had the effect of making him carefully lift the fish into his boat. "Deux livres! monsieur, deux livres!" he shouted admiringly, and then drew his boat to my bank, handing me out the fine fish. When I walked home that evening, I found that the officer at the Octroi had been told of my proceedings, and he came out of his box, and said, "Vous avez un poisson de deux livres, n'est ce pas, monsieur?" "Oui, monsieur," I replied; and he then informed me that I should have to pay a tax on it. "Combien?" "Dix centimes." I paid it cheerfully, and he gave me a receipt in full, with my name and the particulars duly inserted. He said nothing about my other fish, so I naturally inferred that in France fish over two pounds are taxable, but not under.

There were other difficulties about the place, one being that the river was tidal, and I found that the fish never rose save when the water was descending. It seemed useless to fish at any other time; and I concluded that the fish came out of the depths of the pool to look for the flies that the falling water would leave on the sedges that overhung my favourite bank. Thus, it was only at certain intervals that, under the most favourable circumstances, I could fish at all. Yet I never had a week of pleasanter or more successful sport, since skill had to be pitted against such a host of adverse circumstances. Many of my Norman friends enjoyed my trout, one of whom was no less a personage than the Dean of St. Jacques, whom my friend invited to dinner to partake of some. I was longer than a week in the neighbourhood; but *mauvais temps* and other circumstances confined my fishing to little more than that time. I should imagine the village of Arques would be a first-rate place for the angler in the spring. My fishing was all confined—another unfavourable circumstance—to the last days of September and two or three in October. I should mention that the portion of the Arques I fished in was free, and exposed to the open depredations of netters. I have seen the netters cast in the very pool I mention while I, myself, have been fishing. That was another great help to the fly-fisher, was it not? But what streams those of Normandy must be for trout, if, under such circumstances, one can get such fish as I did. Parts of them are preserved; but if only their whole lengths were so, what a paradise for a trout-fisher would that valley be in which Henri Quatre fought his great battle, and over which his castle, built by the uncle of our William the Conqueror, towers so grandly even in its ruins.

I close by just mentioning one other peculiar fact relative to this memorable week's sport, and it certainly is creditable to the nature of English tackle, while I hope it also proves that I am not a bungler—and that is, that I caught four large fish with the same quill gnat* one day—not the same kind, but with the same identical fly; and that I only used one single collar the whole time, which was one of Carter's (of Pentonville), than which I never found stronger ones, considering their fineness. And, last of all, that I did not lose a single fish that I fairly hooked, though I never used a landing net the whole time, and had to fish with a broken rod.

## ODDS AND ENDS IN SALMON FISHING.

By Geo. M. Kelson.—No. 5.

In all matters connected with the subject of salmon fishing, whether in making up our tackle, or in using it, or even in writing about it, error—with any of us, certainly with myself—is pretty sure, now and again, to creep in; however, in our hunt for the truth, it had far better go first than come last.

If in the overhand cast, with 30 yards of line out, we do not give time for the line to run its course and nearly reach the same distance behind us, we whip off the fly or "snap the single."

If we get foul and lug away at the rod or line, standing where we are, and do not move up or down as the case may be—that is to say, unless we get into the proper position which I have explained before—we are wrong again.

In fact, there is no end to the "Ifs"—they may continue to the end of the chapter, to the end of the book. Let us remember that "a stitch in time saves nine," for when we fishermen are on the inclined road to error we are off down-hill at a fearful pace, and no insensibility is much more obstinate than that which fastens on us in our rapid descent.

May I take, then, without delay a faulty leaf—"such as our nature's frailty may excuse"—from my own book, for my letter on "Odds and Ends" as it appeared in print last week reads oddly enough; indeed, a little too odd to remain.

The "old gentleman" who kept everything to himself and led the youngsters astray was introduced—by the accidental omission of a preceding paragraph—hurriedly and unceremoniously; and our "new friend"—Contentment—was very tottery, and did not come upon the scene exactly as I wished. Then again, by the absence of a line my meaning was entirely reversed, for in testing the temper of salmon hooks, when immersed in water after heating them, makes them harder, *not softer*.

If one wished to soften them they should be allowed to get cold gradually; but, as I observed, it would not be worth the trouble.

I offer these remarks as the Fishing Gazette has become an authentic and cumulative book of reference, its store of sound information is increasing with spirit, dignity, and common sense, and the Editor very properly allows no errors to remain uncontradicted. Indeed, as the only paper exclusively devoted to angling, it would be a pity if any exception could be taken to the unanimous verdict that it is complete.

And now let us peep at the items for discussion this week.

I was just thinking, What is a salmon fisherman's experience after all, be he never so well up on the subject? Why? May not his very next pool forge fetters where he would very likely be defeated from absolute want of knowledge? Certainly; for a pool may be perfectly free from danger, and a thunderstorm change it into a maze of mischief; and this is one of those certainties—or, rather, uncertainties—rarely, if ever, provided for. Yes, snags of every description, donkey-carts, and even dead donkeys, are borne down by the surging torrent, and they waylay and defeat us.

The top catch in the "Binding" is one of the best in the Duke of Beaufort's preserves at Usk, and hitherto unchristened; but it may henceforward be known as the "Donkey Catch," though I do not suppose the bones of the poor brute that were there will be left lying long to tell why and wherefore.

There are plenty of places in many rivers where it is possible, by means of a strong rope, to guide roots, dead stumps of trees, and such like, aside. Some thirty years since, high up in the Tweed, I assisted in keeping a favourite catch clear during a flood with very little difficulty.

The plan adopted was to fix the end of a rope to a tree on the deep side of the river, the other end being some fifty yards down on the opposite bank, and at about the same angle as an experienced fisherman makes his cast. Then when any lumber came bobbing along and became entangled in the rope, the end fastened to the tree was let loose, and a small grappling-iron hooked on, which came easily over the sandy bed of the river as it was carefully hauled in. Each time we successfully towed something or other in and on to the shelving bank, which, as the flood lowered, was left high and dry.

For resetting the rope, we used a boat; but where the water is not too wide, a bored bullet, with fine twine attached—during the daytime, at any rate—could be thrown across for the purpose, and that would be better done from above, so that the rope could come with the stream.

In small rivers especially, heavy floods are liable, and have been known to spoil a whole stretch of good "hunting ground," or rather water. The rope work, however, is all very well in daylight, and the exercise is not objectionable; but at night it goes against the grain. Still, we can always find a couple of trustworthy men.

Wherever I have had a voice in the matter, the water-bailiffs, instead of doing nothing in flood time, are always engaged in similar duties. They select their suitable spots, and throw the grappling-iron over approaching cargoes of litter from a boat.

The work comes much easier to them than to us, and they are far less liable to accident, which is, or ought to be, a consideration.

But of that, is it not an indubitably significant and happy circumstance that accidents to fishermen ending fatally are few and far between? In wading, for instance, considering the voluminous water of an enraged fall in the river speeding with railway velocity towards us, is it not a wonder our casualties are not more frequent and terrible?

I have had my share, I think, of mishaps, though, perhaps, no more than my deserts, for I was absurdly rash in my younger days. Once I remember being bitten by an adder; fortunately, however, I had some iodine *(tinct. iodidi)* handy, and I found it a capital cure. I never heard of it as an antidote; but I always carried it, and do so now in the wasp season, as it stops all their mischief instantaneously, and the bite of an adder is pretty much the same sort of thing as the sting of a hornet.

The adder, says Mr. Wood in his excellent essay on "Natural History," is the only British reptile that we need fear. It is sometimes seen on the banks of salmon rivers, and is much more common than is generally thought; but it keeps itself well out of sight, and seldom emerges from its shelter, except to catch prey or bask in the sun.

The latter propensity often leads to its destruction, for the viper is perforce obliged to find an exposed spot in order to enjoy the sunbeams, and so allows itself to be seen. Moreover, it is so occupied with the grateful warmth that it may be approached quite closely without being alarmed.

Now let us see how to detect a poisonous viper from a harmless ringed snake.

It is, we know, a small reptile; it wants the conspicuous yellow patches on the head, and it has a chain of black marks running along the spine. This last characteristic is invariable. They differ greatly in colour. Some are grey, some brick-red, some brown, and others yellow; but all have the black chain distinct enough, even in the very dark species called black vipers. And, as a further means of identification, there is a large, black V-mark on the top of the head. Chain and V together and you cannot be mistaken, as no other English reptile has them. That its venom is dangerous there can be no question, and to those not in the best of condition and health it might be deadly poisonous. But I have never heard that it has been fatal to any fisherman; though I believe in other cases it has proved so.

In these articles, here and there, I have said something or other of the care we ought to take when wading, and I propose to deal with the subject more thoroughly in my next. Much may depend upon our brogues and how they are nailed. The usual little round-headed nails are a mistake; they are all very well in some easy-going rivers—the Test, for example; but they are next to useless on slanting rocks. For years I have used the largest hob nails in soles ¾in. thick, and carry an "iron foot" to slip the shoes over to knock them in or out. That useful and staple commodity is sold at Moody's, Queen-street, Ramsgate.

But there is a much better nail than that, to which I may call Mr. Heaton's attention. It is made of steel, square-headed, filed on the face crossways, leaving the four corners almost pointed, somewhat after the fashion of an ice nail, and to screw in the boot with nearly ½in. projecting.

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* The flies I found most successful were the quill gnat and the Wickham fancy on sunny days, and the alder and small red hackle on duller ones.

A spanner with a gimlet, making one tool, and a couple of dozen of these nails in a small box, would find a ready sale.

And so the reader already sees perhaps, especially if he goes in for all the odds and ends in salmon fishing, that we have a deal to interest and to occupy us.

Indeed, the question of what one knows may all very well be directed even to the oldest angler; for again, where is he who can decide when the fish are really "gone off," or even make sure of their "coming on"?

Has it not happened to you all of a sudden—and to you, in point of fact, to all who traipse up and down a salmon stream—to be startled by that well-known tug when least expected, when all hope, as it were, had been dead within you, and in one flash of horrible comprehension while the thoughts are wandering, see—or rather feel—that it is too late to strike, and likewise know that you are wrong as surely as the night succeeds the day?

Truly, a burst of prosperity in the dawn of your career will not only be a sure stimulant to urge you on, but will almost force you to persevere and make you thorough fishermen. Then—and then only, let me persuade you—will you be eligible, and very readily acquire a fisherman's disposition—a disposition money cannot buy, a disposition which imparts sympathetic activity to your new associates—aye, one never to clog the wheels in forming fresh friendships.

## ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

H. Jones, Grimsby.—Tench bite best in warm weather, but we have taken them in Christmas week; they do not seem to be so much affected by cold as carp. Yes, we have published articles on sea fishing at the Isle of Man some years ago.

J. F W., of Oldham, writes, "Will you kindly answer the following queries?":—

1. What kind of a reel do you use for spinning for pike? *Answer.*—Slater's combination Nottingham reel; but it appears likely that the new patent casting reel, made by Mr. Malloch, of Perth, will be very popular, as you do not have to control the reel in any way when casting. We shall describe it fully when we have given it a fair trial.

2. Do you fish up or down stream when fly-fishing? *Answer.*—Up stream is our rule, but it depends on circumstances.

3. Have you ever tried Pennell's typical trout flies?—if so, what do you think of them? *Answer.*—We have tried Mr. Pennell's three flies, but not with encouraging results; and as we have said before, fly fishing would lose its greatest charm if it were reduced to a "rule of three."

4. When spinning for trout do you spin in the same way as for pike—viz., the Nottingham style? *Answer.*—No, simply because we have never been able to get a reel that would revolve with light minnow spinning tackle, but we hope Mr. Malloch's new reel will overcome this difficulty.

# CORRESPONDENCE.

[ *We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.*]

## ON STRIKING A SALMON, &c.

Sir,—In the Fishing Gazette of the 25th ult., "Vincens," in his article on "Notes on Salmon Fishing," asks me whether I would temporarily adopt the plan of striking a salmon under the circumstances he mentions. If he will kindly refer to my letter written on the subject, he will find that I said that there were certain occasions when it might be advisable to do so; but that I would rather run the risk of not hooking my fish than get into what I considered a bad habit, and to that opinion I still adhere, and should not, under the circumstances he mentions, strike, but simply raise the point of my rod when I felt the fish, and am of opinion that whether it was a 28lb. salmon, or a 4lb. peal or grilse, the fish could hook himself in either case by his own weight. The flies used for grilse are so very small, and the flesh of their mouth so tender, that a very slight strain is required to fix the barb of the hook.

I may be wrong, but I should say that it would be unadvisable to strike at a shy fish, if by this is meant a fish that comes slowly and warily at the fly; and I should rather be inclined to lower the point of the rod, and let the fly meet the fish, as it were, then run the risk of snatching it away from him by striking. "Vincens" advocates casting a fly straight across stream, instead of down and across, alleging that by adopting this method many more fish are risen. Here, again, I differ with him, and maintain that more fish are caught by throwing down and across stream, even though more fish should be risen by adopting the other plan. By throwing down or across stream the fly will work slowly and steadily across the stream; the fish will have every opportunity of discerning its colour, and if he rises at it will have a far better chance of being hooked. The fly will, moreover, be seen to its greatest advantage, and will assume a more natural appearance. On the other hand, if the fly is dragged rapidly down, as it must be by the belly of the line that is necessarily caused when casting across stream, the fish will only get a momentary glimpse of the fly, its feathers will be put out of gear by the side action of the stream, and the chances are that if a fish rises, by the time he has reached the surface of the water the fly would be a foot or more behind him, and the disappointment thus caused might disincline him to rise a second time. He may follow the fly and rise at it two or three times before the cast is completed, but the chances are he would not get hooked. A great many fishermen adopt this plan, and if the stream is running very slack, I should not so much object to it; but if the stream is a rapid one, I certainly am of opinion that the down and across plan is the most deadly. Almost every fisherman has his own ideas as to the correct mode of salmon fishing, and for this reason the more the subject is discussed and ventilated the better chance there will be of arriving at a right conclusion. I think this question of how to cast is as important as any other connected with salmon fishing.

There was a misprint in my letter on the subject of striking a salmon in the Gazette of the 25th ult. In the 4th paragraph, line 4, instead of the word "would" should be substituted the word "might."

Junior United Service Club, Nov. 3rd. John P. Traherne.

P.S.—Since writing the above I have read "X. Y. Z.'s" letter in this week's Gazette, in which he draws attention to words I used in a former letter on the subject of striking, as follows:—"I did not strike from the winch, which, perhaps, will account for my want of success," and on referring to my letter I find that "X. Y. Z." is correct, and that I cannot take exception to the construction he has put upon this sentence. Holding, however, the opinions I do on this question, and which I have often expressed in the Gazette, I certainly did not intend to convey such an impression, which would imply that I was a convert to striking from the winch. What I intended to say was that it was possible my want of success was attributable to my not having struck from the winch, although my opinion was to the contrary, and it is my desire that the words I used shall be interpreted in this sense. If the word "may" had been used in the place of the word "will," it would have more correctly described my meaning. With regard to what "X. Y. Z." says about striking a salmon when lake fishing, I may be again wrong, but I should no more think of doing so than if I was fishing in a stream. I have caught hundreds of salmon lake fishing, and I cannot remember losing one by not striking; but I always took care never to cast a long line, or to let it get slack. J. P. T.

Sir,—After many years' practical experience, both of salmon and trout fishing (I caught my first trout when I was twelve, my first salmon when fifteen, and I am now—but I was just letting you into a secret, Mr. Editor), I have long since come to the conclusion that it is impossible to lay down a hard-and-fast rule on striking.

The art of striking, for it *is* an art, is just one of those things that you cannot teach. Nothing but *experience* can give it; without this, accompanied by a light hand and quick eye, you are nowhere, and this is what you cannot teach. You can teach a boy how to sit on a horse, but you cannot give him "hands." I know one man who has been fishing (I won't say a fisherman) for years, and he will remain a bungler to the end of his days. On the other hand, I know a lad of 14 who strikes at every fish he rises, and hardly ever misses his chance. Then, again, you have not only to learn *how* to strike, but *when* to strike. To strike a salmon that rises opposite to you requires a very different method from striking one that rises below you or down stream. Indeed, to my mind, it is very doubtful if you should ever strike at a fish at all that rises "down stream." I remember when, a year or two since, I was fishing in Ireland, my companion, Lord D——, rose a good fish in a rather rapid stream, that ran from one lake to another. The fish rose like a porpoise some 20 yards below him, and, in his anxiety, he struck—*of course*, too soon. This happened twice, and any ordinary fish, after being treated so, would have sulked at the bottom for the remainder of the day. This would have been *my* luck. Being, however, well on the feed, to my astonishment he rose a third time, and Lord D——, acting on my advice to let him "help himself," did so, and landed a nice 18-pounder. Had Lord D—— adopted his first tactics, the fish would have undoubtedly been lost. As a rule, in fishing rather rapid streams, fish will hook themselves; but it is very different when fishing "still" water—to me the essence of all fishing. I would rather rise and hook one fish in "still" water, than catch a dozen in a rapid. Here the art of striking is required, and without it a fisherman is nowhere. The question then arises—"To strike or not to strike?" To a beginner I should say, "Try and learn the art by all means"; but there are some who can never learn, and to those I should say, "Do not attempt it." There are more fish lost by *bad* striking than are ever caught by good; but the man that knows *how* and *when* to strike has, undoubtedly, a ten-to-one chance over the one that cannot.—I am, &c., Jacien.

Bruges.

## EYED-HOOKS—THE WICKHAM—STRIKING A SALMON.

Sir,—For a long time illness has unfitted me to work, much less write you regarding many subjects of interest which have lately appeared in your columns. Like the grayling, however, the cold weather has brought me round, and you will see from the inclosed specimens that Mr. Kelson's splendid articles have caused me to make a fly which neither fish nor fisher ever saw.

I am much interested also in the eyed-hook; paradoxical like, I am in favour of them and I am not in favour of them. With feathers they do well, provided the fly is hackled outside the wing as Mr. Hall directs; but with the hackle as usually placed, they are certainly not so good as a round, bent iron. With my own flies, with pike scales, I can, as you know, make a much more natural-looking fly on them, wings more erect—perfectly erect if required; and yet this very natural position of the wing causes the eyed-hook to be utterly useless. I could not understand what was wrong, seeing that I could not rise a fish, and discovered that the upright wing causes the pike scale fly to spin, the wings acting like the jaws of a phantom; but the eye, if small, like those made by Mr. Court, cannot in the slightest deteriorate the value of the eyed-hook.

One day this last summer I ran short of hooks when angling with natural stone fly, and having plenty of eyed flies enabled me to strip a fly and make a stone fly hook in an instant. However, for my own part, I still will prefer the small round bend for flies. I had an extraordinary proof one evening in July last of the good qualities of the Wickham fancy, dressed with a landrail wing. I saw a number of fine fish feeding on the opposite side of the river in a back water. My tail-fly was a "Marston," and that procured me the first fish at the first cast. The second fly was a Wickham, and in 14 successive throws I brought to my own side 13 fish, all taken by the Wickham fancy. I have not had an angel's visit like it for several years. This river, of course, is considered destitute of salmon, as the Falls of Tummel is thought to keep them back. Many of your readers know different, and I know some have seen me bring them to bank. As a general rule, however, trout are the fish angled for, and large flies at the end of the season are required. During the last 20 years, I, perhaps, have risen 40 salmon with trout flies, and, of course, struck as I always do when trouting, the result being that I only hooked one salmon of those I saw *come at the fly;* but hooked several fishing with a long line and the fly under the water, and did the striking by the feel.

When a salmon rises, if the fly is too close to the surface the fish comes short, or if it does touch you will merely feel a slight nip. Salmon never take the fly as they come up. They come up, get over the fly, and seize it as they go down again, and I consider Major Traherne's description of how to strike perfect. I believe you will find my ideas in a paper you have, where I think I advise the trout fisher who tries his hand at salmon to use a more pliant rod than his trout one, and a Limerick bend to help him not to strike too quick. I cannot describe it better than saying, "Give a long, steady, hard pull first *after you feel the fish* with the hand *on* the line, and as the fish steadies himself for his first rush, give a quick drag to make sure, at the same instant taking the fingers or hand from the line."—I am, &c.,

Bohally, Pitlochry, N.B. James Macnee.

[The salmon fly Mr. Macnee sends is certainly a "braw chiel." Pike scales are cut oval, and fastened by one end down the body of the fly in rows; when wet and limp they work in a lively manner in the water.—Ed.]

## A NOTE FROM DURHAM—EYED-HOOKS.

Sir,—As a few of your readers sometimes have a day on the Derwent (Durham), and no doubt would like to hear of anything that is interesting about it, I send you a few lines.

The last season has been a good one considering the small quantity of rain that we have had, some of our best anglers having got some grand baskets. Our association rules state that no fish under 6in. must be killed. The highest number killed by one angler is over 700; others have killed 400 and 500. These are the totals for the year. Our fish are not so large as fish in the South; but we have some good ones. The Association has suffered a great loss this year, scores of fish having been picked up dead at the close of the season owing to impurities that had entered the river from either paper mills or gas works. I picked up one, on the morning of Nov. 9th, measuring 15in. and weighing 1¼lb. that had died. If the fish were found before they were quite dead, and carried into pure water, it was almost impossible to bring them round again. For more than a week fish over a foot long could be seen making to the shallow water and dying there. This pollution only affects a part of our water; but unfortunately it contains the largest fish.

I have fished a great deal this season with eyed-hooks (small), and have always killed best with them when made to imitate orange and yellow duns. I have been surprised that when made to imitate other flies they have not done so well, which I partly account for on the turned-up eye resembling the heads of the duns, better than heads made on a straight shanked hook. I prefer these hooks for the duns, because the eye is turned up.—I am, &c.,

Westwood, Lintz-green. W. P.

## A NOTE FROM NOTTINGHAM—BURTON SEWAGE.

Sir,—Since my last letter there has been a rise of about a foot, but not sufficient to clear the bottom or bring the fish well on the feed. A few pike have been taken at Weston, but they run small, the weather not being severe enough to bring the fish into the back waters yet, a Derby fisherman getting 80 dace on Wednesday with maggot, in the Shardlow length, and 60 more on Saturday.

A friend of mine got a few bream at Colwick, the largest 4lb. A member of our club got several nice bream on Friday, weighing one in 4½lb. I am glad to hear the Burton sewage will soon be stopped running into the Trent. I tried for half a day on Saturday, and could not keep my bait free from it, only killing two perch, many other anglers giving it up.—I am, &c., A. West.

P.S.—You will find inclosed a sample tackle for worm-fishing for salmon, the same as an old Derby angler uses who has killed hundreds in his time, sometimes using one worm, and occasionally putting two on, fishing with a very large float that will carry another weight as large as a pike lead, run on the line at the top of your tackle; fish well on the bottom. The other bait we use is the Devon bait and the Derby killer, which have both proved very killing baits.

You will see I have spliced the gut, which I think far better than tying a knot in salmon gut, as if it does break, it generally is at a knot. I lost a 20lb. fish last year through a knot breaking.

The bit of reel line inclosed is part of one I have used all the season, bought from S. Staples, fishing-tackle manufacturer, Nottingham, 100 yards for 2s. 6d.

[We are much obliged to Mr. West. The hook is a No. 3° round bend, rather stout in the wire, about 1½in. long from end of shank to middle of bend; a bit of gut is bound in at the end of the shank, so that ¼in. projects, and helps to keep the worm up. Mr. West's splice is made by binding two ends of gut for ½in. together. Each end has a single knot in it. A better plan would be to make the ordinary water knot and then splice for ½in. or less before pulling tight. The line is a very strong, undressed, silk twist, about No. 4. Fancy 100 yards for 2s. 6d.!—Ed.]

## EYED HOOKS—"NEEDLE" EYES v. "TURNED" EYES.

Sir,—In reply to Mr. Pennell's letter of Nov. 1st, I thought it might be interesting to try some practical experiments to ascertain what advantages or disadvantages there might be in his proposal, and, with your permission, I will state how I succeeded.

I understood his proposition to be: to adopt hooks with eyes made like sewing needles, for the sake of neatness, in preference to the *conspicuous* turned eye, as now made. I applied for patterns to the only makers of such hooks I am aware of—Messrs. Milward and Sons—and the smallest hooks sent me were No. 8, Redditch scale (equal to No. 6 of the eyed-hook scale). These hooks are very much too large for any trout flies, except large loch and sea-trout flies, and I had, therefore, to turn to sewing needles for material, in the form of *fine wires* in any way approaching small "eyed" trout hooks. I obtained a complete set of needles, from the finest made up to the size used by tailors, and my first experiment was to try through which eye of the *smallest available needle* I could thread a strand of *fine drawn gut*, such as I would select for small flies of 0 or 00 dimensions. Rather to my surprise, I found it was possible (by cutting the gut to a point) to thread it through the eye of the smallest but one—a No. 9 needle—so I selected, for experiment, that and the next one larger, No. 8, through which the gut passed easily. I softened, in a flame, half of each needle from the point inwards, carefully guarding the eye end from injury by a cold pair of pliers. I turned the softened ends round the shanks into a loop, making the needle assume the form of a very minute tennis racket. (The inclosed diagram will explain the mode of testing). The loop of needle (or bend of hook) was passed over a copper-wire S-hook, fixed loosely to the edge of a table by a screw. This gut (well softened) was tied to the needle eye by two hitches round the gut, and a loop made at the other end was looped to a piece of salmon line, which passed over a pulley screwed to the table edge, at a distance of about 2½ft. from the S-hook. A small fancy wicker basket (weighing 3oz.) was fastened to the other end of the salmon line, into which weights, from half a pound upwards, were placed to give a dead pull *to any amount required to reach the breaking strain.* This rather rude and simple apparatus answered every purpose, and is, I think, better than the uncertain strain given by a spring balance, and is more easily registered. Now, at starting, and before experimenting with the apparatus, a practical point arises, which, I think, completely upsets Mr. Pennell's theory. It is admitted that the most useful hooks for small flies are 0 and 00, occasionally smaller, but Nos. 1 and 2 are to be considered large hooks. On comparison of the thickness between hooks and the needle wires, No. 9 needle was found to be *equal in substance to a No. 3 hook*, and the *No.* 8 *needle to a No.* 5 *or* 6 *hook.* The deduction from this fact is that a No. 9 needle being the thinnest wire containing an eye through which a thread of fine "drawn" gut can be passed, if it is desired to do the same with a needle-eyed hook, *such hook cannot be smaller than No.* 3. Ergo: *You cannot have hooks of Nos.* 1, 0, *and* 00 *with needle eyes through which fine gut can be passed.*

Needle makers *can*, no doubt, *make* the smallest hook with needle eyes; but if you cannot thread them where is the use of them? And I argue, that as the wire containing the smallest eye I could thread with a fine "drawn" gut was equal to a No. 3 eyed-hook, it is impossible to have hooks of 1, 0, and 00 wire *with practicable needle eyes* for use as trout flies, and I think this settles the question, and makes it imperative that "eyed-hooks" of these sizes *must have turned* eyes, however small you may desire the eyes to be made for the sake of neatness.

I next experimented as to the comparative breaking strain of the gut with "needle eyes" and "eyed-hooks" by placing weights in the little basket, and *gradually increasing the weight to breaking point.* I used fine "drawn" gut in the No. 9 needle, and fine "natural" gut in the No. 8 needle, and also the *same strands of gut* tied to the "eyed-hooks" by the "in-and-out" knot. Here, again, I was surprised at the result, as I expected that the "natural" gut would stand a much heavier strain than the "drawn," as it was somewhat stouter, but the difference was comparatively small, 2¼lb. was about the average breaking strain of the "drawn," and 3lb. to 3¼lb. that of the *fine* "natural" gut, but the result as to the effect of the "eyes" on the gut was very marked. With the "needle" eyes the gut *always broke at the eye*, with the "eyed-hooks" and the "in-and-out" knot it *never broke at the eye*, but always either through the strand itself or at the loop connecting it with the salmon line, and the difficulty I experienced in getting *the loop* to stand a strain great enough to break the gut at the eye upset my series of experiments. I tried both knotting and wrapping to form the loop, but it always broke there or in the strand itself, in preference to the knot at the eye of the hook. These trials being made with new gut, not in the least frayed by action of fishing, how much more marked would have been the result if the different hooks had been flicked about for a quarter of an hour in casting with the rod before the strain was put on them?

I deduce the following results from the experiments:—(A) That it is *not to be expected* that any hooks *smaller than No.* 3 (eyed-hooks), or, at any rate, No. 2, can be made with "needle" eyes of sufficient size to admit fine drawn gut. (B) That, supposing they are obtainable, the chafing and cutting effect of the needle eye on the gut would be so severe as to render the life of the flies very small indeed, as compared with similar flies made on "turned" eyed-hooks and knotted by the "in-and-out" process.

The eyes of the two needles used were examined with a small microscope, and found to be very smooth and free from rough cutting edges, which would act detrimentally on the gut.

Mr. Pennell objects to the present turned-up eye because it is not a close copy of the *position of the head* of the natural fly. If it pleases him, this can soon be remedied. A glance at any good illustrations of natural flies, like those in Francis' "Book on Angling," or Ronalds' "Entomology," will show that the *inclination* of the head is a *downward slope*, at about a corresponding angle to the present upward slope of the eyed-hook. All that is necessary to obtain a very close imitation is to bend the steel eye of the hook *downwards instead of upwards*, and reverse the "in-and-out" knot: the effect of the pull on the point will be almost exactly the same; the only objection would be that in very small hooks the downward slope of the eye would somewhat interfere with the space between the shank and point in the matter of *hooking fish*, and that, I consider, a decided disadvantage.

The objection to the turned-up eye appears to me frivolous, because the slope of the steel eye is very slight, and the *knot of the gut*, coming underneath, *fills it up*, so that only the knot itself is visible to the fish, and if that is neatly made, and of a suitable shade of colour, the *knot* practically *forms the head of the fly*, and not the steel eye, and that is a point strongly in favour of the "in-and-out" knot, as compared with any other made behind the eye.

I have shown pretty conclusively that if "eyed-hooks" are to be used in the smallest sizes of 0, 00, and 000, no other form of eye is practicable than the present "turned" eye, whether it be sloped upward or downward, and I think the hooks we have got (or are expecting to get very shortly) are as nearly perfect as we are likely to have them, provided they are well shaped and carefully tempered, and, like Mr. Hall, I am perfectly satisfied with them; I would not use "needle-eyed" hooks on any consideration.—I am, &c., George Bankart.

Leceister.

[Anglers ought to be much obliged to Mr. Bankart for his interesting and most useful experiment. The results as regards the different shapes are just what we should anticipate. Another objection to the needle eye is that it would not be nearly so comfortable to press the finger against when getting a small hook out of a trout or grayling's mouth as the round eye. One would require a thimble, pretty much as the ladies do.—Ed.]

## AN EYED-HOOK CONVERT.

Sir,—I have to acknowledge the great courtesy of Mr. Hall and Mr. Bankart in sending me samples of their eyed-hooks.

I had previously purchased, some years ago (after meeting Mr. Hall on the Tummel), some of Mr. Hall's hooks from Hutchinson and Sons, and I had them dressed by a well-known man in Scotland.

To begin with, I thought the hooks too heavy in the *wire*, and when they came home from the dresser I found large, well-varnished heads, and a note to say, "My dresser found them very troublesome to tie." I used them but little, as they thus possessed a *double head*—one of steel, one of silk and varnish. By mere chance I stumbled across the Fishing Gazette a few months ago, and this may show you that your journal is not so well advertised as it deserves to be.

Well, sir, I stumbled across a letter by Mr. Hall, and I wrote, recommending eyed fly hooks, the idea only occurring to me at the time. I afterwards wrote direct to Mr. Hall; but before this Mr. Bankart most kindly had sent me samples of his hooks—"Mr. Aldam's" patterns—which, when I saw, I was inclined to give the preference to *at first sight*—that is, so far as the fineness of the steel goes; but when Mr. Hall sent, as he did lately, *his* latest improvements, I am no longer in any doubt, and I cordially agree that here we have as good an eyed-hook as any man may desire.

Mr. Bankart's smallest size I liked, for the thinness of the wire was no objection in the smallest sizes, and the snecky point in this case was moderate. But in his largest sizes I found fault with two important details: first, I thought that "13 long shank, medium," and "11 long shank, largest," are both too weak for the size of the hook; and to add to this inherent weakness, the point is turned over *so much* that if the point rested on a bone in a large fish's mouth, the side strain would either bend the wire so far out as to unhook the fish, if it did not break off short.

I am entirely and strenuously opposed to a point so much turned over as these for any sort of fishing, but particularly for big fish. Who would use a salmon hook on this principle, and expect no broken wires or lost fish?

Now, Mr. Hall, recognising this, has had just enough sneck or twist to hook cleverly and no more; and his wires are fine, but not weak.

Again, Mr. Bankart's hooks are *black.* This I have ever held to be a fatal objection, for, hold such a wire to the sky, and it stands out in bold relief.

Now, Mr. Hall has here again showed his wisdom, and his bronzed hooks, and even his pale steel, are infinitely superior to any black hook ever made for fine work, in my judgment. This has been my principle for long years, so much so that I have always barred japanned hooks, if tied by the finest dresser in the world. I simply *hate them* as I do gut stained *black* instead of transparent, clear, natural gut.

I advocated the eyed-hook for salmon flies and even for sea trout flies; but I am now assured that for the smaller sizes it would prove a failure, and I readily withdraw my hastily-written remarks thereon.

Messrs. Allcock and Co., of the Standard Works, Redditch, make a capital hook for *salmon flies*, the best I have seen; and this has a needle eye, and is a well-formed hook all round for its purpose. It is easy to see how the smallest sizes are less fitted for this style of eye.

Mr. Hall has very kindly sent me some flies dressed by Holland, and here the double head is conspicuous *by its absence;* and I am enabled to add that these flies for dry fly-fishing look *perfect.*

He also sent me some plain spider flies dressed on eyed-hooks, and I was surprised how little the eye showed; but of all the flies he sent, I most admired those which he had used, and probably dressed himself, and which were, as to dressing for my fishing (which is mostly with the wet fly), excellent.

It sufficed to convince me that eyed-hooks *can* be successfully dressed, as killing flies, by a man who knows how. But it is quite necessary to tie them in a special manner in order to attain anything like perfection.—I am, &c., E. M. Tod.

## ANGLING RIGHTS IN THE UPPER THAMES.

Sir,—I am much obliged for your insertion of my letter *re* the fishing at Eynsham. Your footnote represents the gist of my letter, which is written on the assumption of "if such is the case." I cannot quite agree with the light view you take of the opinion of the committee, because it was not given before they had fully investigated all claims, and I would respectfully point out to you that it is not so much for the riparians to prove their rights as it is for us to show they have none to prove. I would never give my aid to bolster up a claim; but think most certainly that when a riparian tries to meet us we should not hold out the red rag, for after all there is no question but what we can be turned off their land, and what is the use of being able to fish in any water if we have no right near it, other than in a boat?

I wrote my letter to cause discussion on the matter, and therefore leave it to your discretion whether you publish this reply to your footnote.—I am, &c.,

1, Doughty-street, W.C. Robt. W. Hobden.

[We think we are not wrong in saying that it is for the riparian owner claiming a right to prevent fishing in the Thames to prove that he has the right; he must produce evidence. It is not for the public to prove its right. If A. claims a stretch of the Thames, and B. disputes the claim, and the matter comes into court, who will have to produce proof? Manifestly, the one making the claim. Charters, and deeds, and leases are not made to prove other people have not a right, but to prove that some particular person has the right, and the law requires those claiming rights to produce tangible proof. If the onus of proof lay on the public, as Mr. Hobden suggests, there would soon not be an acre of free land or water left in the country.—Ed.]

## THE FROG AND THE PIKE.

Sir,—I hope I may not be intrusive in writing this letter, as I think it may possibly be interesting to our fellow anglers. Some four years ago, about the middle of April, while sauntering by the side of a large pond, I espied, not far off, and drifting towards me, a frog, seated on what I at first supposed to be a piece of rail. On a nearer approach I found that, instead of a piece of rail, froggie was composedly squatted on the back part of the head of a 5lb. or 6lb. pike. The fish leisurely swimming on the top of the water passed within three yards of the spot where I was standing. I never witnessed a similar circumstance before or since.

In the "Complete Angler," our old friend Walton quotes a passage from a book written by Dubravius, a Bishop of Bohemia, in which Dubravius and a companion who was with him witnessed a frog leap upon a pike's head, the frog then attacked the pike's eyes the fish vainly endeavouring to rid himself of his enemy; the frog after a time leaped off and returned to his secret hole. "The Bishop that had beheld the battle called his fishermen to fetch his nets, and by all means to get the pike, that they might declare what had happened, and the pike was drawn forth, and both his eyes eaten out; at which, when they began to wonder, the fisherman wished them to forbear, and assured them he was certain that pikes were often so served." As to the eating of the eyes, I am rather sceptical on that point; but that frogs occasionally locate themselves on the heads of pike there can be no doubt; but the question is, what takes them there? Can it be that in spring some pike are afflicted with a fungus or parasite on their heads and backs, and that the said parasite is so appetising a morsel for the frog that he braves all dangers in order to obtain the coveted *bonne bouche*, and that the pike (at this particular season), out of gratitude, spares the frog's life?—a mutual understanding having taken place between them, after the manner of Herodotus' story of the trochilus and the crocodile, wherein he relates that "the crocodile, when he gets out of the water on land, open his jaws, and then the trochilus enters his mouth and swallows the leeches. The crocodile is so well pleased with this service that he never hurts the little bird."

Perhaps some of your readers will favour us with their opinions on the subject.—I am, &c.,

Thorpe Arnold, Nov. 8th. J. S. S.

P.S.—Since reading the above, I have just read the following in "Curiosities of Natural History," the author (late F. T. Buckland), says "Mr. Quickett tells me that he has seen a stickleback come up to a newt in a vivarium, and the newt has eaten off the fungus, the fish remaining quiet all the time."

[Our German contemporary, the *Deutsche Fischerei Zeitung*, some time ago, went into this subject very carefully, and the outcome of the inquiry was that frogs, which were found on the heads of pike and carp, as described by Walton and others, did not feed on the fish in any way, and that the sexual instinct so strongly developed in the frog in the spring was the true explanation of the whole matter. ED.]

### FISHING RIGHTS AT GODSTOW.

SIR,—I am afraid Mr. Hobden's attempt to vindicate the Earl of Abingdon's supposititious rights to the Godstow *cum* Bablock Hythe Fisheries is somewhat on a footing with Don Quixote's ludicrously valiant onslaught on the windmills, for if he persists in fighting public opinion by championing a course so unjust, he will inevitably incur the reprobation of every angler interested in the question of preserving the liberties of the people on the great waterway of England. His reasoning may be logical; but try as I will, I cannot see on what premises he bases his argument. Commencing with a fallacy, he assumes for his own purposes such a right does exist: beyond that he does not adduce one single iota of proof in support of his surmise; but by a *reductio ad absurdum*, takes it for granted.

I am of opinion that three-fourths of the so-called private fisheries in the Thames have been appropriated by a similar easy assumption on the parts of the various riparian owners, only requiring the crucial test of a law-court to prove them "mere coinages of the brain." In support of my contention, we have four very striking examples which can be taken as a fair example of what *will* follow—viz., Lewis *v.* Layard, Sir Roger Palmer *v.* a Bailiff of the Maidenhead Association, Mr. Layard's challenge to Mr. Grayham Davies, and Abingdon *v.* Wall. In the latter case, Mr. Philip Geen stated in open court that if his lordship or his agent would fix a day, they would again fish the same water; but needless to relate, the serpent has remained deaf to the voice of the charmer. Mr. Hobden is apparently oblivious of the fact that Lord Abingdon is not the owner of a several fishery, unless he holds supreme rights on the narrow water lying between Godstow and King's Weir, and, therefore, he cannot exclude the public from fishing on the river.

If my legal rendering is a correct one, he must have land on both sides of the stream; but Lord Abingdon goes to the extent of claiming water which touches no part of his property.

Unless I am misinformed, in none of the cases brought into court by the Abingdon family have they produced any supporting documentary evidence, and in their last prosecution against Mr. Wall, of Eynsham, Greenwood, the head keeper, had the cool consummate impudence to apply to the bench for a week's remand, alleging as an excuse, that he wished to bring further evidence. This the magistrates very properly refused, and granted to defendant his costs.

I distinctly assert again that the Thames, from Godstow to Eynsham, is closed against the public, not only as regards fishing from the banks, but also from boats. If Mr. Hobden or anyone else wishes for a verification of my words, let them try to fish without a ticket, and the result will be the loss of their tackle, or the issue of a summons to Witney or Abingdon. Perhaps it may interest Mr. Hobden to learn that a case is likely to be brought against one of the under keepers for stealing a rod from the boat of an Oxford angler whilst he was pulling over the rollers at King's Weir. The man being off his lordship's grounds, a glance at the consolidated Larceny Act may possibly demonstrate what the keeper will get if he is prosecuted. As no definite legal decision has yet been given by the judges of a superior court, I fail to perceive why we are to be so much pleased and so very thankful to his lordship for so kindly giving us permission to enjoy ourselves at a slight outlay in and on a piece of river to which it is doubtful if he is able to produce any tangible proofs of ownership.

My experience of this part of the Thames dates back a period of twenty years, and it is, comparatively speaking, only recently that any steps have been taken to prevent the public angling there. Mr. Hobden, on commenting on the river rough, observes, "it would appear they have some sort of right to shoot there." I am not a lawyer, therefore, I look at it from a commonsense point of view—I say commonsense advisedly, because law and commonsense are not always the same, and I should imagine if Lord Abingdon held these exclusive proprietary rights, he would also have a like control over the shooting. This, I opine, conclusively proves the weakness of his argument more clearly than his assumption of such a right for the purpose of his letter.—I am, &c., CHERWELL OTTER.

### LIVE-BAIT HUMANE TACKLE FOR PIKE OR JACK FISHING.

SIR,—I have to-day forwarded to you a specimen tackle made by Mr. W. Martin, of this town, for preserving live-baits when pike fishing.

You will see the fish is secured by placing the noose round its head and tail, and the cord is made fastened underneath very easily by the small piece which projects in the shape of a diamond.

I think the tackle will be very useful to anglers, as there is no fear of throwing the bait off, and the fish work much better when secured in this way, as it stands to reason that one or two hooks in a fish must interfere with its working after it has been on a little time; besides, one bait will last a whole day with the new tackle, in case the angler does not get a run.

Mr. Martin has recently set up a tackle shop in the London-road, he having been in the Midland Railway Co. service upwards of twenty years.

He is a thorough fisherman, and deserves to get on, and if you can kindly see your way to put a few lines in your next issue concerning the tackle I shall be exceedingly obliged.—I am, &c.,

Derby. T. WHYMAN.

[The sample is to hand, and we will give it a trial. Many similar dodges have been tried, but none of them answer, except in theory. A bit of wood as a model of a fish can be fastened up easily and neatly; but it is quite a different matter when a lively, limp, and slippery dace has to be put into harness.—ED.]

### BRANDY AND PIKE BAITS.—A PROTEST.

SIR,—It appears to me that all your correspondents on this subject have forgotten one important fact, or don't care to mention it, and that is, the fish are simply intoxicated. There was an old man (I knew him well) in our parts who used to amuse his friends by performing on some fish in a private pond, and the antics those poor fish went through was a sight to see—in fact *horrible*. Making them drunk was accomplished with the juice of a certain berry, which I am not at liberty to mention, because, if known, you could soon clear a place or "a pick me up." Depend upon it, what is a "restoration" to your half-dead fish, is *downright drunkenness* to a fish in a *healthy* state—nothing more nor less. Therefore, I say, desist from adopting such a course. Your correspondent, A. S. Izaak, Esq., hits it exactly. No. 2 had something *warm*. "He went about like a *steam-engine* under water, backwards and forwards, *round* and *round*, with *amazing* rapidity." Drunk — drunk! No. 3 "worked with much more vigour." What a state it must have been in. No. 5 seemed to be in a great state of excitement—no doubt. I don't wonder at it.

Let us hope *all* your readers and anglers generally, when they actually *realise* the facts of the case, will desist from indulging in this *unfair* and unsportsmanlike practice. For my part, I think it is downright cruelty, and only because the cause is *not known*. Therefore, I say, don't give your baits brandy. If you cannot catch a jack without doing this, go without.—I am, &c., MARK ANTONY.

[Unless "Mark Antony" can prove that brandy causes pain to the fish, we are inclined to think it is humane to make the bait "jolly." We all know how lively a bait gets when a jack is about to make his rush. This is undoubtedly fear, and an inebriated dace would have no fears.—ED.]

### FLY-TYING SILKS.

SIR,—Noticing that my name has been mentioned in the FISHING GAZETTE as to the above silks, I have to say that I know nothing whatever about their manufacture, but am utterly dependent upon my friend and old correspondent of 50 years, Geo. Davenport, Esq., of Leek, a first-rate fly fisher and accomplished fly-tyer, who has courteously supplied me with these requisite silks *gratis*, and, as he says, as a return for my coaching him up with flies. When, however, I published "The Quaint Treatise," and had to give samples, of every silk used therein for flies described, I would not accept silks gratuitously, knowing the great trouble and time he had bestowed in getting the exact shades required, and he kindly acceded to my request in charging for them. By his kindness, I have been able to serve a lot of friends with these silks, unattainable at shops, for the colours are all fast, and allowance made for their being wetted, and the fineness and strength unbeatable. No big firms as those alluded to in the FISHING GAZETTE of Nov. 8 would care to be troubled in so small a matter, where ounces only, instead of hundreds of pounds, would be required.

In writing the above, I do not wish outsiders to trouble my friend Davenport, who has had sufficient bother with me and my requirements for many years, and which he has so successfully carried out.—I am, &c., W. H. ALDAM.

Chilcomb, November 11th.

### STAMP DUTY.

SIR,—The attention of house agents, builders, and the public generally is called to the law regulating the stamp duty on agreements for letting lands and unfurnished houses.

Such agreements are chargeable, not, as is often supposed, with the uniform duty of 6d. applicable to ordinary agreements under hand, but with the same rates of duty as if they were actual leases for the term and consideration mentioned, according to the following scale:—

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Not exceeding £5 per annum | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| Exceeding— | | | |
| £5 and not exceeding £10 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| £10 " " £15 | 0 | 1 | 6 |
| £15 " " £20 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| £20 " " £25 | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| £25 " " £50 | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| £50 " " £75 | 0 | 7 | 6 |
| £75 " " £100 | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| £100 | | | |
| For every full sum of £50, and also for any fractional part of £50 thereof | 0 | 5 | 0 |

Such agreements, if not drawn upon stamped paper, must be presented for stamping within two months after the date of the first execution thereof. After that time a penalty of £10 may be imposed. *An unstamped or insufficiently stamped agreement cannot be enforced in any Court of Justice*, or before any arbitrator or other competent authority.

A lease made subsequently to, and in conformity with, an agreement duly stamped is chargeable with the duty of 6d. only.

Postage stamps cannot be used for stamping agreements for letting lands and unfurnished houses (other than dwelling houses, or any part thereof, for any *definite term* less than a year, where the rent does not exceed £10), but such agreements must either be brought to this office to be stamped with the proper impressed stamp, or be left for that purpose at the office of a Distributor, or Sub-Distributor of Stamps, or of a postmaster.

By order of the
Commissioners of Inland Revenue.
November 11th. W. H. COUSINS, secretary.
Somerset House, London, W.C.

### RICHMOND PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The smoking concert held by this society at their room at the Station Hotel, on Wednesday, was a great success, the attendance of members and their friends, upwards of 130, being very large. Mr. A. J. Little was in the chair; Mr. H. Dickinson in the vice-chair. The clubroom was very effectively fitted up with the society's show of specimen fish, which had been returned from the National Fish Culture division of the International Health Exhibition. Herr Louis Honig had kindly lent one of the famous Imperial pianos by Franz Seiler, of Berlin, for the occasion, at which Mr. J. Dellew Johnson officiated. The concert commenced at 8.20, and was continued till close upon midnight. The following interesting programme was carried out with much success. When all sustained their parts so effectually it would be invidious to select any gentleman for special commendation:—Herr Louis Honig, piano solos, *a* "Harmonious Blacksmith," *b* "Caprice Hongrois"; Mr. H. W. Little, "I arise from dreams of thee"; Mr. Griffiths, "Flying Dutchman"; Mr. James, "Where'er you walk"; Mr. H. Powell, "The Old Boy"; Mr. Evans, "The Wolf"; Mr. McCall Chambers, "What a bit of luck"; Mr. Harding, recitation, "Alexander's Feast"; Professor Millar, trombone solo, "Fantasie Brillante"; Mr. Sparkes, "The Vicar of Bray"; Mr. Grimsdick, "My Queen"; Mr. McCall Chambers, "The Fishing Match"; Herr Louis Honig, piano solo, "In the gloaming"; Mr. Sparkes, "The Powder Monkey"; Mr. Grimsdick, "Dora"; Mr. Evans, "Hybrias the Cretan"; Mr. McCall Chambers, "Only One"; Mr. Harding, recitation (in character), "Daniel *v.* Dishclout"; Professor Millar, trombone solo, "The Death of Nelson"; Mr. H. W. Little, "The Storm Fiend"; Mr. James, "The Distant Shore"; Mr. Griffiths, "The Cavalier"; Mr. H. Powell, "Sprung a Leak"; Professor Millar, trombone solo, "The Village Blacksmith." The chairman, on behalf of the society, proposed a vote of thanks to those gentlemen who had so kindly volunteered their services, and had contributed to the successful entertainment; he also referred to Mr. Plant, who had undertaken the management of the concert, and upon submitting the vote it was enthusiastically received. The chairman also submitted the toasts of "Prosperity to the Richmond Piscatorial Society," "The Vice-Chairman," "The Visitors," and to "Mr. Johnson" for presiding at the piano; and the vice-chairman having proposed "The Health of the Chairman," a very pleasant evening was brought to a close.

SALMON & TROUT-FISHING.

CHAS. FARLOW & Co.,
191, STRAND, London, W.C.,
MANUFACTURERS OF FIRST-CLASS RODS AND TACKLE,
SALMON AND TROUT FLIES, SUITABLE FOR
ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD.
**Mahseer Tackle in Great Variety.**
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(Very Light).
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**PENNELL'S TACKLE KEPT IN STOCK.**

CATALOGUES GRATIS. PRIZE MEDALS. IMPORTERS OF SILKWORM GUT.

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# RIVER REPORTS.

### TIME OF HIGH WATER IN THE THAMES.

To find the time of high water in the Thames at any of the following places, to the time of high water at London Bridge (given below).

Add
30 minutes for Chelsea.
40 „ Putney.
45 „ Hammersmith.
50 „ Barnes.
55 „ Kew.
75 „ Richmond.
80 „ Twickenham.
85 „ Teddington.

Example:—If it is high water at 2 o'clock at London Bridge, it will be high water at Teddington about 3.25, or eighty-five minutes later; but it must be remembered that a strong wind accelerates or retards the tide very much.

For Times of High Water at London Bridge.

| | | | Morning. | Afternoon. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Saturday, | November | 15 | 12.6 | 12.27 |
| Sunday, | „ | 16 | 12.50 | 1.11 |
| Monday, | „ | 17 | 1.29 | 1.48 |
| Tuesday, | „ | 18 | 2.5 | 2.21 |
| Wednesday, | „ | 19 | 2.38 | 2.54 |
| Thursday, | „ | 20 | 3.9 | 3.28 |
| Friday, | „ | 21 | 3.45 | 4.1 |

New Moon Nov. 17.

## THE LOWER THAMES.

### General Remarks.

In the neighbourhood of Chertsey there was a little rise in the water, but it has gone down again to its low and bright condition. For some time there has been a dearth of news from this district, and, if fairly patronised, it ought to be one of the best; there is every inducement for anglers to go there and fish; there is a first-rate piscatorial host at the Bridge Hotel; it has always been memorable for large supplies of jack, perch, barbel, and bream. Amongst the barbel John Poulter has had one large take this season, and it is not many years ago when James Haslett, in one day, got 147lb. weight of bream; and the fishermen are fully up to the average. It will be seen from the Walton report that Mr. Alfred Mackrill is again to the front in the matter of bream, and no angler is more deserving of the results he has so well achieved. The large barbel are showing themselves at Teddington Weir, as one of 10lb. has been taken this week. There has been lately some good accounts of jack at Twickenham Deep, and there ought to be plenty in that neighbourhood. In the "Blue Book" of 1864 there is an account of about 500 jack being caught in the previous season in the deep at Teddington. Mr. Alfred Little, the chairman of the Richmond Piscatorial Society, is heartily to be congratulated on having caught in the Old River at Windsor a very handsome specimen pike weighing 17lb. In several portions of the river above the locks a quantity of good jack have been taken. In one district there is a report of one of the fishermen saying he has taken more jack this season than he has done for years, but he will not state what he has done. It is difficult to conceive why fishermen should be desirous of keeping the public in the dark as to results, inasmuch as the publicity would increase the attendance of anglers, and so benefit the other fishermen and themselves too. In the tidal district the water is reported to be in just the same condition.

### Angling Results.

**Richmond.**—Job Brain, in four days, has taken 58lb. of roach and dace. Henry Howard, in six days, credits himself with 80lb. Henry Platt, in five days, fifty-five dozen. Henry Wheeler, in one day, 22lb. Christopher Brown, in a couple of days, 19lb.; and F. Brown, in the same time, 22lb. and the only barbel of the week. The bank anglers on their favourite day weighed in 17lb. of roach and dace.

**Twickenham.**—Richard Coxen, in two days, got twenty dozen of roach and dace, and in one other day 18½lb. James Coxen, in three days, forty-eight dozen. George Coxen, in four days, forty dozen. Pert Hammerton, in four days, 70lb. and one perch. John Spong, in six days, forty-seven dozen, six barbel, and a jack of 3½lb. J. Dobbin, in three days, 46lb. W. Spong, in two days, thirteen and a half dozen. Edward Finch, in three days, 40lb., and Samuel Cole has had some good takes.

**Teddington.**—Alexander Kemp, in one day, three barbel—the largest 10lb.—and in two other days four brace of jack. Joseph Baldwin, in two days, seventeen dozen of roach, a couple of barbel, and a jack of 3lb. C. Baldwin, in two days, twelve dozen of roach and dace and a couple of barbel.

**Kingston.**—John Johnson, sen., writes:—"I have only been out twice this week The first time I got about three dozen of fine roach, some over 1lb. each, and the next time eighteen dozen of good gudgeons. This is all I have done; but John has. been out once, and got about two and a half dozen of roach and dace. There was one day a fine lot of dace taken at the Surbiton Sewer, and some at the railway bridge. In other respects the bank anglers have not done much all round. I caught a nice flounder which weighed very little short of a pound."

**Long Ditton.**—H. Buttery, in one day, three jack—the largest 5lb. The bank fishers have done fairly well amongst the roach, dace, and gudgeon.

**Hampton Court.**—John Smith has had a good take of jack—the largest 5lb. W. Milbourne, in one day, a jack of 6lb. and four and a half brace of perch. Thomas Wheeler, in a couple of days, three jack, the largest 6lb. G. Martin, in one day, five dozen of roach and dace. Mr. G. Woods, of East Moulsey, have taken during the week, five jack, the largest 5lb. At Tagg's Island Fishery there has been some good takes of roach and dace and a few perch.

**Sunbury.**—Edward Clarke, jun., in three days, took nine brace of perch, ten dozen of gudgeon, and a jack of 2½lb. Henry Clarke, in one day, one brace of jack, the largest fish 6lb. The bank anglers have been getting some very fine fish in good condition, consisting of barbel, chub, perch, roach, dace, and gudgeon.

**Walton.**—Mr. Alfred Mackrill, in one day, with the veteran George Hone, caught fifteen bream weighing 30lb., and another day, eleven bream, the largest 4½lb., a jack of 3lb., and a few roach. John Hone, one day, a dozen of fine roach, the largest 1lb. 10oz. R. Watford, one day, four barbel and one jack; another day, five barbel and one bream; another day, one dozen of roach, two chub, and one perch; and another day, a barbel of 5lb., two bream, one perch, and a trout of 5lb., the latter being returned to the river. A gentleman fishing from the bank one day got four jack, and another day three more.

**Shepperton.**—W. House, one day, four dozen of roach and dace; another day, a jack of 5lb.; and another day, four brace of perch and one brace of jack, the latter weighing 7lb. James Haslett, in one day, five barbel, the largest 5lb., one bream, and two chub. A gentleman fishing by himself in a punt got one brace of jack.

**Staines.**—George Osman, in two days, one brace of jack, three barbel, one chub, and one dozen of roach; and another day, four barbel and one chub. F. Collyer is credited with the capture of a nice jack of 8¼lb.

## UPPER THAMES.

The river is now in prime all-round winter angling trim; the weeds have gone the way of all weeds, and are no longer *intimidads* to the feeding propensities of jack, perch, roach, and chub. A nice little flush of water would now still further improve the chance of sport, by washing out the *débris* from likely holes and corners. and make the bed of the river sweet and clean, and smell, like the sheets in Izaak's hostelry, of lavender. Perch are biting well, some twelve dozen being had by one rod in the Medmenham and Hambledon district in five days. The fish, I am told, however, ran very small, more than half having to be returned. In the Hurley waters on the 9th inst., Messrs. Parry and Kidd, of the South Hornsey, out with "the boy," and locating themselves at that comfortable inn, the East Arms, got a pretty sample of some 16lb. of roach, mostly had two hours before dark. Anglers also staying at the Bell, Hurley, did very fairly amid the roach. Mr. Troup, in the Hurley waters, also on the 9th inst., nobbled two jack, one going 7lb. and the other 2lb. (returned). Mr. T. was fishing from a small canoe when he caught the seven pounder, near a weed bed, and for some time, I understand, it was a moot point whether jack was not as good as his master, for they alternately towed one another about; but eventually the master prevailed. I am glad of this, as I gave the gentleman the only bait I had in my punt with which to do the deed. Marlow and Maidenhead punts have been particularly busy, I hear, and roach and perch had in galore. Thursday Evening.—Water in fair trim and of nice height, but unfortunately (there is always some but, even to a rod), the frosts are bringing the leaves into the river by the ton, and this, I fear, for a few days will have a deterrent effect on the appetite of the fish; but by your leave, my masters, when this "sad falling off" is not there, stand not upon the order of your coming, but come at once and interview old Father Thames and—Marlow Buzz.

## Thames (Datchet).

The water still as low as ever, and sport the past week has not been so good as expected. Mr. Little had the good fortune to hook a large jack last Saturday in the Fleet, and successfully landed him, going something over 20lb., and one or two smaller ones. J. Hoare has had a few barbel; but nothing to mention. H. Hoare, to-day, two jack 4lb. each. Some of my patrons have taken a great many chub this week, ledgering with lob worms, and a few barbel, and a very few fine roach. We really must have a little more water to make the fish bite better.—G. Lumsden.

## Thames (Goring).

Water good for jack, perch, and chub. Jack have been well on. There have been some good jack taking; my best day eight jack, going 30lb., to largest jack going 14lb.—J. Rush.

## Thames (Oxford).

It begins to look like winter. Since last week there has been a marked and remarkable change in fishing prospects. Throughout the returns are good, and everyone appears to be contented, and I think that when three anglers out of four are unable to raise a decent grumble, then there is not so very much to complain of. No very remarkable catches have come to my ears; but there seems to have been an equal distribution of piscine property, and like the foolish ideal dream of the social democrat, it does not amount so very much, individually. Jack are well on the move, one greedy specimen I saw to-day gasping his last on the grass, had evidently tried conclusions with a perch fisherman, for when taken the second time a piece of a stout salmon gut bottom was hanging out of his jaws. Roach affect paste, worms, and gentles with equal impartiality, and chub in the canal exhibit a *penchant* for a bunch of gentles strung on a No. 4 hook, and I am of opinion that a few bits of pork fat would also answer. I have not been able as yet to get up the Cherwell with pith and brains, but I should think both at that or lob worms the chevins would go well. As regards the former bait, it is as well to take out a good supply, for as Bendigo, of pious and pugilistic memory, used to remark, "You do eat such a lot of it." Some fifteen years ago I essayed my 'prentice hand with pith. "Well," said the governor on my return, "What did you do?" "Um! not much; had all the lot for lunch." On the 9th inst., Mr. T. Boscott, in the Cherwell, had a nice little bag, comprising three jack, running 1½lb., 1½lb., and 2lb. respectively, together with three good perch and five roach. On Tuesday, at Tumbling Bathe, a nice little jack of 3lb. was taken by an angler, and, lower down, Mr. Shirley had a fine perch of 1lb. 7oz. On Wednesday one of the most workmanlike anglers I have come across had five jack at the Sheepwash—roughly guessing, they went from 1½lb. to 2½lb. each. To-day, Mr. Carter at Medley Pool, landed two jack, going 4½lb. and 3½lb. At Wolvercott Mr. Watts had a jack of 1½lb. as the whole of his day's take; and Mr. Corbett, in the canal, obtained 7lb. of chub and roach. The best chub went 2¾lb., and three of the roach made up 5lb.—Cherwell Otter.

P.S.—I omitted to mention (and I knew I had forgotten something) that on Saturday Mr. J. Bosson, in the Post Meadow Stream, bagged a fine jack of 9lb.

### Ancholme District.

The weather remains very fine and dry, and the leaf nuisance is abating. Few visitors now go to the water-side, but local fishermen still continue to ply their craft, though in considerably diminished numbers. The large sixteen-acre pond in Sudbrooke Park is being run off this week, and we are expecting some men from the National Fish Culture Association on Friday to fetch away some fish. It will be a grand sight to see the cartloads of fish as the water recedes. Trout culture has been highly successful at Sudbrooke. They have literally bushels of yearlings, or rather two-year-old fish, to let down when the pond is cleared out. This job will give occupation to a gang of labourers all through the winter. The fish, which have done so well, were obtained from the Manor Fishery, Caistor; but they owe their fine growth to the ceaseless attention and judicious feeding of the head gardener, Mr. Gray.—Thomas Ford.

### The Bure (Norwich).

Our old friend, Mr. C. J. Greene, has started the ball on water connected with this river (known locally as "the other side of Jordan") by the capture of a splendid specimen of the river shark, weighing upwards of 19lb. I had the pleasure of seeing the fish, and can bear witness to its exceptional beauty; its length from extreme ends was 38in., girth 18in. This is a good beginning for our veteran. Several others have had good luck during the past few days on this river, records of four to six being the best I have heard of, and some fair fish running 6lb. to 9lb. are reported. Spinning on the river now ought to pay well, as no account of the salts having affected the Bure has reached me. From Coltishall, all the way down past Wroxham, Horning Ferry, Ranworth, to Thurne Mouth is all excellent water for pike, as on either hand you have a series of broads which supply the river. Prospects good.—Robert Moll.

### Chichester.

Want of water is still the cry here, both among anglers and agriculturists, and until we get some heavy rains anglers must rest content with light baskets. Mr. Young has, as usual, taken some good perch with brandling, one fish scaling close upon 2lb. A pike of between 4lb. and 5lb. was taken last Thursday afternoon by Mr. Canaway; but, with seven or eight rods in the basin, pike have not much space without a bait being invitingly held out for their notice, the deep water being the principal resort at present. From Selham or the Ouse no news has reached me, so must infer that sport is quiet in these waters.—George F. Salter.

### The Dove.

Sport on this river has been better during the last few days than I was able to report in my previous communication. A good number of grayling have been killed, the most destructive lures having been the grasshopper and the bumble. Particularly on the tributaries, Blythe and Churnet, has sport been remunerative, for both are capital grayling streams. It cannot be said that the weather has been favourable, as, in the words of the poet, "It has been everything by turns and nothing long." What we want is some sharp, bright days. Then our rodsters would come out in force, and, as grayling never bite better than in sharp frost, everything would become rosy. The grayling dishes this week have averaged about five brace per rod. Pike are not stirring freely yet. I hear of a couple having been caught on the lower waters, but this is about all. They were killed with the live minnow. The best bait for chub just now is cow's brains.—The Splodger.

### Eden (Carlisle).

Now we come to the last week in the season, which closes next Saturday, 15th and it seems likely to make a very good ending to a very bad beginning. I can only give you such returns as I have had of the water near Carlisle, much of it belonging to the Association; but of course, numbers of fish have been landed in the upper reaches. On Saturday last it was scarcely in order after the flood. Still, three fish were killed near Crosby, Mr. Beaufort having one of 19lb., the "Priest o' Houghton" one, and a "great card," who reserves his name, another. As you can imagine, this was a "wee fish." The river rose on Sunday, and was just fishable on Monday, when Sergeant Fox got a nice fish. The "Demon," Mr. E. L. Hough, kill two, 14lb. and 25lb. Mr. Wilson, of Head's Nook, got one 8lb., and Mrs. Brooks killed a fish out of a boat at Crosby on Tuesday. Mr. Waters had a small one at Rickerby Rocks; Mr. Wilson, of Head's Nook, had a twenty-pounder; John Barrett, Esq., killed a fish of 18lb. with a well-known fly, "The Sweep"; and Mr. W. Routledge, after trying many flies and baits of sorts, in desperation tied two huge angel minnows tail-and-tail together, and succeeded in landing a beautiful fish of 30lb. Certainly, fish are strange beasts. I expect a lot of fish will flatten the grass before Saturday evening, and then it will be "hands off" till February 16th next. The season cannot be called a good one on the whole. The spring fishing, both for salmon and trout, was poor, and the autumn fishing for sea-trout and whiting the worst known for many years; but the last six weeks have been pretty productive to salmon fishers, and will afford subjects for many a good yarn over the fireside during the winter. The fish that were landed will be killed over again, but the big ones lost will last till the season comes round again. On Tuesday, 11th, Mr. Beaufort killed four fish at Crosby weighing 29, 21, 20, 20, and in all 90lb., and a novice, a farmer's son, had four also. Wednesday, Dr. Foster, of Huddersfield, landed three fish, and R. Routledge three heavy fish; in the Warwick Hall water, Mr. Phelps one, and Mr. E. L. Hough one of 20lb. at Crosby. Near Carlisle, R. Archbold killed a twenty-pounder. F. Davidson one, and two other gentlemen one each in the Association water.—Silver Grey.

### Ilfracombe.

Sea-fishing. The sport from the rocks and jetty for rod and line fishers has not been so good this week. Mr. Gratte caught a conger, 10lb., from the rocks; and some small whiting pout, conger, and thornback have been caught from the jetty. The herring fishing has been carried on with little variation—several boats bringing in four and five maize, while others only had a quarter. A few boats drifting by day has caught two and three maize each boat. Wednesday some large conger were caught, and a pollack 14lb. Thursday, the largest quantity of herrings brought in was—C. Buckingham 4¼ maize, price 21s. 6d. per maize. Weather moderate.—E. Comer.

### Leicester.

If we take into consideration the late period of the year, anglers have lately been fairly numerous at the river side, and in individual cases there has been fairly good success. The Leicester Society's water, both the canal and the brook at Aylestone, have afforded sport, some good pike having been taken from the canal during the week. Chub fishing has been lively in the Aylestone waters, and a number of good fish have been shown. The largest scaled 4lb. 3oz., and was taken by the well-known cricketer Rylott, who certainly loses no opportunity of securing a good basket, he being almost as clever with the rod and line as with the ball in the cricket field. Many other fine specimens of chub were weighed in, scaling between 2lb. and 3lb. Perch fishing has also been favourable in these waters, a lot of fish over 1lb. being taken. Sport in the district has not been very brisk, as with the exception of a very good roach, 1lb. 13oz., being weighed in at one of the clubs, but little seems to have been done. The weather is of a very unsettled character. Thursday was foggy, and a small rain fell the greater part of the day. There is plenty of water in the rivers and brooks.—Alert.

### Lugg and Arrow (Leominster).

Both these streams are in capital order for angling, but still keeping low. Rain has been had in this part, but has made scarcely any alteration in the colour of the water. The fish are biting well at the maggot and worm, and are sporting freely at the whirling blue, green insect, and red tag. Anglers have used the grasshopper freely this week, and some good baskets have been taken. Large quantities of leaves still accumulate in the water, and are a great nuisance to the angler. On Friday some capital sport was had in the Lugg, near Aymestry, and a very nice dish of fine grayling was taken with the maggot. A splendid lot of fish were landed in the Arrow near Eardisland, by a gentleman who was fishing with the grasshopper. The Lugg was tried on Saturday with the whirling blue, and a capital dish of grayling were taken, averaging 10oz. each; a few very nice ones were taken with the red worm. Some good grayling were landed in the Arrow near Ivington, with the grasshopper, weighing 4lb. the lot. A gentleman fished the Arrow on Monday, and with the red tag and green insect took a splendid dish of fine grayling. The Lugg, near to Kingsland, was tried with the maggot, and a very nice lot of grayling and a few rough fish were landed. On Tuesday a gentleman visited the water near Stanton, and landed a good basket of fish with the grasshopper. Some very good grayling have been landed in the Lugg, near Fords Bridge, with the fly this week. Little doing in the Bodenham district this week. Fishing quiet in the Monkland waters. The Pinsley is still in capital angling order, the fish are sporting well at the fly, and some good dishes have been taken. A fine lot of fish were taken on Monday with the grasshopper.—Gwynne.

### Medway (Tonbridge).

The state of water remains unchanged, as rain is sadly wanted, many of the side streams being all but dry. This does not tend to successful fishing. Some very good takes of pike are recorded all over the fishery, but everything in the way of angling would improve if we had a nice run of water.—Ye Medway Water Rat.

### Nene (Northampton).

Fishing in this district has been very tame since my last report. But during the last few days I have seen a nice sample of fish taken from the canals, including some nice roach, chub, and perch taken by Messrs. Bullock, Eyte, G. Johnson, and A. Cook, the latter killing a nice chub of 3lb. 2oz. On a tight hair line Mr. Pendered, of Wellingborough, killed a nice pike of 15lb. The members of the Northampton Nene Angling Club have been holding their annual prize fishing competition this week, result not at hand.—T. F.

### The Ouse (Huntingdon).

Although the water does not improve as regards colour, jack have been taken. Some of our local fishermen have been out and took about twenty, some going from 5lb. to 7lb. each. In the deep water, when it does not show the brightness, is the best to fish, for the water about six or eight feet the fish are very shy, and fly off in all directions. A flush of water would do a great deal of good, to carry off some of the weeds and to stir up the fish of all kinds. I saw about a dozen fine chub lying in a pool this morning (the 13th), and if any one was to try for them no doubt but what some might be taken.—H. Rout.

### Swale (Richmond, Yorks).

This has been a bad fishing season. Streams nearly dried up till lately, when floods have spoiled the fly-fishing for grayling.—G. R. Walton.

### Teme (Ludlow).

This stream, and most of the tributaries have resumed their ordinary level, but the waters are somewhat thick and muddy, nevertheless, fair angling has been had in most of the streams. The mild weather tempted many to visit the waters this week grayling fishing. With a good flush of water, we shall look for salmon ascending the Teme from the Severn, but we have not heard of anything being done to remove or improve the formidable barriers to their passage up the Teme, of which Ashford Weir is one of the worst. There are some rather awkward weirs close to Ludlow, six being within a short distance of each other, viz., Steventon, Paper Mills, Hockey's Mill, Ludford Bridge, Mill-street, and Collings's Mill, at New Bridge. This is no small number to ascend. If by any chance a salmon is left between these weirs, it is almost a dead certainty that he never ascends another; for, between river poachers and others, the capture of the fish is sure to be effected. Scarcely a year passes without some of the fish being captured. There have been a few grayling caught up Leintwardine way with the grasshopper, but the fish did not take the bait very eagerly, probably owing to the condition of the water. Sunday night was cold and frosty, bringing a fine and bright morning on Monday, which was, after the fog was cleared, a good day for top fishing, and the streams were fairly visited, and the maggot was used with great success. A fisherman on this side Barrett's Mill caught four brace of grayling with the maggot; the fish were fine fish, and averaged ½lb. each. A few fish have been caught in the Clun with the green insect. A fisherman on Monday started from the railway bridge and fished up the Corve with the silver-twisted blue and red tag. He caught some seven grayling; then trying the maggot he caught two more fish.—S. Ludlow.

### Teme (Tenbury).

This stream is now in splendid angling condition. Since our last report the water has slightly risen from the rain which we had in this part on Friday, and on Monday was a little coloured. The fish are sporting well at the fly, and are biting well at the maggot, and some good lots have been taken with the grasshopper. The best flies on the water are the red tag, claret body, and whirling blue. The water near the town was fished on Friday afternoon by a gentleman with the maggot, who landed a nice dish of five grayling and three perch, all in good condition. In the water near Little Hereford a fine lot of grayling were landed with the red tag the same day. On Saturday, a gentleman visited the water near to Eastham and landed a fine lot of grayling, averaging ½lb. each, with the whirling blue. A nice dish of fish were taken from the water near the bridge with the maggot. A gentleman tried the water near Easton Court on Monday, and with the red worm landed a capital dish of fine grayling, all in capital condition; and with the claret body a nice lot of fish were taken. Fishing, on Tuesday, in the water near Corn Brook, a gentleman with the grasshopper landed a splendid lot of grayling, scaling 6lb. the lot. The water near Berrington court was tried the same day by a gentleman who landed a very good lot of grayling and a few perch with the maggot. Some fine fish were taken in the water below the town with the whirling blue. The anglers of this district have been on the look-out for the salmon coming up the water; but none have been seen as yet, the water being too low for them to get up. The Kyre and Rea are in good angling order. A few good fish have been landed from the Kyre. Nothing doing in the Rea or Ledwyche this week.—Worcester.

### Trent (Newark).

I do not wish to occupy your space with any comment on what "T. T. O." says in your issue of last week, excepting when he throws (to put it mildly) doubt on my accuracy as to the report of one catch out of the many I gave you. It is one more instance of his giving you a hearsay report, as he might have had conclusive evidence that my weight was an under estimate rather than otherwise. For his information, will you allow me to say that the catch consisted of 17 bream (the largest 2¼lb. and the smallest ½lb.), and, that when his friend saw the fish, five of the best had been given away, and still 9lb. left, even according to the estimate of one who it is well known would not overdo it. Mr. Slater saw the fish, and would, I am sure, have borne me out. Possibly another time, when I am taken to task in such a way, "T. T. O." will specify the catch; though, as it happens, I have not had much trouble this time in making it out. So much for the "tremendous haul," i.e., 14lb. of bream, which "T. T. O." would have me reduce to 9lb. On Thursday Messrs. Slater and Dale were out, the former bringing home 12lb. of dace, six weighed 3lb.; this is second only to a catch made by Mr. Dale just twelve months since, when, out of a big bag, five dace weighed 46oz., about the best sample ever seen here. The latter, on Thursday, had over 9lb., but nothing very large. On Saturday several were out, myself among the rest. A friend took me to a private jack water, where I was to take some big bait. We had some fine fun, but only landed three fish, about 7lb.; we missed between us fully 20 runs; with two exceptions, all were small fish which could not take the large bait. I broke in a good fish, spinning, and my friend was snapped at, just lifting out the fish, taking bait and hooks with him. I shall look forward to another invitation, when Mr. Jack will not find me so badly supplied with tackle suitable to their requirements. Mr. Mead, hon. sec. to the Muskham, had three jack, and Mr. Morledge five. Several others tried, but met with little or no success, except an angler, whose name I do not know, had one fish 6lb., which he says ought to have been 10lb., also about 5lb. roach and dace. On Monday Mr. Sims had a good fish, and Sunman a nice lot of bream; our keeper says 2st., but I should not like to vouch for it. On Wednesday Mr. Dale had a jack of 8lb., in very poor trim; it measured 34in. in length. I don't know the rule, but fancy 12lb. would have been moderate for it. Mr. Curtis had one fish, and broke in a good one; from what I hear, it was the one which is answerable for several tackles during the past two seasons. There are some ugly rumours flying about just now, touching the fine fish weighed at several clubs last week; possibly more may come of it. P.S.—I see your note *re* Mark Antony and fish maggots. Many of our best anglers use them regularly, and consider them far before the liver-bred ones; but the Sheffield men, who use exclusively maggot fishes, swear by the latter, and are very particular that their baits should be "yellow as a guinea."—F. T. L.

[We also much prefer them yellow, and feel sure the fish do.—Ed.]

[ At the beginning of the week the water was running at a very fair height; but, as I stated in my last, not much colour came down with it. Since then it has been gradually going down, and, at the time of writing, it is about 6in. higher than it was a fortnight ago; but still it is in not very bad form for general fishing. I have not heard of anything much having been done this week. One or two of our anglers tried the chub, but nothing much came of it. A few jack have been killed spinning, and a few dace have been had with gentles and cockspurs for bait. Thursday night; water low and clear—pike, chub, roach, and dace, should be had; although I think we want a sharp frost or two to sharpen the appetite of the two former fish.—The Trent Otter.

### Waveney (Beccles).

Pike have been feeding fairly well during this week, and several have been taken, Capt. James, four, weighing 11lb., Mr. W. Balls one, weighing 4½lb., and Mr. Leman one of 3lb, taken with various kinds of baits, viz., spoon bait, snap tackle, and spinning with roach. As there are plenty of sprats now to be had, I would suggest that pike fishermen should give them a trial. They are very bright and showy, and from experience I have proved them to be a good bait. Weather just now is the right kind for anglers. Wind S.W., water good.—A Waveney Angler.

### Wharfe (Yorkshire).

There have been a few nice dishes of grayling killed since my last report, chiefly with the worm. Another angler and myself tried them for an hour or two last Saturday; he killed five nice fish, and I had six similar ones. The trout took hold in a most aggravating way; some of the ones that I landed were in excellent condition, and fought well. The river is now in first-rate order for fly-fishing, but I have noticed very few rising fish.—Francis M. Walbran.

### Wye and Derwent.

Both rivers still keep in excellent order for either fly or bottom fishing, and very good sport has been had on different parts of the Derwent with both fly and bottom fishing. The best feeding time at this season is from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.; but you may kill fish up to 4 p.m. occasionally. The ash dun, along with the cowdung fly and small black are still to be seen on these rivers, in fact, these flies will be seen more or less through the winter, and grayling rising at them on the rather deep hill runs or glidings. The weather is very mild for this time of the year. Last week, up the Darley meadows, I saw crows making their nests, in fact, there were four pair of birds quite busy building. Small grayling, especially on the Derwent, are very numerous this year, and if they escape being made small fry of by other fish, next year they will well stock the rivers. The pike-fishers have killed a few fish, below Cromford, both by spinning and with trimmers, none of the fish running very large. Trout are nearly all up the brooks, and every caution is required to keep them safe from being taken.—G. J. Eaton.

### The Yare (Norwich).

I am sorry to say the good sport experienced about a fortnight ago makes the present want of luck seem all the harder. I refer more especially to jack fishing, as I am credibly informed some excellent catches of roach have been taken, both at Buckenham and at Brundall, but the spinning has been a complete failure. A friend and I tried the Yare last Saturday afternoon for an hour and a half, and we were lucky enough to have seven runs and landed four fish; but they were all small, about 2½lb. to 3lb. The present state of matters is accounted for to some extent by the unfortunate visit of the salts up our beautiful stream as high as Surlingham Ferry. It was mentioned by Professor Day at the annual dinner of the Champion Angling Club, held last Tuesday evening, that he had picked up about 40 dead pike in the vicinity of Buckenham; also a large number of fine bream; in one instance two of them weighed over 10lb. This is very sad, and is a thing we cannot guard against. Prospects: The water looks promising, and I intend to try my fortune again next Saturday, and hope to be able next week to send you a more cheering account.—Robert Moll.

## THAMES FISHING IN THE TIDAL WATERS.

Another period of anxiety to the preservers and protectors of the Thames Fishery has passed away without even the report of netting having taken place, and with the greatest satisfaction to those whose duty it has been to guard and watch the river night after night to find that the game of netting during that time has been about played out. The period to which I refer is when certain holiday's are on, and when there is a great demand for white or coarse fish. Fortunately for the Thames, independent of more united and faithful watchfulness, the gang of old poachers is about extinguished; names memorable in the past as associated with heavy fines and the destruction of valuable nets, and of incessant attempts at poaching, have gone to their final resting-place, and it is hoped and believed the rising generation will be an improvement on their forefathers, and be found law-servers instead of law-breakers.

It was only a week or two since I was informed of the death of another of the race of famous poachers, and there is only another link left in the once powerful chain. The records of days long past, when many of those interested in the river now knew little of it then, furnish sad and painful stories of struggles between river-keepers and poachers, the lives of the former in numerous instances being nearly sacrificed by the daring and determined opposition of the latter. The victorious results which invariably followed these attacks is accounted for in one year alone, when the fines realised a total amount of over £30, and the destruction of a number of valuable and costly nets; when Mr. Francis Francis and others raised special funds as rewards for the bravery and exertions of the river-keepers; when poaching was done by a large organised gang, and on a scale and system that has not been attempted in recent times. The leaders, as I have said before, are all about gone, and their inglorious and illegal deeds must be buried with them; but there was a time when I felt that, although netting might be greatly checked, it would, to some extent, still exist. Our thoughts and impressions are naturally subject to change, and if that change is brought about by substantial evidence to the contrary, then it ought to be right and natural for me to feel now, especially with the dying-out of the old and bold offenders, and the most reliable proof that during the last and previous fishing season no attempts have been made to net the river, that poaching is about stamped out.

Before the time of our valued and energetic president of the T.A.P.S., Mr. Thomas Spreckley, there was no active and personal leader like him in Thames Protection and Thames Preservation; the whole work of carrying out the duties then devolved upon myself, though I was always well supported by an intelligent and practical committee, and those duties were always faithfully performed. The result of the last few years prove how desirable it is to have a liberal and active leader, with an amount of responsibility about him, to make protection and preservation perfectly complete, and in whose leadership I have heartily and, I trust, effectively co-operated. Few have experienced, as I have done, the time, the labour, and the money which our worthy president has unselfishly applied to the great objects connected with Thames fishing, how devoted and earnest he has been to the work, and how, with a firm and heartfelt determination to do what was right, he has secured the confidence and esteem of all classes. These observations will, I think, lead up to what forms the heading of my remarks as to Thames fishing in the tidal waters, because I cannot but think the extraordinary results of angling this season are due to the good and wise government of Mr. Spreckley and to the valuable co-operation he has had from Mr. A. J. Little, of Twickenham, in that district; and it is safe to predict how much future seasons will be benefitted by the protection of the roach spawn, which was so successfully adopted in May last, and which is to be continued each year. In the River Reports which have appeared in the Fishing Gazette as connected with Richmond and Twickenham, the records have been of a marvellous character—instances from 30lb. to 40lb. weight of roach and dace in the day have frequently been given; and in the records of last week, which, from some inadvertence, did not appear, there were the united takes of four fishermen at Richmond, representing a total of 391lb. weight of roach and dace, supplemented with seven barbel and one bream, giving an average of over 20lb. weight of fish to each punt, one of the best takes being 35lb. Then, again, the great quantity of barbel that have been captured—the tidal waters may safely challenge any other portion of the upper districts for equal results. It is the generally-expressed opinion that recollection does not serve to prove the existence of any previous season with so much successful angling; and if the anglers will only support the work which has been so effectively done by the T.A.P.S. for their benefit, it will help to put forward greater efforts and, at the same time, evidence their appreciation of the past. B.

[The reports referred to never came to hand.—Ed.]

## SHARK FISHING.

By Colin.

It has been said that sharks always turn over to bite. This is not so. They do often, it is true; but I have seen them feed without turning over at all. Sometimes a side motion was observed on account of the mouth being set so low down below the nose; but they can calculate where to strike the object, if above them, by simply opening the jaws and rushing at it. Below the shark is the safest place, because it has to turn over to take an object below it.

Down in Panama the Englishmen who are fond of killing them do it on wagers. They get out on a buoy in the bay, and the huge man-eaters that come up to take a snap at their legs are despatched by a well-directed rifle bullet. One man killed over thirty in a day in this way. He was left with a couple of repeaters on a huge buoy, one strapped behind his back in case the other got out of order, and belt and pockets full of cartridges, by some friends in a sail-boat, who watched him from a distance. Sometimes, when two large white sharks came at him from opposite sides, it took the quickest kind of double shots to kill, while strapped to his bobbing and rocking seat.

The hammer-headed shark is one of the ugliest and most repulsive-looking fish that exist. Its head resembles that of a hammer, the eyes being at each end, and the mouth extending the whole length.

A good way to set a shark-bait is to anchor in some place a hook with a long rope, to the end of which is a barrel. When set, the barrel floats over it, and can be seen at quite a distance, bobbing under if a fish is caught. Haul this line in very slowly when you get to the cask in a boat, and shoot the fish with a heavy revolver bullet as soon as its head shows at the top of the water. One way of killing sharks that are troublesome, dangerous, or so numerous in a vicinity as to kill game-fish, is to set a dynamite cartridge in a chunk of fat pork, connecting it by a long wire to a pier or boat. As soon as the bait is taken and gorged, strike a battery connected with the wires, and the shark will be in a hundred pieces immediately. Sharks are cannibals, and the flesh of one is a taking bait for the others.

Sharks have been caught with immense rods, and in Florida sometimes with the fly. The outfit in this case consisted of a short thick bamboo rod with large rings, a winch almost resembling a ship's windlass in size, made of wood, holding several hundred yards of the best quarter-inch rope. The fly was a regular shark hook, lighter and smaller than usual, with a gull's wing on each side, and a squirrel's tail as the body. All this was ornamented and tied on with tinsel of the brightest colours. Casting must have been difficult with this cumbersome tackle, although throwing in the Nottingham style on the still waters of a bayou, a long distance might be traversed by the fly. Harpooning sharks is even more exciting than catching them with a hook. The harpoon has a wooden handle, detachable from the head, to which the end of a long cord, coiled up carefully in the boat, is fastened. A Barnegat sneak-box is the best boat to have, and early in the morning, when sharks are feeding in shallow water on crabs and small fish, is the time to start for them. Keep a sharp look-out ahead for dorsal fins, and when you see one, approach cautiously, cast the harpoon, haul up the centreboard, drop the sail, and wait until the line runs out, when you will have a ride, if the fish is big, such as perhaps you never had before. When the fish tires, approach close enough to shoot it. The harpoon can then be cut out, and the fish secured, if you desire one.

The River Almond.—The stock of trout in this celebrated Scotch stream has suffered an immense loss, in consequence of oil getting into the river from a railway truckload.

George James Eaton, of Starkholmes, Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required, from gentlemen who can fish, to prove whether they may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: **Point Flies 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen.** Orders punctually attended to.—(Advt.)

# CLUB REPORTS.

### AMICABLE BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

The remaining prizes were won by Messrs. J. Dacey and J. Worledge. Members are requested to attend the club on Nov. 19th, to arrange supper and other business of importance.—J. Worledge.

### THE ANGLERS' ASSOCIATION.

The delegate meeting will take place on Monday, Nov. 17th, at Foresters' Hall. Chair taken at 9 o'clock. The district visiting lists will be shortly rearranged; societies wishing to be enrolled thereon will oblige by informing the secretary as early as possible. Since my last report, I beg to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of £1 10s. from the donation box of the Globe Angling Society; also 5s. donation from Mr. Franks, the treasurer; and 4s. 6d. from the donation box of the Kingsland Brothers Angling Society.—R. Ghurney, secretary.

### BATTERSEA FRIENDLY ANGLING SOCIETY.

On November 9th there was a very poor show, only three members weighing in. On November 23rd a match will be fished at Staines for three prizes, open to all members that have not taken a prize this season. The concert arranged for the benefit of Mr. H. Payne will take place at the Shaftesbury Hall on Nov. 24. Tickets can be had on application to any member of this society. On Wednesday, fishing at Twickenham, Mr. G. Edwards caught 6lb. 2½oz. of dace, and Mr. W. Birkett 6lb. of dace and roach.—A. T. Sampson, hon sec.

### BROMPTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

Some very good shows on the 9th. Messrs. Dutton and E. Saunders having roach and jack; Mr. Barton, roach; Messrs. Brown, Herbert, C. Saunders, and T. Bentley having roach; Mr. Burbidge, dace; Mr. Sparrow, some nice chub. On the 2nd, Mr. E. Saunders having some nice bream, some scaling 4lb. apiece; Mr. C. Saunders also having some good bream on the same day.—W. Dutton, sec.

### CITY OF LONDON ANGLING SOCIETY.

Only two of our members weighed in on the 9th inst., Mr. Chambers, dace and gudgeon from Pulborough; and Mr. Castell, roach from Sawbridgeworth.—Cas.

### CLAPHAM JUNCTION ANGLING SOCIETY.

The result of the match at Twickenham on the 9th inst., Messrs. Wilson and Boisseau *v.* Messrs. Favell and Maslin, was a very near affair, and the weights as follows:—Maslin, 9lb. 9½oz.; Favell, 2lb. 7oz.; Wilson, 9lb. 6½oz.; Boisseau, 2lb. 7½oz. (won by 2½oz. only). Mr. Withers had 14lb. barbel and perch from Cookham, other members having decent shows.—W. Maslin, sec.

### COBDEN ANGLING SOCIETY.

Several of our members were out on the 9th inst. They went to various places, some to the Thames, Uxbridge, and the Lea. Those that went to the Thames were the most successful, for Mr. Hayward weighed in a very nice show of roach and dace; likewise Messrs. Maples, Smith, and Laing some roach and dace. I may mention among the roach taken by Messrs. Maples and Smith, the former took one 1lb. 7oz. and the latter 1lb. 4oz. Messrs. Stead, Hammens, and Simmons some roach from Uxbridge; likewise Mr. Webley, from the Lea, some very nice perch and dace.—C. Reeves, sec.

### CLAPTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The usual weekly meeting was held on Monday last, Mr. Geo. Colls in the chair. The minutes of the preceding meeting were read, approved, and other formal business carried out. A tray of small jack was shown by Mr. Binks. Mr. G. Short reported the singular incident of a goldfish, which he had used for live-baiting, being pouched by a jack of about 4lb. (he had unsuccessfully tried dace and other baits). On reaching home, about three hours after, on opening the jack, the bait was found to be alive, and, on taking the hook out, the fish swam about in a pail of water. The fact was substantiated by several witnesses. In reply to the question that had been asked of him by several members and others, "why" he had given the name of the "good shop" in last week's paper, Mr. Howse stated that there were so many miles of good fishing water that it could not, by fair angling, be deteriorated by any moderate number of anglers who, in consequence of his letter, might go to Bures. Further than that, the keepers and those from whom permission must be obtained, would look sharply after any *rush* that might be made at the waters. Again, the distance from London would be an obstacle with many, especially as, to get a good long day, it is necessary to go down over night, angle the following day, sleep there that night, returning to town the following morning. This, of course, is the *comfortable way*, and those not so fastidious could go down and return the same day. Mr. Howse further stated that it was a source of gratification to him to be able to put *brother anglers* on to a good spot. It was resolved to have a club outing on Saturday, the 6th of December next, and the secretary was desired to frame a circular to that effect, and send to each member, the, object being (as well as giving every member notice) to give members the opportunity of recommending any suitable water which they might know. Several places were suggested at the meeting; but it will not be finally settled until the last Monday meeting in this month. A cordial vote of thanks to the chairman closed the proceedings.—Henry Howse, hon. sec.

### CHAMPION ANGLING CLUB (NORWICH).

The annual dinner of the above club, which ranks high amongst the numerous clubs of Norwich, was held on Tuesday, the 11th inst. Host Stanley provided a really first-class spread, and the arrangements altogether reflect great credit upon his able management. Amongst those present were the president, Mr. J. Bagshaw; the vice-president, Mr. S. J. Hook; and Messrs. S. F. Howitt, G. Daniels, W. Vawel, J. E. Gunn, F.L.S.; G. G. Whincop, hon. sec.; J. Youngs, G. Jefferies, Edwards, Thompson, Watts, J. J. Hunt, N. Sidell, Day, Professor Day, J. J. Rice, W. G. Capon, R. Moll, &c. After the excellent dinner had been discussed the members retired for a few minutes, whilst another spread, in the shape of a choice dessert, was placed upon the tables. The meeting having resumed, the chairman gave the usual loyal and patriotic toasts, which were cordially responded to, Mr. Sidell returning thanks in an able manner for the "Army, Navy, and Reserve Forces." Mr. J. E. Gunn then gave the "Champion Angling Club," coupled with the name of the Hon. Sec.. Mr. Whincop. Mr. Whincop, in responding, assured the members that, having accepted the post of the late respected secretary (Mr. Chettleburg), it would be his endeavour in the future, as in the past, to do the utmost to advance the interest and prosperity of the club. He wished to mention that the president had promised a donation of £5 towards the Prize Fund. Mr. Moll next gave the "Health of the President," whom he was pleased to see amongst them again, looking as well as he did after his somewhat severe illness; he felt sure they had the right man in the right place. The president thanked Mr. Moll for the kind expressions, and the members and friends present for the warm welcome they had given the toast; he would promise to do his very level best for the benefit of the club. Mr. Youngs next proposed "The Health of the Vice-President and Treasurer, Mr. S. J. Hook," remarking that in that gentleman the club had an excellent and painstaking officer and friend. The vice-president thanked the club for the honour they had conferred upon him, and trusted no effort would be wanting on his part to show he appreciated it. Mr. S. F. Howitt proposed "The Secretary's Health," and in studied terms pointed out how fortunate the club were to secure the services of a gentleman so well and deservedly known and respected in the piscatorial world around Norwich; he trusted he might long occupy the position he so ably filled. Mr. Whincop thanked Mr. Howitt for his kindness and the members for their warm reception of the toast; but as he was no hand at speaking he would simply say he would do all in his power to advance the objects the club had in view. The toast of "The Committee" was given by Mr. Jefferies, and responded to by Mr. Vawel"; "The Yare Preservation and Kindred Societies" by Mr. G. Daniels, coupled with the names of Messrs. R. Moll, J. J. Rice, and W. G. Capon. "The Visitors," "The Host," "The Press," and lastly, "The Ladies," brought a very enjoyable evening to a close. Messrs. S. F. Howitt, J. Hunt, Edwards, Whincop, and R. Moll contributed songs, &c., which added to the harmony of the meeting.

### EDMONTON AND TOTTENHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

The above society had a nice show of fish on the 9th inst., Mr. J. Collyer being top of the list with three jack from the Lea, weighing respectively 9lb., 5lb., and 4lb.; the smaller one was not in very good condition, being a very thin fish for its length; the other two have gone to be put up in one case. Messrs. Fowler and Clifton weighed in jack; Messrs. O. Wade and F. A. Gray, roach and dace from the Lea.—F. A. Gray, sec.

### GLOBE ANGLING SOCIETY.

The following members weighed in on the 9th inst:—Mr. H. Lake, 8lb. of very good roach and dace and one small chub; Mr. G. Jeffries, chub, 4lb., 6oz.; W. Brown, roach and perch, 2lb.; Mr. F. Lawrence, roach, 1lb. 11oz.; Mr. S. Howell, roach and dace, 2lb. 8oz. At our ordinary weekly meeting on Monday evening, the 10th inst., by request of the members of the above society, Mr. R. Ghurney and friend paid us a visit, the object being to receive the contents of the Angler's Benevolent Box. The next smoking concert in aid of the above will take place on Wednesday evening, 18th inst., upon which occasion we shall be pleased to see any brother angler.—J. J. Holmes, sec.

### GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

The usual weekly meeting of the above society was held on Tuesday evening at the Mason's Hall Tavern, Mason's-avenue, Basinghall-street. Dr. Cash presided, and there was a large attendance of members and visitors. The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, Mr. T. Thornton Green was unanimously elected a member of the society. Several letters, including one from Mr. Massingham, with reference to a piece of water for the society, were read. The pike competition was postponed, as although several members had been out and some fair-sized fish were weighed in, the member to whom the prize would have fallen preferred that it should be again fished for, when he hoped something more worthy of its value would be shown. Capital accounts of their day's sport were given by Dr. Lloyd, Messrs. Crumplen, Godwin, Parker, and Young; and a vote of thanks having been passed to the chairman, the evening was brought to a close with some very nice musical selections.—H.

### GREAT NORTHERN BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

On November 2nd, the following members weighed fish:—Mr. Theobald, 3lb. 2oz.; Mr. E. Smith, 1lb. 14oz.; Mr. G. Watling, 5lb. 6oz.; Mr. J. Hambidge, 3lb. 8oz.; and Mr. F. Watling, 1lb. 5oz. On November 9th, Mr. J. K. Fitch showed a fine sample of roach and dace, weighing 19lb. 5oz.; Mr. Page, 1lb. 4oz., one dace 12oz.; Mr. G. Watling, 4lb. 3oz.; Mr. Cooper, jun., 4lb. 3oz.; Mr. Graves, 3lb. 12oz.; Mr. Theobald, 3lb. 2oz. Messrs. E. Smith and Hockham also weighed fish.—J. A. Fitch, sec.

### HAMMERSMITH UNITED ANGLING SOCIETY.

Our monthly meeting for transacting the business of the society took place last Thursday, November 6th, when there was a good attendance of members present. Our old brother member and vice-chairman, Mr. Lewis, having gone to Canada, it became necessary to elect a new vice-chairman, and to this post Mr. Alder was unanimously elected. The usual routine of business having been disposed of, the conditions for our next club match were decided upon; this match was fished on Nov. 9th and Nov. 13th, and the result will appear in the next report. It was then decided to commence the winter series of smoking concerts and readings on Thursday, Nov. 20th, at 9 o'clock, when we shall be most pleased to see any of our friends, and any members of other societies, if they will honour us by their presence on that evening. Due notice of all other concerts and readings will appear in the Gazette, and on any of these occasions visitors will be cordially welcome. We can promise all attending on Thursday, Nov. 20th, some good entertainment, as amongst those who have promised to sing are Messrs. Burgess, Turner, Catward, Penney, Reynolds, and others of our own society, who are well-known for their vocal powers. Mr. Alder weighed in roach and dace on Thursday, and on Saturday Mr. Hobden a fair take of chub and one jack, to whom the shining bit of fish proved a fatal lure. These fish were the result of an expedition to Eynsham of Mr. H., accompanied by Mr. Evans, of the Westbourne Park Society, and would have been a much larger take had there been any water to fish in, as the river there is almost empty, and hardly any current.—H.

### HOXTON BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

We had a good attendance of members and friends on the 9th inst. Capital shows of fish. Mr. Pledger, 32½lb. splendid roach; J. Osborne, 18¼lb. roach; Tom (a non-member), about 14lb. roach; A. Dean, 4lb. roach; J. Morgan, 20½lb. of jack—largest 9lb. 14oz.; E. Harris, over 8lb. of jack. The first outing for special prizes will take place on the 23rd inst.; place not yet selected.—R. Ghurney, sec.

### HULME (MANCHESTER) ELLESMERE ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of the above society held their annual dinner on Saturday, Nov. 8th, at the club-house, Grey Parrot, Bedford-street, Hulme, when an excellent muster of the members partook of a capital dinner provided by the host, Mr. Taylor. I need only say that everyone appeared to be in ample trim, and justice was done to the repast. After the cloth had been removed, the president of the society, Mr. Bradley, took the chair, supported by Mr. Hampson as vice-chairman. After the usual loyal toasts had been proposed, the chairman proposed the toast of the evening, "Success to the Hulme Ellesmere Angling Society, and Long and Continued Prosperity to its Members." The secretary, in responding to the toast, said it gave him pleasure to make a few observations on the working of the society during the past year, special reference being made on the increased activity and desire on the part of the members to excel themselves in all previous efforts to secure greater catches of fish. considering the great disadvantage we in this part of the country have to contend against, both in our means of railway travelling and fishing waters, the past will bear favourable comparison to any previous year. Reference here was made to the absence of one of the members who through sickness was unable to be amongst us, it only having just come to our knowledge that he was in needy circumstances. The appeal which was made on his behalf, I may say, was very handsomely responded to. The toast, "Manchester and Districts Amalgamated Anglers' Association and the Local Angling Clubs," coupled with the names of Mr. Ridgway, general secretary, and Mr. Hulmes, district secretary, was proposed by Mr. Procter in a very appropriate manner, and responded to by Mr. Bailey, president of the association, and Mr. Hulmes, who spoke in very feeling terms to the services Mr. Ridgway had rendered to the cause of anglers in this district. The toast, "Prize Winners" was very humorously proposed by Mr. Rathbone, and briefly replied to by Mr. Heywood. The rest of the evening was devoted to harmony, and to single any member out for special mention would be entirely out of my province. All the old faces were to the fore: Messrs. Hulmes and Brookes, recitations; Messrs. Bradley, J. Taylor, Brothers Hampson, Rathbone, Bailey, Purslow, Whittaker, Frost, and McDermott, not forgetting our old Pilling, by their rendering of the several songs, made the evening thoroughly enjoyable. Time now being on the wing, the usual votes of thanks to the host, Mr. Taylor. and his good lady, and to the chairman for his able services, were briefly responded to, and a most successful evening was brought to a close.—T. R., sec.

### INDEPENDENT JOVIAL ANGLING SOCIETY.

Several of our members out on the 2nd and 9th inst., Mr. H. Cann, Mr. W. Smart, Mr. D. Keep, and Mr. C. Smart, all having some good sport with the roach and dace; Mr. J. Conroy, roach, chub, and two barbel. Mr. T. Pratt, of the above society, out on the 8th inst., had a good take of roach and dace, weighing over 25lb.—C. SMART, sec.

### NORTH-EASTERN ANGLING SOCIETY.

Several members of the above were out on the 9th inst. to fish for two prizes, and had a goodly show of fish from the Thames, consisting of chub, roach, dace, and a few fine gudgeon, Messrs. King and Savage proving the victors. Members will please note that another match is arranged for the 23rd inst.—G. T. FLETCHER, sec.

### NORTH-WESTERN ANGLING SOCIETY.

We had a nice lot of fish on the trays of this society on the 9th inst. Mr. Hill, roach from the Lea; Mr. Billings, roach; Mr. Greenwood, roaeh; Mr. Aldis was again in it with the jack, four fish, largest 6lb. 3oz.; Mr. Plumpton, sen., had a very pretty jack.—W. HILLIER, sec.

### THE NOTTS ANGLING CLUBS.

As illustrating the deep interest taken by Nottingham anglers in angling pursuits, we have pleasure in publishing a list of clubs, whose members enjoy the privileges conceded by the Midland and Great Northern Railway Companies in the matter of cheap travelling fares for the winter season, which has just recently opened:—The Wellington Association, Wellington Hotel, Station-street, Nottingham (65 members); St. George's Association, St. George's Hall, Chapel-bar, Nottingham (30 members); Alexandria Association, Carrington-street, Nottingham (30 members); Rose and Thistle, East-street, Nottingham (30 members); Lenton Liberal Club, Lenton (24 members); Red Lion Inn, Manvers-street, Swinton (50 members); Cremorne Inn, Wilford-road, Nottingham (25 members); Star Inn, New Basford (30 members); Sinkermakers' Arms Inn, Carter-gate, Nottingham (40 members); Tradesman's Rest Inn, Bellar-gate, Nottingham (30 members); Old Rose Revived Inn, Bellar-gate, Nottingham (24 members); Horne's Castle Inn, Hollow Stone, Nottingham (30 members); Crown and Anchor Inn, London-road, Nottingham (25 members); Temperance Association, St. James-street, Nottingham (25 members); Cross Keys Inn, St. Mary's-gate, Nottingham (24 members); Trip to Jerusalem, Brew House-yard, Nottingham (30 members); Elephant and Castle, Hounds-gate, Nottingham (25 members); Sycamore Inn, Sycamore-road, Nottingham (30 members); Park Tavern Inn, Elliott-street, Radford (50 members); Larkdale Tavern Inn, Oliver-street, Radford (30 members); Millers' Arms Inn, Agnes-street, Nottingham (20 members); Sir Francis Burdett, Mount-street, Nottingham (18 members); Black's Head Inn, Lenton (20 members); St. Mary's Institute, Nottingham (16 members); Dog and Pheasant Inn, Keswick-street, Swinton (40 members); Fisherman's Rest Inn, Alfreton-road, Nottingham (30 members); Cooper's Arms Inn, Platt-street, Nottingham (36 members); Admiral Duncan Inn, Coalpit-lane, Nottingham (40 members); Victoria Inn, Highhurst-street (40 members); Rose Inn, Mount-street, Nottingham (20 members); Woodlark Inn, Convent-street, Nottingham (36 members); King's Arms Inn, Woolpack-lane, Nottingham (60 members); Working Men's Institute, Radford (40 members); Cricket Players' Inn, Hyson-green (30 members); Old General Inn, Wellington-street, Nottingham (20 members); Chase Tavern Inn, St. Ann's Well-road, Nottingham (50 members); Sir Thomas White Inn, Carter-gate, Nottingham (40 members); Balaclava Hero, Denman-street, Radford (25 members); Victory Inn, Great Alfred-street, Nottingham (30 members); Working Men's Institute, Hyson-green (12 members); Old Arm Chair Inn, Bridlesmith-gate, Nottingham (30 members); Old Grey Horse Inn, Kelley-street, Swinton (30 members); Three Tuns Inn, Old Radford (40 members); Robin Hood Inn, Hockley, Nottingham (50 members); George Inn, George-street, Radford (30 members); Portland Arms, Coalpit-lane, Nottingham (42 members); Chesterfield Arms, Chesterfield-street, Nottingham (12 members); Seven Stars, Barker-gate, Nottingham (25 members); Gardener's Rest, Peas Hill Rise, Nottingham (36 members); Marquis of Waterford, Citizen-street, Radford (30 members); Sir Robert Peel Inn, St. James's-street, Nottingham (46 members); Reindeer Inn, Wheeler-gate, Nottingham (40 members); Leopard Inn, Water-lane, Nottingham (25 members); Minstrel Tavern Inn, St. Mark's-street, Nottingham (24 members); Duke of York, York-street, Nottingham (36 members); Lord Belper, Robin Hood-street, Nottingham (30 members); Barleycorn Inn, Raleigh-street, Nottingham (36 members); Red Hart Inn, Finkill-street, Nottingham (30 members); and Earl of Lincoln Arms, Woodborough-road, Nottingham (18 members). It is sincerely to be hoped that members of the various clubs will not abuse the privileges granted by the Companies in question.

### PECKHAM BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

Messrs. Artis, Capel and Co. have very kindly contributed to the prize fund of this society; also Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Mr. Stidolph, with Mr. Brodie, at Tring, on the 5th, had the pleasure of landing five tench weighing 14lb., one roach 1lb. 14¾oz., one perch 1lb. 7½oz., and two rudd 2lb. 6oz. Mr. Brodie also had a splendid rudd 2lb. 6oz. Most of the fish have been sent for preservation. Mr. Page, in company with Mr. Davis, out with W. Messenger, one of H.M. waterman at Teddington, on the 9th, had a fine lot of dace, ten dozen, besides a few roach and dace. A match at St. Margaret's on the 16th. Members will leave by the 8 o'clock train from Liverpool-street. All members are requested to attend on Tuesday next, when business of an important nature will be brought forward.—GADFLY.

### THE PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The first smoking concert of the season by the members and friends of this society took place on Monday evening last at Ashley's Hotel, Covent-garden. Mr. Norman Harrisson presided, the vice-chair being occupied by Mr. Lemann. Being Lord Mayor's Day, the attendance early in the evening was not up to the mark, but this was compensated for later on, when the room was comfortably filled. At 8.30 precisely, the chairman called upon Mr. Kendal, the accompanyist, who played a pianoforte solo, "Torchlight Dance" (Mullen). The following programme was carried out in a most efficient manner, to the satisfaction of all present:—Mr. W. Harrison, song, "Vanity"; Mr. Jesse, song, "O Fair Dove, O Fond Dove"; Mr. Rickatson, comic recitation, "Smith's Watch Dog"; Mr. Kendal, comic song, "Dame Pearce's Mare"; Mr. Norman Harrisson, anecdote, "How to Fish Preserved Waters"; Mr. Duncan, song, "Those Girls at the School"; Mr. N. Harrisson, song, "Kitty Green"; Rev. G. Sumner, an Irish ballad; Mr. Wheeldon, "The Good St. Antony"; Mr. Fennings, violoncello solo; Mr. Rickatson, recitation, "Phil Blood's Leap": Mr. Jesse, song, "In Cellar Cool"; Mr. Munday, comic song, "The Fishing Match"; Mr. Adlington, song, "Powder Monkey"; Mr. H. H. Brown, flute solo; Mr. N. Harrisson, comic song, "The Gay Photographer"; Mr. W. Harrison, song, "He Went to a Party"; Mr. Adlington, comic song, "The Three Anglers"; Mr. Fenning, violoncello solo; Mr. Kendal, song; Mr. Jesse, song, "The Village Blacksmith"; Mr. H. H. Brown, flute solo, "The Pilgrim of Love," with variations; Mr. Adlington, song, "Sailing"; Mr. Walter Harrisson, song; Dr. Brunton, Scotch ballad, "Annie Laurie"; Mr. Adlington, song, "Drink, Puppy, Drink." Where everything was so well done and applauded it is unnecessary to particularise, but special mention must be made of Mr. H. H. Brown's flute solos, which were played with exceeding taste. This gentleman has often attended our concerts, and his musical ability has never been known; henceforth he is a marked man. At intervals during the evening the following events took place: The chairman announced the safe receipt of two diplomas from the International Fisheries Exhibition, which were examined and much admired. Soon after 11 p.m., Mr. Sachs proposed "The Health of Our Chairman," Mr. N. Harrisson, with musical honours. This gentleman, in a few happily-chosen sentences, returned his thanks to those present for their kind wishes. He proposed "The Continued Prosperity of the Piscatorial Society," which was carried by acclamation. He had to leave now in order to catch his train, and he appointed Mr. Huggett, who had kindly consented to carry on the duties of the chair. The vice-chairman proposed a vote of thanks, which was carried with acclamation, to those gentlemen who had taken part in the entertainment. Our next smoking concert will take place on December 15th. Soon after 12 p.m. Dr. Brunton was called on for "Auld Lang Syne," the company all joining hands in the conventional manner. Then followed the "National Anthem," and our first smoking concert was brought to a close.—T. H.

### PRIDE OF DERBY ANGLING CLUB (DERBY).

The fortnightly meeting of this club, which musters over ninety members, was held at the Old English Gentlemen Inn on Monday night last, when about half the members attended. The chair was taken by Mr. J. Cadman, and, after the club business was concluded, the question of giving brandy to dace was discussed, and several fish experimented on. No. 1 fish was laid on the table for sixteen minutes, when it appeared almost dead; but after two drops of brandy it came round. No. 2 fish was held in the hand of one of the members for eight minutes, and was apparently lifeless; but after administering three drops of brandy it recovered. Two fish were then taken out of the can simultaneously, and were held in the warm hand eleven minutes, and they then appeared almost dead; two drops of brandy were given them, and after being restored to the can one of them came round immediately; the other at first appeared to be very bad, but after being placed under the tap for a little time came thoroughly round. The whole of them appeared to be in good health, in fact, they seemed more lively than when first brought into the room. The experiments were very satisfactory. Several capital songs were afterwards rendered by Messrs. Beardsley, Bland, Saxton. Tomlinson, and Peach, and the company, after singing the National Anthem, dispersed highly pleased.—T. WHYMAN, hon. sec.

### RODNEY PISCATORIALS.

On the 9th inst. Messrs. C. A. Grant, C. Grant, and R. Smith visited the Thames, and managed to get among the roach, dace, and gudgeon. At the meeting on the 12th it was decided that a competition take place on the 30th for prizes given by Messrs. Diggins and R. Chantry. Members allowed to go where they like and fish how they like from the bank, in accordance with the society's rules. They can also start away on Saturday afternoon should they think fit. Members and their friends wishing to avail themselves of the cheap return trip to Wateringbury on the 16th (Fare 3s. 2d.) with Mr. Alexander and the Wellingtonians, are requested to be at the South Eastern Railway, London Bridge, by 7.45 in the morning. Mr. C. Grant will represent the society in conjunction with Mr. Alexander.—PIXIE.

### ROYAL GEORGE ANGLING SOCIETY.

I am pleased to be able to state that the smoking concert that I announced in your last number took place last Tuesday night, and proved a great success. Mr. Hallam appeared in his old place (at the piano), and commenced with an overture. Mr. Brewer sang "My Sweetheart when a Boy"; then Mr. Hallam gave us a song that is always a favourite with the members of the Royal George, "Out with my Rod in the Morning." Mr. Healey, who is equally as good by the piano as at the bank of the river, sang "Tom Bowling," and Mr. Holden obliged us with one of his old favourites. Mr. Harris sang "The Little Hero" in a very masterly manner. He was followed by Mr. Henderson, who gave us "Let Me Like a Soldier Fall," but I am quite sure he would rather fall by the side of the river, rod in hand. Then our late "Sec.," Mr. Millard, gave us "The Four Jolly Smiths," which, I am sure, pleased at least thirty "jolly anglers." Mr. Palmer then sang a song, in which he advised (he is very good at giving advice gratis) "Each Man to Learn to Know Himself." Mr. Carter sang a very popular song in a very able manner, so much so that he was encored. Mr. Harris then gave his encore song, "She Wore a Wreath of Roses." After a song from Mr. Beales, the chairman sang "One More Glass Before We Go," and I think, if I remember rightly, they all followed the advice. A vote of thanks was accorded Mr. Hallam for his kindness in presiding at the piano, after which he sang "Auld Lang Syne." I think I can safely say when it came to "good night," most of the members were very sorry that the evening was at an end; at any rate, that was the opinion of—W. H. RIDER.

### STAINES ANGLING CLUB.

A good number of our members were out on the 9th inst., but only a few succeeded in bringing fish to scale. Mr. A. Palmer a splendid catch of dace, turning the scales at 6lb.; Mr. F. Palmer dace and roach, 17½oz.; Mr. H. Cope a small jack; and several members had fine takes, but not in time to scale in. The members of this club will fish a match for jack only on the 23rd inst., when I hope to be able to send you a good report.—F. SYKES, sec.

### UNITED BROTHERS, DEPTFORD.

Members of the above society fished a match on the 9th, but rather poor sport. Mr. J. Payne, 1st prize; Mr. Lawes, 2nd prize; Mr. W. Tyler, 3rd prize. Messrs. H. Tyler, Belton, Redman, Penton, and Currans weighed in.—H. TYLER.

### WALWORTH PISCATORIALS.

On the 5th and 6th a grand take of rudd, tench, perch, roach, barbel, and jack was exhibited by Messrs. Grigg, Edwards, Brodie, Gilbert, Delhaye, sen., and Beckett, the gross weight going over 77lb. Messrs. Grigg, Edwards, and A. Brodie have sent 16 or 18 nice specimens of rudd, tench, and roach to Mr. J. Lancaster, at Camden Town, to be preserved. Rudd, roach, and perch, weighing over 2lb., are not taken every day, to say nothing about tench, over 3½lb. being taken in November. Messrs Bansback and J. Howard visited Huntingdon on the 11th and returned on the 12th. The first named weighed in 9lb. 13oz. of jack. The other gentleman did not weigh in. The result of the competition for Messrs. Dangini and Piolane's prizes on the 13th, is as follows:—1st, Mr. Beckett, with 12lb. 11¾oz. roach, dace, and barbel from Richmond; 2nd, Mr. F. Grigg, 11lb. 6¾oz. chub and jack from Windsor; 3rd, Mr. Hibble, 10lb. 11oz. nice roach from Windsor; 4th, Mr. Crisp, 5lb. 9oz. roach from Richmond. Messrs Boalch, Grimmett, and a friend had a nice show of roach, dace, and barbel also from Richmond. Mr. A. Brodie had a nice plump perch nearly 2lb., and Mr. Edwards had two jack from Tring. The gross weight for the day amounted to 54lb. The next competition will take place on the 23rd for prizes given by Messrs. Sutcliffe and Mawbey, the where and how to be decided at the meeting of members previous to the above date.—PIXIE.

### WEST GREEN ANGLING SOCIETY.

Mr. Coleman, sen., gives a prize for the heaviest jack this month. Mr. Hoy weighed in some nice roach and dace (4½lb), on the 9th inst; Mr. Firkins, roach; and J. Guyver, roach and dace.—J. GUYVER, sec.

A 10LB. PIKE CAUGHT ON ROACH TACKLE.—On Saturday, Clifford Guise, son of Mr. W. Guise, while fishing with a worm for roach in the Lodge Pool, hooked a large pike. After some twenty minutes' careful "playing" the fish was brought within reach, gaffed in the shoulder, and landed. It was found to weigh a few ounces over 10lb., and measure 37in. in length. The singular part of the story is that it was caught with a small 9's roach hook attached to what is called a half-drawn gut, being little thicker than a human hair. An investigation showed that the fish was hooked in the cartilage of the mouth, and consequently felt no pain, and by judicious and patient handling was at length brought within reach of the "gaff."

THE LOCK ON THE THAMES BELOW TEDDINGTON.—There is to be no lock on the Thames below Teddington.

## THE SEDGY LEA (LOWER WATERS).

I.

As by thy marge I wandered,
And on thy deeps oft pondered—
Old, sedgy Lea ;
Many a line I cast
In the days long past—
Clear, sedgy Lea !

II.

Now with my rod I roam
Far, far away from home—
Black, sedgy Lea ;
Where sparkling waters bright
The angler's eyes delight—
Not *dirty* Lea !

III.

By modern *Sewage Board*
Thy stream is foully stored—
Sedgy Lea ;
And thy gudgeon, roach, and dace
Now degenerate apace—
Oh, *sewery* Lea !

Canonbury, Nov. 8. OLD ANGLER.

FISHING AT TRING.—Mr. Walter Fawcett, a member of the Marlborough Angling Society, Marmont-road, Peckham, and Mr. Charles Fell, a member of the Bermondsey Brothers Angling Society, Alcot Arms, Bermondsey, had a great haul on Saturday last, at one of the Tring reservoirs, of about 40lb. of fish in a little over two hours, consisting of thirteen rudd, weighing about 28lb. ; three roach, weighing 6lb. 1oz. ; one perch, weighing 2lb. 3oz. ; and two small jack. Mr. Fell is having some of his preserved, viz., six rudd, weighing 11lb., for one case ; two roach, weighing 4lb. for another ; and one perch, weighing 2¼lb., for the third.

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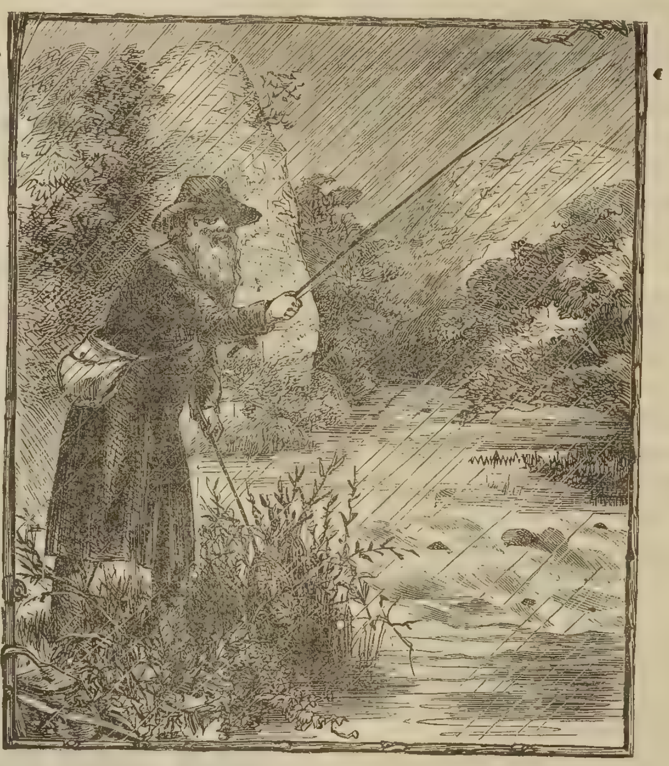

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The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1884.

## THE TROUT STREAMS OF ABERDEENSHIRE.

### THE FEUGH.

Down to the Dee this water steers—
How merrily it goes!
'Twill murmur on a thousand years,
And flow as now it flows.

THE Feugh, though geographically speaking a Kincardineshire stream, has more in common with the upland valley or glen streams of Aberdeenshire than those of its own county. The principal approaches to its waters—the easiest and most direct—are chiefly from the northern side: to the upper portion from Aboyne, to the middle from Potarch and Kincardine O'Neil, and to the lower from Banchory.

The Feugh takes its rise in the hills to the extreme south-west of Mount Battock, and for three miles or so, till it receives a tributary stream of nearly equal size from the hills of Birse, its course is almost due north. Thereafter it zigzags along in an easterly direction for eleven or twelve miles, receiving on its way the Aan, the Dye, and a few streamlets of little importance. When nearing the small village of Strachan it again inclines northward, and this direction, though rounding and doubling about, it keeps in the main for three and a half miles, or thereby, and falls into the Dee at Riverston, Banchory. At this point a grand panoramic view can be obtained—the woodland green of the westward landscape mingling with the blue of the distant hills. Around the falls, too, at the Bridge of Feugh, some three hundred yards distant, the rugged and the sylvan harmoniously blending produce a wonderful scenic effect.

The Feugh, we may now observe, is a nice little river, a pleasant one to fish, and though not regarded as well fed, it frequently affords the skilful angler excellent sport indeed. Along its banks there are few trees so close as to interfere with casting, except within a mile or two of its debouchment into the Dee. From either side all the best pools (even those requiring the longest casts) can be thoroughly fished with a 16ft. rod, without wading. This length we recommend for grilse or salmon fishing, and a 12ft. or 14ft. rod for whitling and brook trout.

In no part does the stream appear to have been diverted from its original channel, yet in the way of aquatic vegetation it has little or nothing, and no sheltering banks for its trout. Near to the point where its first tributary is received there are some first-class casts, while not far off are a few houses, patches of cultivation, and the ruins of an old castle. The scenery, however, soon changes, and the Feugh, in its subsequent course through the famous forest of Birse (famous all the more that the name is a virtual misnomer from the fact that, save the birches in the mountain corries, only a scraggy-like pine growth outlined against the sky is here and there seen), possesses all the characteristics of a typical highland stream, cascade, and deep rocky pool, jagged and precipitous banks, and bright, shallow, pebbly reaches extending a considerable distance down.

Resigned, as by Nature willed, to sheep, deer, and muir fowl, there is little here to distract the attention of the angler, excepting these, a shepherd and his dog, or an occasional countryman carting peat.

In May and June, with fly or worm, according to the state of the water, a good fisher may basket five to six dozen per day, averaging six to the pound; and in July and August have fair results, with the chance of a grilse or sea trout in addition. Larger baskets than that indicated are sometimes got.

For fishing in the Forest of Birse, winged flies are almost useless; but hackles of various shades, with tinselled bodies, are very deadly in a fair-sized water. Worm suits best when the water is muddy. As the trout are extremely wary, the fly fisher will find that the finer and longer the cast line, and the more out of sight he can keep, the greater will be his chances of success. Within the reach described, large trout are scarce, any exceeding one pound in weight being seldom got. Sometimes, however, with fly, under favourable auspices, a goodly-sized couple are brought to bank together. In the dark pools dark-coloured trout are invariably found, and *vice versâ*.

Once clear of the forest proper, the stream alters in character, and the country around likewise. A number of pleasantly-situated farms, in a well-wooded scene, extending for a mile or more, now brighten up the prospect. Farther down, the vale extends in width, and cultivation becomes more general. On the north the Blackhall range of hills, and on the south Clochnaben, limit the view. Inclining a little to the south side, the Feugh winds its sinuous course down the valley. The stream, as it proceeds, becomes less rapid and irregular, the pools much longer, as a rule, and the bottom consistency is either pebbly or sandy. In this quarter, insect life is abundant in summer and early autumn; but so poor and light is the soil, as to be almost void of the *vermis* variety of life.

We note that the action of the water rarely cuts the banks, and supposing it did, there would still be an absence of bottom food or animalculæ. Hence it is, as we remarked before, that the Feugh is not a well-fed stream; and in support of this statement, we need only refer to the average smallness of its trout. Good takes on the lower reaches are quite exceptional—exceptional, because there is little to feed on, as smolts in April and May, and parr all the season, are very numerous. Occasionally, when the water is muddy, some large fry-fed old trout are caught.

Along the four or five miles of river nearest the Feugh's confluence with the Dee, the best salmon, grilse, and sea trout fishing is got. No salmon ascend in the spring season. With the autumn spates, however, they swarm up, as also do a great many back-lying sea trout and whitling.

To fish the Feugh, and meet with success, the best time to choose is from the 20th of June to the end of July. If favoured with occasional spates, particularly during the first four weeks of the period indicated, the angler may obtain surprising results. Grilse and sea trout are numerous about this season, and whenever the Feugh, in proportion to its size, is larger than the Dee, they ascend in greater numbers than at any other time. At the Bridge of Feugh pool, immediately below the falls, as many as sixty fish have been caught in a single day with the large lob or dewy worm. In a filling water, up to a certain size, and again after the water has fallen a certain extent, the best sport is got; but got only for a short time, say six or eight hours, as after that the water gets so brown, and keeps so for a day or two, that fish, strange though it may seem, will not partake of any bottom food. In this particular condition of water they are always bent on pushing up stream, and for days on end in a favourable season they can be seen from the bridge clearing the falls. Farther up, for a few miles, good takes of grilse and sea trout are got in a fair volume of water.

The best flies are the silver doctor, bumble-bee, dusty miller, wasp, Irishman, Childers, and grey heron—the Childers particularly for a brownish water, and the grey heron for evening use. For fishing in August in a small clear water, the black palmer (silver bodied), and a fly with dark teal wings, red hackle, and a purple body ribbed with silver tinsel, are the deadliest. In a range of the best killing trout flies to extend over the whole season we would include the March brown, hare lug, partridge ruff, professor, black spider, priest, red hackle, and olive dun—the first three for the earlier months, and the rest to use later on. Minnows—natural or artificial—are rarely used.

The Feugh is fast deteriorating as a sport-affording stream—a result primarily accounted for by excessive hill drainage. With reference to hill drainage, it may further be remarked that the violent action of the water often displaces sand and shingle, and thereby renders a good pool the one year utterly worthless the next.

A spate is never of any continuance. It comes down with great impetuosity, and exhausts itself in a very short time. Hence, to enjoy good sport, it is almost necessary to watch the water, and be ready to start at the proper time.

The chief riparian proprietors are the Marquis of Huntly, Sir Thomas Gladstone, Bart., of Fasque, Dr. Farquharson, of Finzean, M.P., J. T. Hay, Esq., of Blackhall, and T. Burnett Ramsay, Esq., of Banchory Lodge.

A considerable portion of the river is let to sportsmen. These, as well as the proprietors, readily grant permission to fish for trout, and sometimes allow a day's angling for salmon and grilse. From Whitestone Inn upwards, all the reaches are practically open to the public, except during the shooting season. By staying in the neighbourhood of Finzean, the angler can best command the upper reaches. Whitestone Inn is convenient for the middle waters, and Banchory for the lower. Best route: by rail from Aberdeen to Banchory, thence walk, or hire. Rod season, February 11th to October 31st. W. M.

## "EPHEMERA" ON "HOOKING A SALMON."

AN Irish correspondent reminds us that there are some interesting remarks on when and how to strike in salmon fishing in "Ephemera's" "Book of the Salmon," published in 1850, a work long out of print, but one which every salmon angler should obtain if possible, as, although of course somewhat behind the times, it contains much and valuable information.

"*Hooking a Salmon.*—Striking at and hooking a fish are nearly synonymous. To strike and hook a fish requires self-possession and very little more—that little is, *not to attempt it too quickly and too rudely.* If you are fluttered at the rise of a fish you will either strike too soon or too strongly, or not at all, like a fowler startled at the noise made by a pheasant flushed from a hedge-row. My general rule is not to strike at a salmon until I feel him—until I feel 'a bite,' if I may be allowed to apply to the royal sport salmon fishing that ignoble word. When I feel the slight 'tug'—aye, that's the right word—I allow a second or two to elapse, and then, lifting the point of my rod, I make a short, smart, jerking motion with the wrists, and I generally find that I have hooked my aquatic quarry. Every man almost at the beginning of the season is nervous, and I will ask the oldest salmon-fisher if he does not then lose many a fish by his precipitation in striking? He becomes steady in a day or two, his eye and hand become ready, and he manages the latter with veteran coolness and delicacy. The general rule laid down by others is as follows: Salmon do not jump at a fly like trout, but rise up and take it under water; in doing so they cause a break in the surface, and having taken the fly they turn round to descend to the bottom with it, and this motion causes the break on the water's surface to contract. The moment the contraction takes place is the time for striking, for then the fish is supposed to have the fly fairly withinside its lips. I have no objection to this rule, except that it is not easy for the beginner to observe and practice it; as for myself I confess that I frequently strike at and hook fish without, as far as I can conceive, any premeditation or calculation, but almost by instinct. Something, I cannot say what, tells me that a fish is 'at' me, and consequently I am promptly at him in the sly way he has come at me.

"Let us inquire why I recommend gentle and somewhat slow striking.

"I am of opinion that in the majority of rises a salmon half hooks itself. Consider what a very sharp thing the point of a good hook is, and how easily it is inserted into moderately soft substances by very slight resistance. Now, consider the weight of a descending salmon with this sharply-pointed thing in its mouth, and consider also the resistance offered by a taut line, which the salmon's descent is tightening more and more, and you will not deem it all surprising that the fish should half hook itself. If you concede me so much, you will then concede that nothing more than a *gentle stroke or short, sharpish pull* on my part is necessary to insert in some part of the fish's mouth the hook beyond the barb. Again, another reason why I favour *gentle striking.* If I miss my fish it is done with such gentleness that it causes no serious alarm, and you may, therefore, reasonably hope for a second rise. A third reason for *gentle striking* is, that by making use of it you give the fish full and fair time to close its mouth on the fly, and are not, consequently, liable to snatch it from jaws half open. A fourth reason: a fish gently struck and hooked scarcely feels the operation, and is less inclined to dart off in the water or out of it instantly, and give you furious battle with unimpaired vigour. On this point I find in my 'Handbook of Angling' the following words: 'The critical fish-stroke is made by a quick but very gentle wrist motion by which the hand is canted upwards, being displaced about two inches only. Such a stroke made instantly the fish actually reaches the fly at the moment he has closed his mouth on it, and before he has had time to throw it out again, is sure to secure the entrance of the hook within the substance of the mouth without causing great alarm to the fish by any unnecessary violence, for it cannot have escaped the observant angler that, when a fish has been harshly tugged in striking, he commences at once a more determined resistance than when the stroke has been less violent and his alarm less sudden. Neither can we wonder that his efforts should be extreme when he is made sensible of his situation by a stab and a drag which have half pulled him out of the water.' Though this was written respecting trout, it is perfectly applicable to salmon-fishing. Mr. Scrope, an excellent and experienced salmon angler, writing on this subject, says : 'It is best to strike a little sideways that the hook may fasten in the fleshy part of the mouth, whereas, if you pull straight up, you are apt to encounter the upper or bony part ; or, if the fish has not closed his jaws and fairly turned off you may pull the fly from him too soon, to the disappointment of both parties. Sometimes, however, when a salmon is clean run and in high glee, you can scarcely miss him, strike which way you will. In low water you must be somewhat dilatory in striking ; you you often see the heave of the water and a break before the fish has actually seized your fly. Give him time to turn his head in his way back to his seat to which a salmon returns after rising at the fly.'

"Having spoken in praise of *gentle striking*, I shall now speak in dispraise of striking rapidly and rudely. This is teaching by contrast, a favourite method of instruction with me. This very year (1849) I have witnessed several fish missed by quick striking, and in one instance saw a gut casting-line—which, if fairly used, would have killed a hundred fish—lost by the bad method I am censuring. Some of the parties fishing being of elevated rank or strangers, I durst not offer corrective advice to them. To one party I could, and he took it, but not before I convinced him by proof. The party I allude to was an adolescent, who accompanied me as a guide and angling assistant. He had the eye of a hawk, and whilst I fished he invariably watched the fly ; the river was not wide, and when he was a little elevated above me he could see the rising fish and what it did far better than I could do. The moment he saw a salmon or grilse take the fly, he would say, 'She' (he was a young Highlander) 'has it, sir ; strike her !' I would answer, 'All right—wait a bit,' and, to his astonishment, I would wait a couple of seconds after those words were uttered before I struck. He was still more surprised to observe that I rarely failed in my object. He was a better angler than myself—at least, he threw a straighter and longer line ; *but he had the bad habit of striking strongly*, and it was he who lost for me in the act of hooking a fish the casting-line alluded to, and one of my most killing flies. When tired myself I would give him the rod, and whether it was that my presence rendered him nervous or not, or that he had conceived a bad habit to be a good one, he was continually missing rises, or 'scratching' fish by his 'rough and ready' way of striking. I was determined to cure him. We came to a pool where we always killed fish, and where, from an impending rock, I could always plainly see the fly. I gave the young man my rod, and desired him not to strike until I gave him the word. He soon had a rise. I saw the fish and said, 'Steady !' When I saw the fish take the fly—and he took it well—and turn with it to descend, I said, very quietly, '*Now then ; strike gently*.' He did as he was bade, and hooked the fish, saying, when he had done so, 'If I kill her, I'll nae strike fiercely again.' I was confident, from the movement of the fish, that it was well hooked, and told him to play his prey boldly. He very easily killed it, though it was a 'black' grilse—that is, not a fresh-run one—of very large size, and on examination we found it hooked through and through beyond the hard cartilage at the angle of the mouth. He was then convinced, and that he might be thoroughly so, I allowed him during the day to kill a couple more salmon, which he did by *gentle and somewhat slow striking*. This lesson to the lad was of use to myself, for I saw demonstrated the folly of striking roughly by the success in other hands attendant on adopting the contrary method."

In the above extract the italics are ours ; it seems quite clear to us that "Ephemera," although he speaks of striking—and even jerking—recommends the gentle pull which Major Traherne advocates so strongly. His advice as to "playing a salmon" and how to cast for him contains many valuable hints, and if any of our salmon fishing readers desire it we will give some further extracts from his work.

## SHORE FISHING.—No. IV.

By E. G.

EVERY year salt-water fly fishing comes more into favour, and is generally carried on from a boat. However, in some places sport may be had from the shore ; projecting rocks and headlands, mouths of rivers, and creeks are the best places. As a rule, the summer and autumn are the best times—say, from June to the end of October, though in some places bass play well in the spring.

The principal fish taken with the fly are bass, pollack, coal-fish, and in certain situations mackerel and gurnards. The best rod for the purpose is a salmon rod 17 or 18ft. in length, and rather stiff. A single-handed trout rod may be used when the fish run small, but I do not recommend anyone to use a rod of any value, as it would soon be spoilt. There are plenty of rather heavy salmon rods to be picked up secondhand at a reasonable price, and if frequently varnished will last for years. Several friends have obtained serviceable weapons through the *Bazaar*. As fine casting is not required, even if a rod is slightly warped it is of but little consequence. The line may be of flax or cotton, and is best dressed, but if not it should be well tanned with a strong solution of catechu. In length it ought not to be less than 80 yards ; the thickness will, of course, depend on the rod. The wooden reel as recommended for float fishing will do ; but a leather or pork skin washer should be put on the spindle to keep the reel from running too fast. Of course, a brass reel is the best, and if you have an old one by you, or can pick one up cheaply, use it by all means, but do not run the risk of ruining a good salmon reel with the salt water.

The casting line should be double gut at the top and single below ; or if the fish run very heavy, treble and double. In calm weather and clear water have three yards altogether ; in rough and stormy weather 6ft., or even less, will be long enough, as you can cast better in a wind with a short casting line. In places where fish run small three flies may be used. I, however, seldom put on more than two, and when there is any weed about—as is generally the case at the mouths of rivers—only one. I have frequently hooked two bass in a strong tideway from the shore, and if of any size have seldom succeeded in getting both. I was once successful in saving too very large ones, but I had plenty of help ; had I been alone a smash must have resulted. With regard to flies, the fisherman may let his fancy run riot.

Goose, swan, gull, turkey, pheasant, gallina, and—last not least—peacock feathers are best for wings, and Berlin wools and crewels for bodies. There are, however, two flies which will kill anywhere ; these are the Shaldon Slimer (for the dressing of which see Wilcocks' "Sea Fisherman") and the Alexandra—this latter should be dressed with plenty of scarlet in the wing, and if the hackle is scarlet it is a great improvement. The Alexandra is an easy fly to tie, and is also more durable than any fly made with a wool body. These lose their colour in a very short time ; in fact, some dyes go after a few minutes' immersion in salt water. There is another advantage in using the Shaldon Slimer or Alexandra you may sometimes get a sea trout at rivers' mouths with them. I generally get a few every season. Limerick hooks are the best for sea flies, but the ordinary tinned, round bend, or the Harwich bend hooks answer very well. The size of the fly must depend on the size of the fish and colour of the water—that is, from the size of an ordinary chub fly to large salmon size. They should be tied with double gut loops.

A very simple winged fly may be made as follows :—Suppose you want to tie one with, say, scarlet body, purple tail and legs, and white wing, first tie your double gut loop on to the hook with waxed thread (whitey-brown flax thread is best, or a fine machine thread of a green colour used in the shoe trade—there is no advantage in using silk, and cotton is not strong enough) ; then take a piece of purple Berlin wool or crewel 3in. long, double it, and lay it on the back of the shank of the hook, allowing as much to project over the bend as you require for the tail ; then take a turn with your thread and a half-hitch over it at the place where you mean to make the body begin ; then take about 4in. of scarlet wool, double it, and tie it in on the fastening of the purple, cutting the end of the wool off close to the fastening, which may be a half-hitch ; then carry the thread and purple wool straight up to within ⅛th of an inch of the end of the shank, and make the wool fast with a turn and half-hitch, so that the two ends will hang below the hook for legs ; then wind the scarlet round the shank till it has gone one turn past the legs ; then take a half-hitch with the thread, and cut the end of the wool off close ; then cut off from the large feather of a goose or swan a piece of the plume about 3-16ths of an inch wide and longer than the wing you intend to make by about ⅛th of an inch, double it lengthways, and place it on the back of the shahk with the end you cut towards the bend of the hook ; then take a turn and a half-hitch over it with your thread, and cut the end of the feather off close to the knot. The wing now is exactly reversed from the position it should occupy. To finish, double it back towards the bend of the hook, take a turn or two over it, and finish off with a whipmaker's fastening, or two or three half-hitches if you do not know how to make the other.

I should say that the finishing turns over the wing should be taken at about a 16th of an inch from the end of the hook, and then you have a white head made by the doubled feather ; then cut the legs and tail to what you consider to be the proper length, and the fly is made. It is not necessary to have the wings divided or standing up ; they are best lying flat on the back of the hook. I don't know whether I have succeeded in making myself understood, but trust such is the case. Those who understand fly-making will perhaps ask why I recommend a round turn and a half-hitch every time there is any pause in the work. Now, the reason is as follows :—I expect most beginners have found when, for example, they have tried to tie in the tail and the body wool at the same time, that the tail will keep getting into all sorts of positions except the right, and when he has got that straight the body wool is wrong, and so a sort of see-saw goes on, which disheartens him, and perhaps causes him to give up the job in disgust. As thickness of body is of no consequence the knots are not observed.

After a little practice he may try to put hackle for legs, and silver or gold twist on the body. By the way, as the life of a sea fly is but short, the best and cheapest tinsel to use is what is sold to decorate fire grates in summer. Both silver and gold (*alias* Dutch metal) is sold in sixpenny packets, each of which contains enough to last for years. For the Alexandras and Shaldon Slimers good silver tinsel may be used, as if they are washed in fresh water after use and then dried they will not tarnish very quickly ; but in the case of the wool bodies, once using will take all the colour out, and therefore the cheap tinsel is good enough for them.

## DINNER TO THE THAMES NETSMEN.

IN recognition of the service which some of these men have given in the introduction of flounders in the portions of river above Teddington Lock, and of the good feeling which now exists amongst them, they were invited by Mr. Thomas Spreckley, President of the Thames Angling Preservation Society, to a substantial dinner at the Star and Garter Hotel, Kew-bridge, on Friday evening, November 14th ; and the men did full justice to the excellent spread which Mr. Brill, the proprietor of that well-known hostelry, had prepared for them, consisting of cod-fish and oyster sauce, boiled leg of mutton, rump-steak and kidney pudding, roast veal and ham, a good supply of vegetables, sweets, cheese, &c., which were admirably served. Mr. Thos. Spreckley occupied the chair, and Mr. G. J. Rough, head river-keeper to the Thames Conservancy, the vice. There were present Mr. W. H. Brougham (secretary) and Mr. Alfred Thompson (head keeper) of the T.A.P.S. Messrs. H. Parsfield, James Gibson, John Brown, T. Brown, J. Odell, J. Odell, jun., George Pearce, Charles Pearce, D. Pearce, H. Pearce, Barlow Pearce, John Hoskins, T. Hoskins, W. Cuff, J. Parkins, T. Parkins, and Barker. After a thorough enjoyment of the repast, Mr. Thomas Spreckley, in a practical and kindly address, referred to the period four years ago when he first invited the netsmen to meet him when there was nothing but discord and disunion, and then contrasted it with the present gathering when all were so united and happy. He assured them it was very gratifying to him, and made him feel that his constant visits amongst them had brought about an amount of civilisation which, in so short a time, he could hardly have expected. He was prepared to stand by them in every way that was right—his desire was to do them good, and in respect to the flounders, he was most desirous of improving their industry ; but they must always bear in mind that in any case of violating the law they would have to be punished. In conclusion, he told them that not only did they possess his support, but that of the Thames Conservators also, so long as they worked happily together and legally acted up to the by-laws of the fishery. It was not intended to have any toasts ; but the men were not satisfied without drinking the healths of Mr. Spreckley and Mr. Brougham, and after that the chairman gave the health of Mr. Rough, who so well and ably discharged his duties amongst them as the Conservancy river-keeper, and with so much satisfaction to them all. It was a great thing to say that whilst vindicating the law in all cases where it was necessary, they all possessed a kindly feeling to him. The remainder of the evening was devoted to harmony, the first song being given by the popular chairman. The characteristic singing of the men afforded much enjoyment, and time flowed merrily on until half-past nine, when Mr. Spreckley announced the closing hour, much to the regret of the men ; but he remarked, "He who fights and runs away lives to fight another day," and hoped they would have other occasions like the present one. The netsmen then rose and gave a hearty round of applause to their good friend and chairman, whose hospitality they had so thoroughly enjoyed.

## AN INNOCENT ABROAD.

A YANKEE who recently invented a fishing-rod which automatically registers the exact weight and number of the fish caught on it, cannot understand why nobody will buy it.

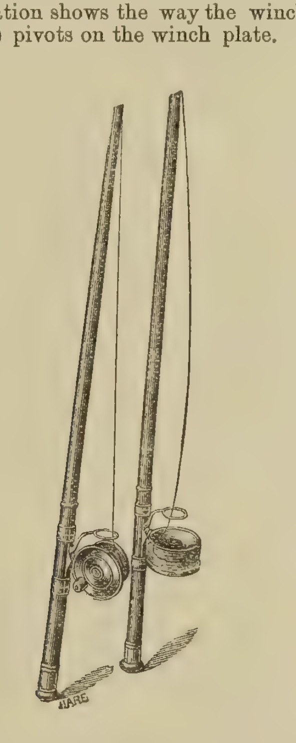
## MALLOCH'S NEW PATENT CASTING REEL.

By R. B. Marston.

I HAVE once or twice referred to a new reel for casting from, which has been brought out by Mr. Malloch, of Perth, and said that after giving it a fair trial, I would describe it in the GAZETTE.

I have tried it recently on two occasions, and on the first occasion confess a prejudice against it, derived from what little I had previously seen of it, was strengthened. A second trial has convinced me that the new winch is a *perfect success.* As it will doubtless happen that others who may try it will at first meet with difficulties, it may be well to describe my experience. I first used a small size winch with very fine dressed line, which did not fill the barrel of the winch sufficiently, and about every third or fourth cast the line got kinked, and hung up. Having explained this to Mr. Malloch, he told me to use a No. 4 undressed Nottingham plaited line, and fill the winch well up to the rim. This I did, and have just come in to write these lines after an hour's trial (spinning), half of the time being almost in the dark. I found I could cast as quickly, as easily, and as far from this winch as from my ordinary Nottingham reel, and every cast was clean and without kink or hitch of any kind.

The accompanying illustration shows the way the winch is used. The body of the winch (it is all metal) pivots on the winch plate. It is provided with a very ingenious check, made silent or otherwise, as desired. To make a cast you wind up in the usual way; then turn the winch until it stands at a right angle with the rod (see illustration); then you hold the line near the winch, make the usual swing, and release the line when the bait has got full weigh on it, and it flies off in any direction you like, and pretty well as far as you like (Mr. Malloch has cast 70 yards). The winch does not revolve, the line uncoils just as a sailor coils a rope up, only one coil comes off after another instead of being coiled on. The side of the winch opposite the handle side is concave, so there is little resistance to the uncoiling of the line. Directly the bait touches the water you turn the winch back to its ordinary position and wind up, and are ready for another cast.



I do not think anyone who has mastered the Nottingham winch is likely to use this one; but it will prove an invaluable boon to all those who cannot manage the ordinary Nottingham winch, and their name is legion. Anyone who can cast a bait at all can cast from this winch: there is nothing to control; you have only to see that you wind up evenly and tightly, and do not release the line until you have got the bait swung out well in the direction you wish it to go—in fact, just as in casting in the Thames style.

When I say that such first-rate anglers as Major Traherne, as well as Mr. A. J. Little and Mr. E. V. Powell, our two best exponents of the Nottingham and Thames styles of casting, have all tried, and think most highly of this winch, I am sure I need say no more about it. Hundreds of them are now in use by salmon anglers in Scotland, and they are equally good for spinning, live-bait casting, or ledger casting. As is usual in Mr. Malloch's winches, the workmanship is perfection.

"A SHIPFUL OF CHILDREN" is the title of the *Little Folks Annual* for 1885, price 6d. It is certain to be a great favourite in many thousands of households this coming Christmas, being well laden with capital stories and illustrations depicting the doings of the merry crew. The illustrations to "Battle Garden," by Mr. Geo. Manville Fenn, are quite a charming little series.

CHRISTMAS CARDS.—Messrs. A. F. Schwenckert and W. G. Wallis, 112, Fleet-street, the London agents for Messrs. Meissner and Bach, of Leipzic, send us a packet of charming cards for Christmas and New Year. They have evidently been produced without restriction of the number of colours to be employed in order to produce exact copies of the original very graceful drawings. They consist chiefly of groups of flowers and landscapes, with sensible and appropriate letterpress prose and poetical good wishes.

GEORGE JAMES EATON, of Starkholmes, Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required, from gentlemen who can fish, to prove whether they may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—(ADVT.)

# CORRESPONDENCE.

[*We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.*]

### BRANDY AND PIKE BAITS, &c.

SIR,—Please allow me a few last words. In your footnote you say, "Unless 'M. A.' can prove that brandy causes pain, we are inclined to think it is humane, &c." I thought no proof was required.

In nine cases out of ten *all intoxication* gives pain. I once felt it myself; in fact, I may say twice. But never again, Mr. Editor, never again!

A friend of mine went to a supper last week, and he only took *one glass* more than usual. Result—he was in bed for two days.

This is what they call the reaction. Then they have a "pick-me-up." He kept saying, "Oh! my head"; and if your dace could speak it would probably say, "Oh! my heart."

The brandy, stimulating the action of the heart and irritating the whole nervous system to a *terrible* degree, the result of which is the rapid rotation of the fish, presently a fearful reaction sets in, leaving your bait in a far worse plight than it was before; in fact, leaving them so miserably weak and helpless that, as the "old gentleman" told me, after some time you could catch the fish with your hands. I presume you could these pike baits, if they were free. You may term it making the bait "jolly"; but it is a jollity that does not last, and unless I am very much mistaken, ere long your bait would go "all to pieces."

However, *whether it would or not*, I cannot agree with you, Mr. Editor. In fact, I cannot understand any one deliberately making a bait "jolly" before being devoured. You say an *intoxicated* dace has no fears; but is the one moment of fear a dace no doubt suffers when a jack approaches in sight to be compared with the lingering, wretched suffering of the animal going madly "round and round like a steam-engine with amazing rapidity." Certainly not. The fact is, the fish being unaccustomed to this brandy business, the spirit sends it mad, and then it no doubt suffers great pain, just the same as an infant the first time it tastes gin, &c., and the actions of the two are very similar, the babe madly "straining" to get from the glass, and the fish rushing about hoping to destroy *the effects* of the brandy. If this is not the reason, what on earth is?

*Re* liver and fish gentles, all I *know* is I have caught dace, &c., in a *slightly* discoloured water with gentles from fish, when they would not look at liver gentles. Strange, but nevertheless it is true—true as gospel.

For a clear water I should decidedly give the *preference* to liver gentles.

But the Surrey Canal is not a "clear" water. I was referring to a dusky or peaty water, not to any water and all waters. Of course liver gentles are yellow, or should be; but those from fish are much whiter. Lastly, will you kindly inform me about what a jack ought to weigh *37in.* long if it were in good condition? Should like to know. Would the difference range from 10lb. to 28½lb.? Please say.—I am, &c.,

MARK ANTONY.

[Our "Noble Roman'' gets so mixed up sometimes that he will excuse our declining to believe that he belongs to the order of Good Templars, as might be inferred from the vehemence of his denunciations. It would be very wrong indeed to bring up babies on gin, or dace on brandy; but we can assure "M. A." from personal experience that to administer a few drops of brandy to a baby is often the only way to get over those painful ailments connected with dentition, which render the unfortunate infant a nuisance to itself, and the nightmare of the household generally. If "M. A." were about to be impaled on a hook preparatory to being projected through the air into the open jaws of an expectant crocodile, we feel sure he would be very glad to have a glass of brandy—we should. He is poking his fun at us in his last query. We have never seen him, but he may be 6ft. high and weigh eight stone, or he may be 5ft. and weigh 16 stone.—ED.]

SIR,—It appears to me that some unnecessary cruelty may be caused in connection with this angling detail, through sheer thoughtlessness, and with no such intention on the part of anglers adopting the method of dosing pike baits with brandy or other spirit to make them lively, or, as the Editor puts it, "jolly."

It is a well-known fact that *alcohol coagulates albumen in much the same way that boiling water does*, and it is only necessary to drop a dead minnow or gudgeon into strong brandy, whiskey, or methylated spirit (for the sake of preservation as baits) to notice *the immediate whitening effect produced on the skin of the fish*, which, with its protecting mucous or slime, is largely albuminous in its nature, and it is only a reasonable supposition (apart from scientific research) that the *exceedingly delicate* portions of any fish's *gills* are of *the same character, and would be acted upon in the same way by contact with strong spirit.*

I argue, therefore, that it is neither more nor less than "scalding" or "cauterising" the delicate fibres of the gill breathing apparatus of any fish to pour drops of brandy or any spirit down a bait's mouth before committing it to the tender mercies of "Mr. Jack," and that the greatly increased liveliness of the bait after such treatment has nothing whatever to do with "jollity" or "drunkenness," but *is the effect of acute pain in the sensitive tissues of the gill fibres*, from which the fish finds relief by active motion through its natural element, and by the passage through the mouth and gills of cold water.

As a pike fisher, I have had considerable experience in "baiting" pike tackle, both for "live snap" and "spinning," and though I do not pretend to be squeamish about such matters, it is obvious to every pike fisher that sufficient pain to a live bait must unavoidably be caused; but I think we need hardly make such a gratuitous addition to it as to scald the delicate gill fibres with strong spirit, merely to make it temporarily more attractive to the pike, and yet this is exactly what many anglers may be induced to do by the publication of the letter by your late correspondent.

Some persons may say: "Oh! if you go to the extent of sticking hooks into living fish for their use upon 'live-snap' tackle, what does it matter about the slight additional pain of a little brandy in its mouth so long as it acts better as a lure for pike?"

To such an (supposititious) argument I have only one reply: "Do it if you care to, *after knowing that it causes acute pain*"; but as it is *not necessary* to sport, I hope that all humane anglers will agree that it need not, and ought not, to be practised.

Perhaps some of your medical readers who are anglers will kindly give us their practical opinion on the point I have advanced, so as to make it clear from a scientific basis.

The first intimation we had of the use of spirituous liquor upon fish was in the form of *a reviver from apparent death*, and was applied in the form of a moderate dose of spirit in a large quantity of water, in which the fish could swim about as they revived, and this was highly interesting, as a fact that fish which had been apparently dead for some hours could be restored to life and activity by such a stimulant, and there can be no reasonable objection to its use in such a diluted form, as it may be found a valuable means of keeping fish alive and active during transit, or restoring to animation those which would be otherwise lost; but I hope you will agree with me that, if my statement of the action of the spirit on the fish is corroborated, it becomes inexcusable to use it in a concentrated form in the way indicated by your correspondents.—I am, &c.,

GEORGE BANKART.

Leicester.

[We should be very sorry to advocate anything in the shape of cruelty, and Mr. Bankart makes out a very strong case against the use of raw spirits for enlivening fish. We think the new Derby live-bait harness will render any stimulant unnecessary, as the bait is not injured, and consequently weakened, by having hooks put in it.—ED.]

SIR,—In your last issue, "Mark Antony," in his letter on the above-named subject entitled "A Protest," was "down" mighty sharp on the use, or (as he evidently considers it) the abuse, of brandy, as administered to live bait, but I fail to see that he has made out a case against this practice. According to him, the increased activity of a fish thus "dosed" is due to "downright drunkenness," and he then proceeds to call the practice "unfair," "unsportsmanlike," and "downright cruelty." Now, sir, allowing that a "brandied" bait is *drunk*—an assertion that I receive *cum grano salis*—where does the cruelty lie?

To intoxicate fish in a private pond merely for the amusement of one's friends is as reprehensible a practice as that of intoxicating a man to make fun of his actions while inebriated; but with a bait about to be impaled on a hook the case appears to me very different.

The cruelty (if any) lies, surely, rather in fixing the bait on the hook, and in subjecting it to torture and exhaustion in the water.

To reduce such a bait to a state of "downright drunkenness" must have the effect of deadening its sensibility to pain, thereby lessening the *cruelty*. Anyway, a fish so dosed will, by its increased activity, be a more attractive bait, and will the quicker be put out of its misery by the pike's teeth. So far, then, from seeing any *cruelty* in giving the bait "a drop from the flask," it seems to me to be a downright humane idea, and if it is thereby rendered more lively and attractive, so much the better for the angler and his poor little bait, and if the practice is "unfair," it is only toward the *pike*, who, by Mr. Izaak's account, have the most right to grumble at the introduction of "drunk and disorderly" fish to the river. Until a "live-bait humane tackle" can be made to answer, there must always be a certain (or perhaps I should say an *uncertain*) amount of cruelty in live-bait fishing; therefore, by all means adopt a plan that is known for diminishing it, and therefore find an additional reason for never leaving behind so useful a weapon as a "pocket pistol." As you say, sir, "all know how a bait will dash about in fear when a jack is about to attack it," I have had them jump clean out of the water when the pike made his rush, whereas an intoxicated bait would, I imagine, rove about in a rollicking, "devil-may-care" manner, in blissful indifference to its impending doom. Of course, if the *brandy* causes pain, its use may be styled "downright cruelty"; but even then one would be "cruel only to be kind," if by reason of its greater attractiveness the bait more quickly receives its *coup de grace*.

In conclusion, sir,

"When next upon the bank I pause,
Produce my flask, and drink to 'sport,'
I'll not forget to treat my bait
To just a 'drop of something short.'

"Good health to anglers, death to fish,
And for my bait, with addled brain,
A wish that it may quickly find
A happy issue out of pain."

—I am, &c., A Coggeshall Volunteer.

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Sir,—I do not think I deserve to have my letter, which appeared in the Gazette on the 8th inst., denounced in such a strong manner as by Mr. "Mark Antony" on the 15th inst. He must remember that I am not the originator of this method, but merely one who followed Mr. Chambers's idea with success, and, as the Editor of the Gazette had put a note in his paper asking anyone to give an account of his experience when having tried it, I accordingly did so, and then to be accused of cruelty I think is rather rough on me. But still I do not agree at all on that score with "Mark Antony," and I therefore wish to ask him a question on the matter of cruelty. Does he think to inebriate a bait is worse than using a bait either on live gorge-tackle or snap-tackle? If he does, I don't; and I wonder he can go fishing at all. Fancy threading gentles on a hook, three or four together—how cruel! Or worse—a poor worm; see how it wriggles, and what frightful agony it must be in; or, again, even in using paste, in striking, the hook penetrates the poor victim fish—awful to think of according to his mind, but not to mine. I do not believe these little fish can have very much feeling, for if so, they could not live so long on our hooks as they do, and sometimes I have had occasion to take a bait home and use it a second time. And I think as hooking our baits through the back is a necessary evil, to give it then a little spirit—as "Mark Antony" says, to make it "intoxicated"—is rather a kindness than otherwise, as it would, in my opinion, somewhat allay the pain (if any) by being rendered semi-conscious; and until "Mark Antony" or some one else proves to me the excessive cruelty of using brandy to a bait, I shall continue to use it.—I am, &c., A. S. Isaac.

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### TINCT. IODI.

Sir,—Mr. Geo. M. Kelson is anxious to correct a slight error in his interesting papers when he finds it out himself. So I presume he will not feel offended if I ask him, through your columns, where he got his "tinct. iodidi," and what iodidi (of a metal or otherwise) his tincture is made from? Perhaps he means the "tinctura iodi" of the British Pharmacopœia, which is sometimes called "tinctura iodinii"? I have used the latter for the stings of wasps and bees; but find a weak solution of ammonia better. I have not had an opportunity of treating a viper's bite; Saint Patrick (as the song says) having banished those "varmin" from the green island.—I am, &c.,

Coole Abbey, Fermoy, Ireland. H. W. Peard, M.B.

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### OBESITY IN ROACH.

Sir,—In your issue of the 8th inst. you report the capture of a singular roach from the Lea with an enormously extended stomach. Size of fish, 13¾in. long, 11¼in. in girth, weight 1lb. 11oz. A similar instance was recorded by the Windsor correspondent of *Bell's Life* in August last, who states: "A curious case of what I should call dropsy in fish came under my notice this week. It was a roach picked up alive by the Windsor ferryman, A. Hill, which I measured; its extreme length was 13in. and girth 11½in., weight, 2lb. 1oz. Under ordinary circumstances I do not think the fish would have weighed more than 1lb., if that."

These instances remind me that about 18 years since, amongst a large take of roach and bream from the Surrey Commercial Docks, two small specimens of the former and one of the latter species was distorted fully to the extent of those quoted above. It struck me as being very singular that three cases of this disease, or whatever it is, should come to light in one day's fishing, and never before or since. I think I am right in saying that a similar experience occurred during the present season to your occasional correspondent, "A Coggeshall Volunteer."—I am, &c.,

Giant.

[We have not seen a roach distended in this way; but it is not a very uncommon thing in some parts to find sea fish of aldermanic proportions. Sometimes it is caused by an internal parasite which increases in size or number to such an extent as to give the fish a dropsical appearance. Sticklebacks are affected in this way sometimes.—Ed.]

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### NOTES ON WORMS.

Sir,—The "Notes on Worms" in the Fishing Gazette of the 8th inst. led me to refer to some works of earlier date than Best's "Art of Angling," with the view of ascertaining whether or not he was the first to recommend pouring a decoction of walnut tree leaves on the ground as a means of bringing worms to the surface in dry weather.

I find that the effect of walnut-leaf water on worms was known at least a hundred years before Best wrote. Chetham, in "The Angler's Vade Mecum" (2nd edition, 1689), says: "In great droughts pound walnut leaves, and put the juice thereof, mixt with a little water, into their holes, and it drives them out of the ground."

"R. H.," in "The Angler's Sure Guide" (1706), treats on the subject at still greater length: "There are divers other ways of getting these worms, as by bruising green hemp, or walnut tree leaves, or the green husks, the blades of leeks or onions, and laying them to soak, or boiling them in water, and after they have been soaked twelve or fourteen hours, or boiled an hour or two, pour the water on the ground in places where you see many worm-castings, or into the worm-holes; or by mixing soot and water, or salt and water, and throwing it on such places, &c. But I use none of these last ways, but only in case of necessity, because it hurts the worms, and makes them sick and many of them to die."—I am, &c.,

Edinburgh, 14th Nov. Alexander D. Campbell.

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### FISHING RIGHTS ABOVE GODSTOW.

Sir,—If the "Cherwell Otter" had more carefully read my letter he possibly would not have been under the necessity of exercising his mind to find the simile with which he commences his reply—a simile as much out of place as it is (may I say?) ancient.

Don Quixote, of whom many people besides the "Cherwell Otter" have read, attacked certain windmills, thinking them to be giants; but it appears to me I have attacked nothing and nobody. I therefore fail to see why the threat of the "reprobation of every angler" should be held out to me, inasmuch as my chief desire is to preserve to them certain privileges which they now enjoy, but which are certainly jeopardised by the incautious and impolitic words and actions of some of us. The "Cherwell Otter" cannot find any arguments in favour of Lord Abingdon's claims; neither can I, nor do I pretend to, nor is it my business to. Allow me to point out to the "Cherwell Otter" and your readers generally that I am not "championing" (do not champion) any course of Lord Abingdon's, unjust or otherwise, and certainly not the former until it is proved to be so. According to the "Cherwell Otter's" own words, "no definite legal decision has yet been given," and "it is doubtful if he is able to produce any tangible proofs of ownership." Therefore, as it is doubtful, he has no grounds for imputing to me those Quixotic actions to which his ill-applied simile refers. The complete purport of my letter, and the gist of its contention is this: *If those claiming have the right*, if "such is the case," and to enlighten the obscurity of his comprehension in this particular, allow me to inform the "Cherwell Otter" that these are the premises on which I base my argument. That being so, I am under no obligation to adduce any proof of what I have assumed for the purposes of my proposition—viz., that anglers should cordially accept a certain privilege offered provided those offering it have it to offer.

Either Lord Abingdon has this right or he has it not. In the former case, the fishing is none the less open, and perhaps more free, because it can be had on payment of a merely nominal fee; and in the latter case, when it is proved, it is doubtful if anglers will be so well off if Lord Abingdon withdraws the privilege of permitting them to go on his land to fish. In other respects I am gratified that a gentleman of the long experience of the "Cherwell Otter," and possibly of attainments vastly superior to those possessed by the present writer, is pleased to agree with me that the fishing is absolutely open to the public on payment, and not, as he formerly asserted, closed to the public; and also, that it is only of recent years that it has been found necessary to take steps to regulate the angling. The "Cherwell Otter" may perhaps take exception to the way I put it; but is it a fair way of argument for him to persist in saying the fishing is closed to the public, and that the public are prevented angling there, when he admits that a ticket issued to all respectable persons on application gives them the right to fish on payment?

Again, I would point out that my letter refers only to the fishing from Cassington (about a mile below Eynsham bridge) to Bablock Hythe; I know nothing of the fishing below Cassington, and my former letter does not refer to it. In reply to the "Cherwell Otter's" suggestion, I am, of course, sorry to learn that one of the craft has been victimised to the extent of having had his rods "stolen"; but as a matter of interest, I should be more gratified, and so, no doubt, would be the victim, to learn that the "thief" had got his deserts.

In conclusion, allow me to say that the "Cherwell Otter" has slightly misquoted me. I did not write, "It would appear they had some sort of right to shoot *there*"; my words are "to shoot *on the river*," meaning the river generally, and not, as the word "*there*" infers, this particular portion of it. The reason they have this right, if they really have it at all, is, I believe, that the river, although a public way, is not within the provisions of the Highway Act, and, therefore, persons holding the requisite licenses can shoot certain wild birds without fear of police interference. It is almost unnecessary to state that this right (if it is one) is frequently abused, more especially in the locality of the preserves of the riparian owners, and I will venture to suggest they do not like it.

In reference to those successful cases quoted in his letter by the "Cherwell Otter," my gratification at the results was not less than his own, or, I make bold to say, than that of any other angler. In the latter case, however, that of Adingdon *v.* Wall, that the victory was won—unfortunately, by a fluke, if I may be permitted to use the word—is proved by the fact just come to my knowledge, that two anglers fishing in the same portion of the river as did Mr. Wall were last Monday convicted at Abingdon and fined. Mr. Wall was summoned at Witney (Oxfordshire), for an alleged offence committed in another county (Berkshire). I feel sure my zeal in the interests of anglers and angling is not surpassed by that of the "Cherwell Otter," although there may be perhaps a slight divergence of views as to the best methods of promoting them; therefore I respectfully offer him my co-operation with that view, and as my favourite fishing is in his locality, hope I may some time have the pleasure of a meeting.—I am, &c.,

23, Blomfield-road. Robt. W. Hobden.

P.S.—In reply to your footnote to my letter, allow me to explain my opinion "that it is not so much for the riparians to prove their rights as it is for us to show they have none to prove," for I rather fancy you misunderstand my contention, which is this: that it would be very undesirable, and in many cases disastrous, to our interests to make a riparian show his rights. If a riparian chooses to prosecute anyone for infringing what he claims as his rights, then he must show such rights before a conviction can be obtained; but if we can successfully resist such a prosecution (on the question of legal rights pure and simple), then I maintain we have clearly shown that he has no rights to prove, and we have then gained that point to obtain which is so much to be desired, and on this we are all agreed. My reasoning may perhaps be called making a distinction without a difference, and possibly it is so as to ultimate results, but I think it will show that I do not suggest that the onus of proof lay on the public.—R. W. H.

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### NEEDLE-EYED HOOKS.

Sir,—Allow me to apologise for my apparent neglect in not replying to the letter of your distinguished correspondent, Mr. Hall, which appeared in your impression of the week before last. That as regards Mr. Bankart's very interesting letter of the 15th, I am obliged to make a similar apology, and to pass by this issue of the Fishing Gazette without the literary courtesy of a reply is due to the circumstance that, before replying to the letters of these gentlemen, I am awaiting the result of communications with a well-known firm of hook makers, in order to ascertain, firstly, whether there are really any mechanical difficulties in making "needle-eyed hooks" of the smallest sizes; and, secondly, with a view to having some samples actually made embodying the ideas which I have suggested in your columns.—I am, &c., H. Cholmondeley-Pennell.

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Sir,—Allow me to explain to Mr. Tod that he has formed a very mistaken notion about the hooks I sent him as patterns—per favour of the Editor.

On Oct. 11 he wrote advocating eyes of "the smallest possible dimensions," and, in reply, I sent him patterns of the first lots of hooks made by Mr. Aldam's maker in 1877, thinking he might perhaps like them, and intimating that if so he would be welcome to what I had in stock.

These patterns of fine-wired black japanned hooks were the same hooks which Mr. Hall and I had condemned and thrown aside in 1878, before we applied to Messrs. Hutchinson and Sons; but Mr. Tod's whole letter reads as if he thinks these obsolete hooks are what I now recommend as what eyed-hooks should be, whereas the flies which have converted him, tied by Mr. Holland, are probably dressed on the modern eyed-hooks, which have been in general use since 1880, and which (though serviceable hooks) I criticised somewhat sharply in the FISHING GAZETTE of Sept. 27 as open to still further improvement.

Mr. Tod's whole letter is so misleading in the attribution of the black japanned hooks (which he so hates) to me, and the bronzed hooks to Mr. Hall, that I wish to explain to him that the hooks he repeatedly calls "Mr. Bankart's hooks," are not mine in any sense; and that the hooks I have used since 1879 are identical with those he praises on which the Holland flies are dressed. Mr. Hall's flies may possibly be tied on some improved hooks of which we hope to hear more anon.

The black japanned hooks have been obsolete for seven years, and Mr. Tod's mention of them as "Mr. Aldam's patterns," shows that they were not intended to represent the present eyed-hook, but only special fine-wired small eyed-hooks I thought he might like. The Nos. 11 and 13 long-shanks were special hooks made for "drakes," "alders," "sedges," and such flies; not for "duns" or small flies.

I recommend Mr. Tod and others to wait awhile before getting eyed-hooks, as, if present prospects are realised, it is probable that greatly-improved eyed-hooks may be in the market from one, if not two, new sources before the trout-fishing season comes round, and which, when ready, will no doubt be noticed by the Editor of the FISHING GAZETTE.—I am, &c., GEORGE BANKART.

SIR,—Some time ago I wrote to you relative to the difficulty of getting double salmon hooks with eyes, except of a most clumsy make. In your next issue I saw a letter from Messrs. J. Warner and Son, of Redditch, saying that they could supply them. I wrote to this firm, asking them to send me samples, which they most kindly did, and I can now most unhesitatingly state that the eyed double hooks manufactured by them (on an entirely new principle) are as near perfection as can be imagined. The hooks are of very good shape, and penetrate well, and the eye is neat, and being without any sharp edge, I do not think that the gut would be at all liable to cut. Salmon flies on eyed-hooks are practically indestructible, and if there is any danger of the gut chafing, this is easily guarded against by shifting the link whenever it appears necessary (a much easier job than with a gut loop).

I only think it fair, both to Messrs. J. Warner and Son and to your readers, to give my experience, such as it is.—I am, &c., GREEN WREN.

P.S.—Would Mr. Kelson kindly let me know if the inclosed feather is kingfisher or blue chatterer?

## EYED-HOOKS, BRONZE v. BLUE.

SIR,—I was glad to see from Mr. Tod's letter last Saturday that he has no longer any prejudice against the present make of eyed-hooks. A short time ago he sent me some of the hooks he bought in 1881, and I am not surprised that he thought them clumsy. They were patterns *we had discarded some time before*, and not to be named in the same day with those I was using when I met Mr. Tod on the Tummel. Then, again, the flies tied on these hooks were nearly half head, and, as I said in my letter of Oct. 25th, this is just what I expected. It has happened frequently—a clumsy fly on an eyed-hook has prejudiced scores of anglers.

But my main object in now writing is to correct an impression of Mr. Tod's, to the effect that the colour he so much likes is due to me. He also appears to think that his pet aversion, a japanned hook, is advocated by Mr. Bankart; whereas the bronze colour was originally introduced by Mr. Bankart and not by me. This I have stated in the GAZETTE more than once. There are many anglers in favour of the lighter colour; but there are others, very skilful too, on hard-fished streams, who won't have the bronze hooks at any prize. Opinions are divided, and for my own part I like to have both sorts in stock. But I cannot help thinking that on a a bright, sunny August day, the light steel glitters far more than the blue, and I am almost certain that under such conditions, the bright glittering steel scares the fish far more than the blue hook. If ever the eye is "conspicuous," in Mr. Pennell's sense, it is when it is of a glittering bronze colour. What we want, whether in blue or bronze, is to have the hooks duller in shade. I have seen some here and there at odd times, quite well tempered and free from rust, but of a dull hue throughout, not so pretty to look at but far more workmanlike. I hope the hookmakers may be able to hit the happy mean in colour, and bear in mind that if we are to "take the shine" out of wary trout, it is of the first importance to take the shine out of the hooks.—I am, &c., H. S. HALL.

## KNOTS FOR THE FLY CAST.

SIR,—Feeling rather interested in the subject of knotting as applied to fly-fishing, I was pleased to observe the diagrams published in your GAZETTE of a few weeks since. As fine tackle and educated trout now appear to be the order of the day, I am of opinion that he who can contribute a suggestion as to the neatest method of making knots for fastening gut or attaching flies to the cast is doing a good service to his brother anglers; therefore, Mr. Editor, following your good example, I beg to inclose a specimen knot suitable for droppers made from an idea of my own—at least, so far as I know, I have neither seen it used nor described in any work on angling. It is simple, being quickly and easily made; safe, because it cannot possibly slip; strong, because *fine* gut so tied, after being properly soaked, is not more liable to break at the knot than any other part; and, moreover, it is the smallest knot that can be used for the purpose. With these recommendations, I beg to submit it for the favour of your opinion. The application is as follows—viz., at the part of the cast where it is intended to place the dropper a common knot is made, the proper name of which is "the thumb or overhand knot," and the knotted dropper is then inserted in the opening, and the knot is drawn quite tight, the knot at the extreme end of the dropper being brought close to the knot made in the casting line. I think the foregoing explanation might be understood without a sketch of the *modus operandi*.—I am, &c., PORTSMOUTH WALTONIAN.

[The knot is similar to the one we illustrated recently, only not, we think, so secure, for the simple reason that single knot in the gut of the dropper is not made to include the gut of the casting-line as we suggested and illustrated.—ED.]

## BLUE CHATTERER.

SIR,—The feather you sent on from your correspondent is undoubtedly blue chatterer. This is easily known by wetting it. If it had been kingfisher it would have turned to a dirty brown, whereas the feather sent retains its colour.—I am, &c., JOHN P. TRAHERNE.

## A NOTE FROM NOTTINGHAM.—THE "FISHING GAZETTE," &c.

SIR,—Angling this week has been nearly a blank; many anglers that I know have been out and could not kill a fish of any description. A few chub have been caught in the vicinity of Nottingham with minnow. A friend of mine, fishing below Cavendish Bridge the other day, saw a gentleman take a very fine chub, 4lb., while trolling with spoon bait. I have known them to take a natural bait when spinning. Mr. Baker caught a few nice perch at Colwick on Saturday, and was unfortunate enough to lose a very large pike, which took his float, tackle, and part of his line, without as much as saying "by your leave." A few pike have been taken in the Sawley water, but nothing of any size.

I see in your issue of the 15th you have a list of the different fishing clubs of Nottingham and district; I don't think there is one in a hundred of the anglers know anything about your valuable and interesting paper. I have shown my copy to many, and they wondered where I got it from, never having heard of the paper before. A copy sent to every club, I have no doubt, would increase the circulation in Nottingham, as all true lovers of angling cannot help but read with pleasure the many interesting articles on angling by some of your clever correspondents. In this week's paper, "Trouting in Normandy," by Cotswold Isys, one cannot help but admire the angler's patience under difficulties, and the very racy style of his narrative. Then there is G. M. Kelson's very flowing style, which, if it does take us novices out of our depth sometimes, we cannot help but admire and appreciate him as an enthusiastic angler.—I am, &c., A. W.

Nottingham, Nov. 17.

[A copy was sent to each of them last week; in fact, we are always glad to have the addresses of anglers who do not know the paper.—ED.]

## THE POISONING OF THE ALLAN.

SIR,—In your last issue you mention that the river *Almond* has been poisoned by the upsetting of an oil tank. I, being a native of Edinburgh, was surprised to hear the river Almond spoken of as "this celebrated Scotch stream." The inclosed from yesterday's *Daily News* is evidently the fact, as *Dunblane* is not near the Almond. It is true that I have only a dim remembrance of fishing the Almond; but I never heard it was famous for sport, and *I* never did anything worth speaking of in my young days *there*. It is within very easy reach of Edinburgh by rail.

The Allan I have never fished, but I regret, all the same, the sad accident, which will fall like a blow on many and many a humble, but keen, village "fisher" residing on its banks.—I am, &c., E. M. TOD.

[It should have been Allan, not Almond.—ED.]

## TORCROSS LEY, NEAR KINGSBRIDGE.

SIR,—The fishing at the adjacent Slapton Ley closed on the 31st ult., but this ley remains open, although the water is very low, in consequence of the recent "droughty" summer. I have had some good sport here last week, having taken three pike, weighing respectively 10lb., 13lb., and 15lb., besides losing two heavy fish in consequence of their biting through the gimp. Altogether I am of opinion that this ley is improving rapidly, and likely, before long, to take the position of the best fishing water for coarse fish in the west of England. Mr. Vickery's hotel is most comfortable, and his attention to his guests is everything that can be desired.—I am, &c., L. P. ALLEN.

Chislehurst.

## PENNELL'S THREE FLIES—NOTTINGHAM REELS, &c.

SIR,—I see in your "Answers to Correspondents," Nov. 15th, you say: "We have tried Mr. Pennell's three flies, but not with encouraging results." This is my experience. During the past trout season I have used them in many Irish waters, as well as in Wilts, Devon, and Dorset, and never rose a fish with either of the typical flies. As regards the Nottingham reel for trout spinning, I have had good sport using one of Mr. Wells' (of Nottingham) fast reels, and one of Mr. Jeffry's (Plymouth) plated minnows, which are *weighted*, a leaded trace not being necessary. I find I take larger trout with the minnow than I ever took with a fly; it is also certain death to sea trout. I am looking with interest for your report on Mr. Malloch's Perth reel.—I am, &c., PIKE.

## DON DAM('D) DYKES.

(LINES ADDRESSED TO THE EDITOR OF THE "FISHING GAZETTE.")

DEAR SIR, I'll ever humbly pray
That you may live for many a day.
I find your papers quite a treat,
They often cheer my lone retreat.
Thank Heaven! the rain has come at last,
And Don is rising very fast.
That river, once so fair to fame,
Has lost its all, except the name;
That every honest fisher knows—
At least, so far as fishing goes.
Each blast of wind and plash of rain
I hear upon the window-pane,
Resemble voices sent from Heaven
Proclaiming "All our sins forgiven."
I'm sure this storm delights your heart,
For well ye lo'e the "gentle art,"
And like to see that "witching boil,"
(Supreme delight of fisher's toil),
And get a "tug" a "rush," a "splash,"
A "steady pull," a "jig," a "dash,"
A "quiver," "whirr," and then a "spring,"
Clear up like bird upon the wing.
An inward "run," an outward "dart,"
Straight down, slant up, again athwart,
Head down, tail up, wriggle, shake,
(Canny my man, or else you'll break;
Back now a little, keep below,
Hold tight, belly up, so so—ho!)
He gives a "flop-flop," then a splatter,*
And's gently drawn to shallow water;
A breathless moment, then a laugh
Hurrah!—he's safe upon the "gaff."
Ah! twenty pounds, a "dandy" fish
As ever graced a royal dish.
Not twenty minutes from the "rise"
Till all is o'er, and there he lies.
Such is the game we used to play,
When cares were light, and hearts were gay;
Before we knew the "wiles" of mammon,
Our greatest "glee" was "wiling salmon."
But now the cares of life are those
That keeps the "grindstone at our nose"
For fully fifty weeks a year,
And e'en when holidays appear.
There's not a salmon to be got
Unless you "snigger" "Sauchy-pot,"†
And that's a job would mak' ye "speu,"
Lord bless you, sir, that's no' like you.
Fuach! na, leave that to poacher brutes,
Who think no shame to "net" 'for trouts,
They'd "brimstone" pheasants, "strangle" hares,
And "ferret" rabbits in their "lairs,"
"Nick" a rooster, steal a purse,
And "crack" a keeper's croon like curse.
Such are the men who "snigger" salmon,
And look on honest sport as gammon.
I beg your pardon, I'm digressing,
And not my grievance clear expressing:
I meant to say how well I'd like
To see a slap in every dyke—
A slap as big as would allow
The passage of a "breeding sow"
Down to the channel of the stream,
Right through the first foundation beam;
Then fish could "run" in any water,
High or low, it would not matter.
Such was the law in days gone by,
When fishing rents were not so high,
And fish were always got in plenty—
For one got *now*, folks *then* got twenty.
In days of yore, no man would dream
Of mills requiring all the stream,
And leave the river channel dry
When fish most want a good supply,
To let them have a clear ascent,
And anglers something for their rent.
I know you hardly would believe
The reason anglers have to grieve;
In ten miles upward may be seen
Ten dykes with not a mile between.
But one is worse than all the rest—
Has over ninety feet of "breast,"
And there's a "lead" outstrips them all,
Could well supply a Suez Canal; ‡
'Tis nine feet deep at every side,
And measures five-and-twenty wide.
No river in this "northern land"
Could such an awful drain withstand.
No wonder during summer weather,
The channel's dry for months together.
Ye gods! the men were surely mad,
Who ever framed a law so bad,
If such a law was ever made?
But faith, I do not feel afraid
If lawyers would the matter 'sist;
They'd find no statute does exist
By which a man, without dispute,
Could claim the river absolute.
But what need I bemoan and preach,
When "lairds" permit so gross a breach
Upon their lawful rights and treasures,
Fishing rents and tenants' pleasures?
Anglers may with zeal protest,
While Justice holds her hands to rest,
And shuts her eyes to what is just,
Or blinds herself with "golden dust."
While fishery boards or clerks have stakes
In mills and nets and cruives and haiks,
Millowners can afford to laugh
And flaunt aloft their "golden calf";
And anglers all may curse or pray,
Fume and threat and "thrash" away;
Their backs may ache, their heads may reel,
They'll fish long ere they fill the creel.
The only way to clear the query
Is by accepting Darwin's theory:
*Then* the problem will be solved
*When salmon get their feet evolved.*
Till then the reds can not have spawn
From which the future fish are drawn;
And nets, and cruives, and dykes, and dams,
Make upper fishings perfect shams.
So anglers' only sport will be
To pay their rent or "lawyer's fee";
Or look abroad for "pastures new."
I've said my say—dear sir, adieu.
AULD GLENTAKIT.

---

* Water is often pronounced "watter" in the North.

† A pool, shaped like half a saucer, is situated at the foot of a dyke which measures ninety-five feet from bottom to top, having an angle of about 45 degrees. Here the fish are imprisoned in hundreds, and are "sniggered" without mercy *by savages*.

‡ Suez is pronounced Swez by the Arabs.

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# RIVER REPORTS.

## TIME OF HIGH WATER IN THE THAMES.

To find the time of high water in the Thames at any of the following places, to the time of high water at London Bridge (given below).

Add 30 minutes for Chelsea.
40 „ Putney.
45 „ Hammersmith.
50 „ Barnes.
55 „ Kew.
75 „ Richmond.
80 „ Twickenham.
85 „ Teddington.

Example :—If it is high water at 2 o'clock at London Bridge, it will be high water at Teddington about 3.25, or eighty-five minutes later ; but it must be remembered that a strong wind accelerates or retards the tide very much.

For Times of High Water at London Bridge.

| | | Morning. | Afternoon. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Saturday, November | 22 | 4.18 | 4.34 |
| Sunday, „ | 23 | 4.51 | 5.9 |
| Monday, „ | 24 | 5.28 | 5.49 |
| Tuesday, „ | 25 | 6.12 | 6.37 |
| Wednesday, „ | 26 | 7.3 | 7.32 |
| Thursday, „ | 27 | 8.5 | 8.41 |
| Friday, „ | 28 | 9.21 | 9.55 |

## THE LOWER THAMES.

### General Remarks.

At this period of the general angling season roach fishing in the tidal waters is regarded at its best, and this is the practical experience of some years. That species of fish appear to congregate together more, and some of the finest specimens invariably come to grief. There is a pretty general belief that if angling stations were made considerably below the Richmond district, the anglers would not only get some good sport, but there would be employment for additional professional fishermen to obtain a fair livelihood. At one of the roach competitions of the Richmond Piscatorial Society, the successful competitor obtained his first prize with good roach taken below Kew Bridge. The fish, as has repeatedly been remarked, do not now go to the head of the tide, when, in the palmy days of Teddington, the takes were much in advance of those even in the present day. They are now more scattered about, and the state of water in the river this season has greatly favoured the neighbourhoods of Richmond and Twickenham. The cold weather, which appears to have set in, will, doubtless, make great changes in the fishing, and if there was only more water above the locks there would be some good jack and perch fishing. In every portion of the river below Staines there is some fine jack water ; but, with the dredging that has been going on of late years, it is more difficult to find the abode of the perch. There used to be a splendid perch swim, which was known as the "White Pile Swim," at Sunbury ; but both the white pile and the swim have collapsed in consequence of the dredging. The lower part of Penton Hook, was, at one time, famous for perch, and it is worth trying again now. The Borough Head swim, at Laleham, has always been good for both jack and perch—it was at the latter place where Mr. James Forbes, in a couple of hours, got over fifty brace of perch, the fish averaging 1lb. each. Anglers for jack in the present day are more anxious to obtain access to "private waters," and they seem to neglect old Father Thames, who in days gone by has given them such good sport. They imagine the Thames everywhere is fished out for jack, and, therefore, the best of the jack anglers have "gone to pastures fresh and green." They are not satisfied with ordinary takes. Let them come back to the grand old river, and fish as they used to do, and they will have their reward.

### Angling Results.

**Richmond.**—Mr. Fleming, in a couple of days' fishing with C. Claridge, caught eighteen fish weighing 10½lb., a barbel of 3½lb., and a roach of 1½lb. Henry Mansell, in six days, 100lb. of roach and dace. Henry Wheeler, in four days, 70lb. Henry Howard, in four days, 60lb. Christopher Brown, in two days, 13lb. Job Brain, in days, 90lb. ; and Henry Platt, in three days, sixteen dozen.

**Twickenham.**—John Spong, one day with Mr. Spreckley, eight dozen of roach and dace ; and in three other days, eighteen dozen. W. Spong, in two days and one half day, 40lb. Edward Finch, in four days, 80lb., six of the roach weighing 7lb. George Coxen, in four days, forty dozen. Richard Coxen, during the week, ten dozen and a jack of 4lb. ; and J. Dobbin, in one day, 20lb.

**Teddington.**—Benjamin Stevens, in three days, thirty-three and a half dozen of fine roach and dace, and a jack of 5lb. Charles Baldwins, in two days, sixteen dozen of good roach and dace, and a couple of barbel ; Alexander Kemp, in two days, five jack, the largest 6lb.

**Kingston.**—John Johnson, sen., in two days, eleven dozen fine dace, the largest measuring 11½in., and eight dozen of gudgeon. John Johnson, jun., in three days, four dozen of roach and dace, three chub—the heaviest 3½lb., and seven dozen of gudgeon ; and Joseph Wilks, in one day, two dozen of roach and a jack of 5¼lb. The bank anglers at Kingston and Surbiton have been getting some perch, roach, dace, chub, and gudgeon.

**Hampton Court.**—John Smith, in one day, a brace of jack, the largest fish weighing 8lb. ; and Mr. George Woods, of East Moulsey, another brace, his best fish weighing 7½lb. At Tagg's Island Fishery : The anglers have been getting some good roach, dace, and gudgeon. At Hampton Court and Hampton, the bank anglers have done well amongst the roach, dace, perch, and gudgeon.

**Sunbury.**—Edward Clarke, jun., in four days, has taken sixty brace of perch, some of them weighing 1lb. each, and fourteen dozen of roach and dace. The bank anglers have had some good sport. The success of Mr. Edward Clarke amongst the perch should tempt the perch fishers to visit Sunbury.

**Walton.**—Mr. Alderson, with George Hone, in one day, four bream and four roach. John Hone, in the same time, three dozen of good roach. Two gentlemen fishing from the banks have taken three jack.

**Shepperton.**—Henry Purdue, in one day, twelve brace of perch ; and James Haslett, in the same time, one brace of jack.

**Staines.**—Mr. Peachy, fishing with F. Collyer, in one day, four brace of perch, the best fish weighing 1½lb., and three dozen of roach and dace, the best roach weighing 1¼lb.

## UPPER THAMES.

As I write rain is falling fast ; this will wash away the nasty tint which has lately been given to the water by the leaves which the frosty nights have imported into the river by the ton. Roach, perch, and jack have been well on until within two or three days ; however, I think the wind (N.W.) and rain will make them "return to their muttons." At Sonning and Wargrave excellent bags of roach and chub have been had, more especially by bankers, two takes going respectively 18½lb. and 15½lb. At Hambledon and Medmenham Mr. Askew and Mr. Sturgees have been busy, the former getting some three fair jack, and the latter jack of 10lb., 6lb., and 5lb., and two lesser beauties. In the Hurley waters Mr. Englefield has been busy amid perch, and Messrs. Tasker and Corneby have had a turn out for roach and jack ; but, beyond a turn out, which veritably occurred (fortunately without serious results) not a run—except home, dripping wet—occurred to add zest to a chill November day. At Marlow Mr. Bastick, with Tom Barnes, has had grand sport with the jack, and Rockwell has been well to the fore with perch and roach. My Marlow correspondent ends his note to me by stating "All anglers who have been out appear to return satisfied for once and away." For my part, with good sport, I should like it for more than once and not go away. Cookham, Bourne End, and Maidenhead are all fairly good, more particularly with regard to roach ; but, begging the Bishop's pardon, I fear the lawns-leaves would be best washed out. Thursday evening.—Rain still falling, and likely to continue. Let it fall ; it will do good all round for angling work. Wind : N.W.—Marlow Buzz.

### Thames (Bray).

Mr. J. H. Humphreys, of Chelsea, was out with George Winn between Maidenhead Bridge and Bray, and caught four nice jack weighing 18lb., the largest scaled 6lb. The fish were caught with roach as live bait.—K.

### Thames (Goring).

Water in good order for jack ; my best day five jack, going 10lb.—J. Rush.

### Thames (Oxford).

From all parts of the district the returns are above the usual average, and anglers would indeed be a difficult body to please if they could desire any improvement on the commencement of the winter season. Jack are feeding well, and roach, perch, and chub are rapidly succumbing to the allurements of a dose of well-scoured lobs. A case of great interest, involving the right of the public to fish on or in the river between Eynsham and Pinkhill Pool was brought before the Eynsham bench (the Rev. Robinson and Major Morland sitting), on Monday last, at the instance of the Right Hon. the Earl of Abingdon. From the opening statements of Mr. Walsh, the solicitor for the prosecution, it would appear that there was an idea prevalent in the minds of the public that they had a right to fish in this part of the Thames ; but he should produce documentary evidence dating from 1535 and 1639, which would conclusively prove his Lordship's sole right to the whole of the fishery, irrespective of the fact that he only held land on the Berkshire side of the river. Albert Wall and Henry Buckingham, of Eynsham, labourers, were then charged : In that they did unlawfully and wilfully take fish by angling in certain waters in which the Earl of Abingdon had a private right of fishery. Defendants pleaded not guilty. Mr. F. Franklin deposed he was agent to his lordship. He had known the fishery since 1869 ; his father had collected the rents for 50 years, and he himself had received no objection to the ownership or any notice of ejectment. Mr. Walsh then produced two conveyances, one dated 1535, from the Abbot of Abingdon to Mr. Worth, and the other from the same source dated 1539, to the Duke of Suffolk. Richard Tredwell deposed he and his father had rented the fishery for 40 years. Mr. Dudley contended the defendents had received permission from Mr. Sheldon, the owner of the land on which they were fishing, and he must apply for an adjournment on the ground that his learned friend had had a month in which to get up his case, whilst he had only been given three days. The objection was overruled by the Rev. Robinson, who appeared to act as bench and chairman combined, and the defendants were fined 5s. and costs. *Sic transit libertas populi.* On Thursday, Messrs. Twining and Roberts had fifteen fair perch. In the Evenlode at Hanbro Mill, Mr. Phillip Geen, Mr. Geen, jun., and Mr. How, of Eynsham, had a good all round bag of chub and perch ; the total catch weighed 20lb., amongst the best fish being two roach, which went 2½lb., and four others going 1lb. each. On Friday, at Ashford Mill, Mr. Geen with Mr. How, had another good take of about 15lb. of mixed fish. On Saturday, Mr. Geen, at Hanbro Mill, commenced with a perch of 2lb., and although Mr. How was unable to get the exact weight, he says it was a splendid take. On Tuesday, Mr. Bowles, at Wolvercott Bridge, landed a nice jack of 7½lb., and in the Cherwell Mr. Staymaker had another of 7lb. On Monday, in one of the affluents, but I am discreetly reticent as to the exact whereabouts of the water, two gentlemen of my acquaintance caught five jack, weighing 10½lb., 4½lb., 3lb., 3lb., and 3lb. respectively. To-day, Thursday, Mr. Corbett, from the Cherwell, whipping with gentles, had a well made chub just over 2¾lb.—Cherwell Otter.

## Sonning.

Once more the jack fishing in this part of the river is improving. I hear of several being taken. Clark had one over 10lb., and Parrett, from Henley, out with a party, got one 20lb., and over—a very nice fish. If we get some rain, so that the water will rise two feet, there would be some good fishing, as you can see them move about as you go down the river.—W. Hull.

## Ancholme District.

But little has been done during the past week amongst the coarse fish, owing to inclement weather. The large pond at Sudbrooke Park has been run off, and a large number of fish have been sent to South Kensington for the National Fish Culture Association. The consignment consisted of about thirty pike, and a fine lot of miscellaneous fish, including bream, tench, rudd, roach, and perch. They were taken in a special van, and in six large carriers, under the attendance of Mr. Garner, an experienced Lowestoft fisherman. I have every reason to believe they arrived safely. The thanks of the society are due to Messrs. C. C. and M. U. Sidthorpe for this handsome presentation. The two largest pike, one of 18¼lb., and another of 16½lb. have gone to be stuffed. There were literally cartloads of fish, including bream up to 5lb., and perch up to 2½lb.—Thomas Ford, Caistor.

## Chichester.

The weather has at last changed, rain falling fast this (Thursday) evening. The water the past week has not been largely patronised, those anglers who almost live by the Canal side meeting with but little success. A few small pike have been taken with shiners, the larger baits meeting with no response. Some fine perch have been landed, a brace taken near Donnington scaling 3½lb. From Selham and the Ouse I have no letter, so conclude nothing worth recording has been done.—George F. Salter.

## The Dove.

Matters have been extremely quiet on this river since I last wrote. The weather has not been sufficiently favourable to encourage anglers to visit the water, for it has been very rainy and foggy nearly every day. However, there have been a few rods out, principally bottom fishers, some of whom, the water being in excellent order and the fish being inclined to feed, have met with fair remuneration. Several capital dishes of chub have been secured, the best killing bait having been the maggot and cow's brains. Roach and dace seem to have preferred the cockspur worm. Grayling have not been rising with any great degree of freedom, nor are they likely to do so whilst the present "muggy" weather continues. The general piscatorial desire is for frost, and the sooner it comes the better for those on grayling fishing bent. I hear of an accident having happened to a party of gentlemen who were visiting on Monday last the trout hatchery, near Idridghay, belonging to Mr. Peach. This will no doubt be reported by your Matlock correspondent. However, I may mention that while driving to the hatchery the vehicle was overturned and its occupants thrown out and several of them injured.—The Splodger.

## Exe (Exeter).

Nothing worthy of mention has come under my notice this week; the wind being N.E. the hopes of anglers are down. Next week I hope we may have a change and be up and doing.—J. A. Kelley.

## Ilfracombe.

Sea-fishing.—This week, the wind blowing strong from the eastward, has prevented the boats from getting a good drift, so that very few herrings have been caught. Tuesday, some conger and a large cod were caught; fishing from the rocks and jetty very slack. Wednesday, Mr. E. German caught a conger 10lb., that being the only fish reported from the jetty for the week. Weather still very unsettled.—E. Comer.

## Lea (Tottenham).

Since my last report the water has greatly improved; this applies more especially to the Copper Mill stream. Very few anglers have been down, but those that have have not found their visits fruitless. Mr. Beresford has been down two days, killing three jack each day, weighing respectively 4½lb., 3½lb., 3½lb., 3lb., 2½lb., and 2lb. A gentleman fishing the upper water (Ford's) killed three jack, weighing as follows: 6¾lb., 5¼lb., and 3¼lb. One of the subscribers to the same water got three good chub, one weighing 3½lb., and the others over 2lb. each. A. Williams and one or two others have been getting some roach and dace with paste, fishing from the island; and Mr. E. Dee, legering with worm, got some good roach from the lower pool, several of them going over ¾lb.—Hackles Red.

Chub, jack, and roach appear to be well on feed, as some very nice baskets of each were made on the 16th inst. The recent rain will put the water in good condition for next week.—T. A. Ward.

## Leicester.

Piscatorial notes in this neighbourhood at present are somewhat scarce; cold north-easterly winds and rain have had the effect of preventing anglers visiting the waters in anything like large numbers, only the most ardent fishermen caring to face the keen winds. A few pike and chub continue to be landed from the waters at Aylestone, and some good lots of dace have also been shown. A few days since, a fine young dog-otter was taken from a drain beside the river Soar, near Sileby. He appears to be about a month old, and is doing well. A very large perch has also recently been taken from the waters near the last-mentioned village. The fish weighed 4lb., and measured 19in. Both the otter and perch can be seen at the Bell-ringer's Arms, Sileby. A few anglers have been visiting the district resorts for pike. The best takes that came under my notice were those of Messrs. Richards and Olorenshaw. Mr. Pocklington and a friend showed five and a half brace of fair-sized fish on Wednesday. Thursday: Very few were out; the weather was very cold, with N.E. winds and frequent falls of rain during the day.—Alert.

## Lugg and Arrow (Leominster).

These streams still keep in capital order for fishing, both remaining clear but low. The grayling are now well on the feed, and some good baskets have been taken with the whirling blue and red tag. Some splendid-sized fish have been landed with the grasshopper; a few nice grayling were landed with the maggot in the Lugg, and a nice dish of grayling was taken in the Arrow, near Stanton, with the fly. Good fish have been landed in the Lugg, near Ford's Bridge, and some very good fish have been taken in the Arrow at Eardisland. Capital sport has also been had near Aymestry. Fishing in the Pinsley is quiet.—Gwynne.

## The Ouse (Huntingdon).

The water is still in fair condition, and jack are feeding in different parts. Several have been taken going up to 7lb., and there is a good prospect, for the weather is good. Most have been taken with spinning bait with roach. I was out on the 20th, and had a run with a fine one. From what I could judge he was about 18lb. He took the bait, and struck into the weeds after I had him in hand, and there he stuck not to be moved, and after a deal of trouble he broke away; but I am in hopes of getting him, for I will have a fair go at him when the weeds get away.—H. Rous.

## Severn and Stour (Kidderminster).

Since my last report, we have had a splendid downpour of rain, filling the Severn to the level of the banks, clearing the stream of all dead leaves for the present, and washing the snow-water out of the river. The fish have begun to feed again. Six anglers of ours were out this week, and succeeded in taking nearly 60lb. of chub with bullock's brains for bait; three of the fish weighed 10lb., and not one of the lot was less than 1lb.—a splendid sample of fish, and all in prime condition. Other anglers have been out and done well with paste for bait; one fisherman, in a little time, took nine roach which scaled 6¼lb.; other dishes, ranging from 5lb. to 7lb. each were caught. Frank Millington has taken 17lb. of roach and dace from the Stour, with the gilt-tail worm; I suspect this bait is the same as the Derbyshire cockspur, a capital bait in any river. If the weather keeps up fine we shall soon be able to put the fly on the water again. I do not think there are many grayling in the Severn, I can seldom take any or hear of any being taken—perhaps a brace amongst other fish may fall to a rod in a hard day's work; I have filled my creel many a time, but the grayling were always scarce. If there had been many in the Severn, surely they would have been found by some at least out of the many that frequent this stream—that is, in larger quantities. There are no grayling in the Stour, the bottom of the river is not suitable for them—consisting of mud in places, and sand in places, just suiting the class of fish that are in it.—E. Earp, hon. sec.

## Teme (Tenbury).

This stream is in splendid condition for fishing, still keeping clear. The fish are sporting well at the fly, and some good baskets of grayling have been landed. Capital sport has been had with the grasshopper and maggot. The best flies are the green insect and whirling blue. On Friday the water near Berrington was fished, and some very good grayling were landed with the grasshopper. In the water near Corn Brook some capital sport has been had, and some fine fish have been landed with the whirling blue. A few grayling were landed with the maggot. Good sport has been had in the Little Hereford district this week with the grasshopper. A very nice dish of grayling were taken in the water near Eastham with the green insect. Good fish have been landed in the association waters. The Kyre, Rea, and Ledwyche are in good order, but fishing quiet.—Worcester.

## Teme (Ludlow).

The Teme is in capital order, and the tributaries are the same. The grayling fishing has been about the average. A fine pike, weighing 8lb., was caught in the Teme the other day by Mr. W. Jones; it was very full in flesh He caught the fish with a live minnow. Below Ashford Weir seventeen grayling were caught on Monday by two gentlemen; they also caught some twenty "rough" fish. There have been good catches of grayling up Lord Windsor's water with the grasshopper and maggot. A few fish landed from the Leintwardine waters. The Clun has again reached its ordinary level, and has again been visited. Good grayling landed from the Corve, and also the Ony, both of which are in good order.—S. Ludlow.

## Trent (Alrewas).

The river is now in excellent condition for all kinds of fishing. Grayling have been rising very freely in the middle of the day; but there have been no members out, on account of the north-east wind.

## Trent (Newark).

The river has been running very low all this week, and has been in fairish trim for pike and chub fishing; but the wind has been shifting about a good deal, and as a natural consequence sport has only been of a moderate character. A friend of mine got six very nice chub one day, with pith and brains for bait, out of the Collingham Waters; another angler down at Winthorp managed to secure about a dozen chub, roach, and dace; but none of them ran very large. Another angler had a very nice jack, taken spinning, going some 6lb. or 7lb.; and my friend who got the chub told me that an angler was spinning all day down below Collingham (same day that he was chubbing) but only managed to grass two going about 4½lb. apiece. Some extraordinary roach have been weighed in this week at our local angling club, one weighing 2¼lb., and another 2lb. 1oz. I tried to get a peep at these giant roach, but failed. A bream also was weighed in going nearly 5lb., I believe; but there are again some "ugly rumours" afloat as to the method of capture of these specimen fish. I have not heard of any very sensational bags having been had this week, and so I must conclude that the sport has only been moderate if we accept the big roach and bream just named; but there seems to be grave doubts on the subject as to whether they were killed by fair angling with rod and line. Thursday night.—River below the locks very low and clear. Prospects only fair. Chub may be tried with pith and brains; pike, spinning or livebaiting; while roach, dace, and bream might be tempted with gentles or cockspurs.—The Trent Otter.

There is but little in the way of legitimate angling to report this week. On Friday afternoon several were out after jack, but met with very little success. Mr. Dale, one fish; Mr. Curtis, one; Mr. James Chatterton, two; Mr. W. Lane, one. A fine chub took this gentleman's live bait, but missed the hook, and only left hold when the bait was quite broken in halves. On Saturday there was a cold, east wind blowing; a few of us faced it. I only heard of two fish being taken:—Mr. Wildsmith, a well-fed one, exactly 5lb.; myself spinning a small one, under 3lb. Messrs. Mountney and Hessay, in private water had five fish, but none very large. Since Saturday I dont hear of a single fish being taken, though I know three or four have been trying. The wind has now changed, and with the water low we ought to do better among chub; the jack want a rise of water to put them in the slacks. Some extraordinary fish have been weighed in at the two other clubs in the town. Bream over 4lb., chub 4lb., roach 2lb. 1oz. and 2lb. 3¾oz.; the most peculiar part of the matter is that a man was at the Midland Station on the same day with eight stones, mostly specimen fish, taken, I believe, at Dunham, no doubt with nets, and offering them for sale to some anglers I know; as they preferred catching their own, doubtless others had a chance of buying. Besides the fish named I saw three others, up to 1½lb. (roach); the owners seemed disappointed to find them of no use. I have not the slightest hesitation in saying that more coarse fish have been taken in nets near here during the past three weeks than have been caught by the whole of the Trent anglers in the season. It is no wonder old anglers talk of their great catches a few years ago as compared with our now. Would that we had such an interest taken in our Trent as you have in the Thames; it would not take long to make it equal to it. Last week your printer made me say "Mead" for "Neal," "Morledge" for "Norledge," and "the Sheffield men who use exclusively maggot fishes," instead of "who are exclusively maggot fishers."—F. T. L.

[We also hear from private sources that netting is rife in the neighbourhood of Newark, one of the chief reasons being that in some of the clubs prizes are offered for anything and everything. In fact, it is quite clear that the genuine anglers in Newark will have to pull themselves together, and make a vigorous effort to stop underhand doings if they want to see their sport respected by anglers generally. —Ed.]

## Trent (Nottingham).

Last week, being away from home, I was unable to supply you with my usual weekly report. This week the river has been running at a surprisingly low ebb for the time of the year, and but for cold and boisterous wind prevailing I have no doubt the fish would have come freely to the bait. From Shardlow I learn that some dace have been caught with maggots, which are now difficult to obtain. Mr. T. Wood and friend were busy pike fishing below King's Mills weirs on Tuesday, and took five or six very nice fish. On the same day Messrs. E. Bull and W. Dupe, of this town, got about 40lb.; and some fairly good fish are reported from Thrumpton, which reach is very strictly preserved. Salmon are still abundant in the Weston length below the mills named, and unless a rise speedily comes it is to be feared they will "kipper." A few lots of roach have been secured with the cockspur worm at Wilford, and chub anglers ought now to begin to turn their attention to the use of pith and brains. Last Friday evening there was a general meeting of the members of the Nottingham Wellington Association for the purpose of filling vacancies in the society.—The Man at the Clubs.

## Trent (Swarkestone and Shardlow District).

The river keeps low, in consequence of which the sport continues very poor. regret to say that large quantities of rubbish from Burton is still coming down the river, and on Monday last it was so bad that every time the bait was thrown in it was immediately covered with the gelatine matter. As previously reported, unless we have some heavy rains, very little good will be done. The weather during the last few days has been very raw and cold, and to-night it looks very much like rain. I have not heard of anything of note having been taken.—Spinning Bait.

### Wharfe (Yorkshire).

Grayling fishing continues in a most unsatisfactory state, and until there is a real good sharp frost there will be nothing out of the ordinary way to chronicle. On Saturday last I had nine good fish, but I had to work very hard for them. On Tuesday morning a party of three of us set off to Burnsall, which is considered one of the best lengths of water for grayling in the country. We found upon our arrival that "Watchet" had arrived on the previous day, and had scored a blank. This was highly pleasing intelligence, as I knew full well that if this angler could not "nail" them it was a poor look out for any one else, and so the result proved. "Watchet," however, succeeded in landing a couple of real beauties—in fact, the largest that I have ever seen taken from either Yore or Wharfe; one of them scaled 1¾lb., and the other 1½lb. These gentlemen are going to be enshrined in a glass case, and in days to come will grace the walls of your humble servant instead of sailing about in the crystal depths of the Wharfe. I have no time to add more to-day, but hope to give you a few more details of our trip before long. I hooked a couple of "patriarch" grayling myself, but was unfortunate enough to lose them both.—Francis M. Walbran.

### Wye and Derwent.

Both the Wye and Derwent are in beautiful condition for either fly or bottom fishing; but I am sorry to say that grayling are not feeding well at either top or bottom; only two and three brace per rod are daily made. If we could get some good, sharp white frosty nights, no doubt grayling would then feed well. The weather is charming for November, and most of the leaves are off the trees, which makes it much better for grayling fishing. Coarse fish have been biting nicely at both maggots and worms; so have pike been running well. The Matlock Bath Angling Association's keeper, Collinson, has been killing a very nice lot of pike lately, both on his trimmers and by live bait fishing with small dace. One morning he had four pike that weighed 17lb. the lot; in fact, fish up to nearly 7lb. each have been killed on the Derwent below Cromford. Weather to-night (Thursday) squally.—George James Eaton.

### The Yare (Norwich).

The reports are very meagre this week, especially with regard to this river. On private water some good sport has again been had. Our friend Greene is again to the front. One day last week he landed sixteen pike, eleven of which he brought home, weighing between 60lb. and 70lb., and also four good perch, one weighing nearly 3lb. Some small takes are reported from the actual river; but nothing worth recording. Last Saturday, two friends and myself had four hours on water connected with the Yare, and were fortunate enough to have about fifteen runs, and succeeded in landing eleven nice fish, weighing, in the aggregate, upwards of 44lb., which, considering they were not caught on a "Broad," is a very good average. It is surprising that with this beautiful weather more jack fishermen have not been out; but I suppose they consider there is plenty of time between this and February next. Prospects good.—Robert Moll.

## SCOTCH FISHING NOTES.

Tweed and Teviot.—These rivers have been in excellent fishing condition during the past week, and excellent sport has rewarded the operations of salmon anglers. On Thursday last, on Floors Castle upper water, Mr. A. F. Thistlethwaite captured four salmon, the weight of which were 24lb., 18lb., 18lb., and 16lb. On the Sprouston water, Mr. W. A. Sommerville secured one fish of 21lb., and a bull-trout of 8lb. On Sprouston Dub, Mr. John Wood killed two salmon of 16lb. and 10lb. respectively. Her Grace the Duchess of Roxburghe caught three salmon while angling on the Floors lower water. At the junction of Tweed and Teviot, Mr. A. Steel, Kelso, landed one salmon, and was broken by another fish of greater weight which he had run for some time. On the Carham water, Mr. Sommerville killed four salmon, which weighed 22lb., 22lb., and 21lb. respectively, besides a grilse of 4lb. Colonel Biden, on the Upper Cornhill casts, caught a 16lb. salmon and a grilse of 9lb. Mr. Croall, on Ednam House lower water, landed a salmon of 18lb. On Friday, Mr. Drummond, who fished the Junction, had three fish, the respective weights of which were 14lb., 9lb., and 8lb. On the Birgham water, the Earl of Home had seven fish, which weighed, individually, 29lb., 21lb., 20lb., 16½lb., 16lb., 15½lb., and 9lb.; and on the same water, Mr. Denison had a like number to his credit, the weights being 38lb., 24lb., 22lb., 20lb., 19lb., 10lb., and 10lb. The Hendersyde yielded Mr. M'Donald a salmon of 22lb., Mr. Waldie-Griffith two salmon and a grilse, and Sir George Waldie-Griffith a trio of salmon, two of which scaled 26lb. each. On the Floors upper water, Mr. A. F. Thistlethwaite and Lieutenant F. H. Thistlethwaite had eight fish between them. On the Sprouston upper water, Mr. J. Wood, London, got three salmon, 24½lb., 20lb., and 18lb. On the Dub, Mr. Whymper had also three weighing 24½lb., 14lb., and 19lb.; and on the lower water Mr. Sommerville had one fish of 23lb. and 16lb. On the Carham water, Mr. J. R. Hay-Gordon killed five salmon which scaled 17lb., 18lb., 21lb., the other two being lighter; and on the same casts, Mr. Sommerville had one salmon to his rod. On Cornhill upper water, Col. Biden obtained a grilse. On Saturday, on the Rutherford water, Colonel Vivian killed three salmon, while the Hon. H. Brougham secured six—all good weights. On the Upper Hendersyde water, Mr. M'Donald had one of 11½lb. On Sprouston Dub, Mr. Wood caught ten salmon, the heaviest pair weighing 32lb. and 31lb. On the Sprouston under water, Mr. G. W. Sommerville, Lasswade, caught a fish of 21lb.; and on the upper water Mr. Wymper had a grilse of 9lb. Mr. Drummond, on the Ednam House casts, landed a 12lb. salmon. On the Floors upper water, Mr. A. F. and Lieut. A. H. Thistlethwaite had five—21lb., 19lb., 18lb., 17lb., and 9lb. On the Hendersyde water, Mr. T. Taylor, Chipchase Castle, Northumberland, captured three salmon; and Mr. Waldie-Griffith also got one of 10lb. Mr. W. A. Sommerville brought two fish to bank on the Carham water. Angling in the river Teviot, Mr. Adam Lamb, Kelso, was successful in getting a 17lb. salmon. On the Tweed, at Cornhill, Col. Biden killed two fish weighing 17lb. and 9lb. respectively. On Ednam House lower water, Mr. Croall had also two—18lb. and 9lb. On Monday, Mr. A. F. and Lieut. A. H. Thistlethwaite, who occupied the Floors upper water, killed eight salmon, whose weights were 23lb., 19lb., 18lb., 18lb., 17lb., 16lb., 10lb., and 9lb. On the Sprouston water, Mr. Wood landed two fish, weighing respectively 22lb. and 19lb. Two salmon of 24lb. and 21lb., were caught by Mr. A. A. Hay-Gordon and Mr. Tennant, jun., of the Glen, on the Carham water. On the Ednam House water Mr. Drummond killed an 18lb. salmon. On the Sprouston water Mr. Main, fishing-tackle manufacturer, Jermyn-street, London, had a fish of 7lb. On Wednesday (yesterday) Mr. W. A. Sommerville had one 24lb, on Sprouston water, and on the Floors water Mr. A. F. Thistlethwaite had 3lb., 23lb., 19lb., and 10lb. Mr. Drummond, on Ednam House water, had two, 13lb. and 13lb.; and on the Sprouston water, Mr. Main, London, had one of 20lb. Mr. Taylor had one on Hendersyde water, and Sir Geo. Waldier Griffiths had six. Mr. Jas. Moffat, on Floors lower water, one fish.—Max Wheel, Kelso, Nov. 20.

Closing of the Fishing Season on the Coquet.—A correspondent of the *Newcastle Journal* writes:—The rod fishing in this famous Northumbrian stream closed on Friday. Since the beginning of the month splendid sport has been obtained upon the upper reaches, at Rothbury and Hepple. The banks of the river have swarmed with lovers of the gentle craft; from the Thrum Mill to Thropton from 20 to 50 rods could have been counted in a day. Marvellous sport has been obtained. The Salmo ferox swimming the streams have risen readily at the fly, and enormous takes have been the result. One celebrated fisher upon the Little Tosson streams landed 34 fish on Saturday week, varying in weight from 4lb. to 16lb.; 55 were captured in the stream adjoining the Rothbury Mart, and scores have been taken above the bridge, on the casts running round the Haugh. Never in the memory of man has there been such sport obtained, and many exciting scenes are recorded. The fish being in fine condition, gamely fought for liberty. The most gaudy flies, red and yellow bodies, dressed with lead tinsel, have been found the most killing.

## THE TROUT FLY-ROD MR. MALLOCH USED AT THE TOURNAMENT.

Several English and American friends having asked us to give particulars of the rod with which Mr. Malloch cast thirty yards and won so many prizes at the Tournament, Mr. Malloch informs us that the rod was made of greenheart in three pieces, measured 11ft. 9in., and weighed 11oz.; the butt above the hand, ½ and 1-10in.; the first ferrule, ½in.; the second, ¼in.; the top tapered to a little less than ⅛in. outside measurement. The price of these rods, with two tops, is from 30s. to 40s.

## AN ADVENTURE WITH A STURGEON.

Last week, as Mr. Baly, of London, was fishing in the Channel between Emsworth and Chichester Harbour, he hooked a large fish. Being fortunately provided with a very stout rod and plenty of strong running line he was able to resist the efforts of the monster to escape, and after playing him for nearly five hours he succeeded in landing a sturgeon, which weighed 123½lb. The royal fish was at once despatched as a present to Her Majesty. The bait used was a bright spinning minnow.—*Court Journal*, August 23, 1884.

[Was he not foul hooked?—Ed.]

## MELANCHOLY ACCIDENT TO A SALMON FISHER.

### A RETIRED NAVAL OFFICER DROWNED.

The close of the salmon fishing on the Eden was marked by a melancholy fatality, resulting in the death of Mr. T. T. Murray, a retired chief inspector of machinery in the Navy. The deceased had been staying at No. 3, Chiswick-street, Carlisle, since February last, and on Friday morning, accompanied by a friend named Mr. Littlewood, who had been staying with him for the last three weeks for the fishing, they proceeded to Cotehill in the morning. Mr. Murray settled down to fish in the stream at Sykefoot, and was last seen alive about two o'clock by Mr. Littlewood, who observed him sitting on a stone dyke at the Cumwhitton side of the river partaking of lunch. He had promised Mr. Littlewood, who had gone to fish the Boathouse pool, that he would follow him shortly, but failing to turn up, Mr. Littlewood went down the river to look for him. Not finding his whereabouts, he proceeded to Mr. Ellwood's, of the Fish Garth Inn, and got his and his family's assistance to go in search of him. They observed his bag hanging on a tree at about the foot of Doctor's Flat, but could find no other traces of the missing angler. It was then suspected that he had fallen into the river, and search was made all Saturday for his body, but without success. The fishing-rod which the deceased carried was picked up by Mr. Robert Lawson, Graham Lodge, at the foot of Sykefoot stream, and his gaff by Mr. Wilson, Heads Nook, near where he had been last seen. The angel minnow was caught in a rock, and all the line run off the reel, giving rise to the supposition that he had hooked a fish and in following it in the river had lost his footing. The river, however, is very dangerous at this spot, and, as the water was heavy on Friday, there was a stronger current running than usual. The bed of the stream, too, is very dangerous, being covered with large cobbles and full of deep pots, so that it is probable that the deceased, who had on a pair of wading trousers, must have gone into the water, stumbled over one of these boulders, and fallen. Although he was an excellent swimmer, he would have had little chance of saving his life when once under water, the wading trousers being exceedingly dangerous when water gets in at the top of them. Inspector Nicholson and the police of the district were engaged all day on Sunday in dragging the river for the body of the deceased, but without success, and yesterday their labours were resumed when his body was found about half-past one o'clock at the foot of Sykefoot stream in 18ft. of water. His hat was, curiously enough, still on his head when the body was taken to the surface, and there were no bruises about him, while his face was calm and composed. His watch was stopped at two minutes to three o'clock. Mr. Murray had fished the waters and killed a good many salmon in that neighbourhood during the spring, and was quite aware of the dangers of the river. Mr. Murray was a Scotchman by birth, but had been residing mostly about Plymouth. During his naval career he had seen some active service, having been in action with the Riff pirates at Cape Tres-Forcas, in the *Prometheus* in 1854, and was engaged on the *Basilisk* in the Baltic during the Russian War in 1855, for which he held the Baltic medal. He was an authority on machinery, and was much respected in the Navy. Saturday being the last day of the rod fishing on the Eden, he had made arrangements to leave for London yesterday, proceeding afterwards to Plymouth, and had packed up his trunks and everything preparatory to departure. It may be mentioned that it is four and a half years since a salmon fisher was drowned in the lower waters of the Eden, Mr. Joseph Routledge being drowned near Wetheral in March, 1880.

Abuse of Railway Privilege Tickets.—In consequence of its having come to the knowledge of Prince Bismarck that German members of Parliament are given to abusing the privilege they have enjoyed of travelling, when on Parliamentary duty, free on the railways, he has ordered that in future the tickets are only to be available between Berlin and the place at which the member resides. People who would scorn to steal a halfpenny seem to consider it no wrong to cheat a railway company.

Inspector Isaac Hall, late Superintendent of the Trent Fishery District in Derbyshire and Staffordshire, having retired from the service of the Trent Commissioners, has been made head keeper at Levens Hall, Westmoreland, the seat of Capt. Josceline Bagot, brother to Mr. Alan Bagot. The position entailing the care of a salmon river, grouse moor, and deer park, it need hardly be said that Mr. Hall has given satisfaction, and those who have profited by his care of the fish will be pleased at hearing of his appointment. The Trent Commissioners do not forget good and trusty servants such as Mr. Hall has proved. He is succeeded at Derby by Inspector Bradley.

Recollections of Nelson.—There is still living at Merton, in possession of all his faculties, a hale and hearty man, named Hudson, over ninety years old, who well remembers Lord Nelson as a visitor here, and who stood by the door of the postchaise in which, early on the morning of September 13th, 1805, the gallant admiral—so soon afterwards doomed to fall at Tralfalgar—drove off from Sir William Hamilton's gates. He states that, as a boy, he used often to see Nelson fishing in the Wandle, near the Abbey Mill, and sauntering with Sir William and Lady Hamilton about their pretty grounds, which extended on both sides of the high road. The admiral would often stop and speak kindly to the boys who were at play in the street, and who regarded his weather-beaten form and features possibly with all the more reverence because of the fruit and the pence which he would bestow on the youngsters. Two cottages at the bottom of the Abbey Lane, he says, were built by Lord Nelson for his coachman and gardener—so entirely had a community of goods been carried out by this affectionate trio; in one of these he and his wife, a daughter of Cribb, Nelson's gardener, have lived for upwards of half a century. This cottage is marked by a mulberry tree, which Nelson desired to be planted there. Over the mantelpiece of this little dwelling is a mirror in a gilt frame, which once formed part of the ornaments of Nelson's room in Sir William Hamilton's house, and this he and his wife treasure as their only relic of the admiral.—*Greater London.*

## UNDRESSED *VERSUS* DRESSED LINES.—RECIPE FOR DRESSING THEM.

By Major Traherne.

[As several correspondents have asked for a good dressing for lines, we think we cannot do better than repeat Major Traherne's useful instructions on the subject. If the line, after being dressed, is stretched and rubbed with a flannel on which powdered talc has been sprinkled, a very smooth surface is secured.—Ed.]

"I promised I would write a letter for insertion in the Fishing Gazette about salmon lines, and why dressed lines become, in so many cases, rotten after being a short time in use. There are few salmon fishers who have not experienced the disappointment and annoyance caused by the loss of a good fish owing to using what has turned out to be rotten tackle that was considered quite sound only a very short time previously. To those as well as the angling public the subject must be of some interest, and as I think it well deserves to be ventilated, I venture to give my opinion. I think the rotting of dressed lines is caused by their not being allowed to remain long enough in the dressing that is used for them to get thoroughly saturated with it. Gold size, or other drying solution, is mixed with the dressing, and the object being to get the thing done as quickly as possible, the lines do not get fair play. Let any one take a line that has never been used and cut off the end of it with a sharp scissors—in nine cases out of ten he will find that it is hollow, and that the dressing has not penetrated to the interior; therefore, it stands to reason that if there should be a flaw in any part of it that gets immersed in the water when in use (which is often caused by its being accidentally trodden on or bruised by coming into contact with stones, bushes, stumps of trees, &c., on the river bank when casting) the water will make its way through the flaw and gradually fill up the hollow; and as it would in such a case be impossible to dry the line in consequence of the outside of it being waterproof, it must soon become rotten. The same would apply to a solid plaited line; but it would not be so easy to detect the imperfection in the dressing. Doubtless lines get rotten from various other causes; but I am of opinion that the one I have mentioned lies at the root of the evil. This, however, I will venture to say, may be avoided, if the following directions are attended to:—

"In dressing a line, I would allow it to remain in the solution that is used for at least a fortnight or three weeks, so as to allow it to be thoroughly saturated, and the dressing to become, when dried, as it were, part and parcel of the line. This I hold to be absolutely necessary; and a line so treated would be impervious to wet, and should last for years. July and August are the best months for the drying process. I would, therefore, commence operations by putting the line or lines to soak in the dressing early in June, so as to have the full benefit of the drying in those months when the temperature is the highest during the year. In drying (which will take a long time), the line, when taken out of the dressing, should be fastened at both ends at full length about 5ft. from the ground, to two poles placed horizontally in the ground in a garden or field where it cannot be meddled with. Remove all superfluous dressing by passing the hand gently two or three times down the line from end to end. Then, as there will be always a certain amount of accumulation of the dressing at the centre of the bend which will run down from both ends, finish off by removing this with a sponge or flannel. When it is tolerably dry, dip it again in the solution for a few hours, and repeat the process of removing the superfluous dressing. The longer it is left to dry the better. Take every opportunity, when weather permits, of putting it out in the open air, and when in the house, hang it up in a dry place in large coils. The most perfect specimens of dressed lines I ever saw were those that were exhibited by Mr. W. Wells Ridley at the International Fisheries Exhibition last year; but such excellence can only be attained by the aid of a glazing machine.

"For my own use I prefer a 40-yard solid plait silk line tapered at both ends, undressed, attached to a back line of about eighty yards. I find that it is as pleasant to fish with as a dressed line, and will last much longer, and I have not the trouble of dressing it. If any of my brother anglers should feel inclined to try one, I will engage they will not be disappointed.

"I find that I have written at much greater length than I at first intended. However, if you think the matter of sufficient interest, you are welcome to insert my letter."

## THE DERBY LIVE-BAIT HARNESS.

In a letter we published last week, Mr. T. Whyman, of Derby, described what he calls a live-bait humane tackle for pike, which has been invented by Mr. W. Martin, fishing-tackle maker, 3, London-road, Derby. In a footnote we said we would give it a trial and report on it, at the same time pointing out that many tackles of this nature had been tried and found useless. We have given it a good trial, and find that it answers admirably, and with a few improvements ought to have a large sale. It is very easily put on, in the way described by Mr. Whyman. We cast the same bait dozens of times thirty or forty yards, from a Nottingham reel, and at the end of three hours it was as lively as ever, and then taken by a jack, which had both double hooks in him, after only ten seconds' grace before tightening on him. Another bait was on nearly as long as the first, and when released swam away at once as lively as when taken out of the bait can. The advantages of this tackle are:

1. No hook is inserted in the live bait; it is not injured in any way, and consequently lives and remains lively.
2. You can make repeated long casts with it without fear of its flying off.
3. Two double hooks being secured to the harness (one on each side the bait), there is less chance of a pike which has seized the bait getting off without being hooked.

The only improvements we can suggest to Mr. Martin are, that in place of the thin cord, he should use a bit of fine flat braid less than ⅛in. wide, and make the ends of the catch, or "cleat," under the belly-plate which supports the fish, a trifle longer. A bit of flattened metal tube ½in. long to pass the double gimp through would sit closer to the fish's back, and not work up like the loose ring. It would be better still if he could make this sliding tube double in one piece, like the double barrel of a gun, and only just large enough to take the gimp. The gimp being double, should be only half the size of that in the sample sent, and five or six inches is quite long enough between the bait and the point where the double gimp ends are fastened together. A spring swivel (like that on a watch-chain) put on at this point is a great convenience, as you can then use your stained stout gut trace for spinning if you want to change. The secret of the success of this tackle is the slightly concave belly-plate which supports the whole fish, the cord merely preventing the fish slipping out in front or behind. It is merely a thin bit of tin or white metal which harmonises well with the colour of the bait. We confess to having always considered the having to put a hook into a live bait as an unpleasant necessity, and are, therefore, really glad to recommend Mr. Martin's very simple, effective, and cheap little invention to anglers. An angling friend who was with us when we tried it was equally convinced that it really is a good snare to the fish, and not merely a delusion to the angler. The old dodge of carrying a little bag of bran in which to dip the live bait after taking it out of the bait-can is a very good one, as it gives you a good hold when baiting—like sand on a lob-worm.

P.S.—Mr. Martin informs us he will certainly make the improvements we have suggested, and also use German silver for the belly plate.

## IMPORTANT DECISION AFFECTING ANGLERS.

### Alleged Salmon Poaching in Aberdeen.

At a sitting of the High Court of Justiciary, held in Edinburgh on Thursday, the 13th inst., the Lord Justice-Clerk, Lord Young, and Lord Craighill on the Bench, Thomas Wilsone, solicitor, Aberdeen, clerk to the District Board of the River Dee, appealed, at the instance of the Marquis of Huntly and others, the members of that Board, against a judgment given in the Sheriff Court of Aberdeen, under the Salmon Fisheries Act, in which John Harvey, labourer or salmon fisher, Thornton-place, Guestrow; George Ritchie, Gardener's-lane, Justice-street, and George Watt Taylor, West North-street, Aberdeen, were charged with a contravention of the 21st section of the Act. The particular charge brought against the respondents was that on the 9th September last, in or near Langstane-place, Aberdeen, they had in their possession eighty-five salmon, sea trout, or other fish of the salmon kind, taken within the limits of the Act between the commencement of the latest and the termination of the earliest annual close time in force at the time for the district. In the Aberdeen Court the Sheriff found it proved that on the day in question Taylor and the other two were in Langstane-place; that on his seeing an inspector of fishings watching them Taylor ran off, and while being pursued he dropped a bag with the fish in it; and that in the possession of the other respondents there was found a net of an illegal mesh, with which he entertained no doubt that the fish had been caught. It was not, however, proved by the complainer when or in what district they had been taken. His Lordship found that it was lawful under the Act to fish for and take salmon with rod and line between 26th August, the end of the net fishing season, and 31st October, the close of the rod fishing, and therefore assolised them, and found them entitled to 12s. 6d. expenses.

In the Justiciary Appeal Court, Sheriff Thomson appeared for the appellant, and argued that the Aberdeen Sheriff's judgment was not a good one within the meaning of the Act.

Lord Young said if a salmon could be lawfully caught at that time in Scotland there could have been no offence. Even though it was close time within the district, if it was open time 100 or 150 miles off there was no offence.

In answer to the Lord Justice-Clerk, Sheriff Comrie Thomson said he thought the words "close time" were used with reference to the whole period during which the nets were prohibited.

The Lord Justice-Clerk said the whole question here was whether the words "close time" meant close time for nets alone.

After a considerable amount of discussion, the Lord Justice-Clerk said this was a case of very great importance. It was quite certain that the 21st clause of the Act of 1868 could only take effect where the salmon was found in possession at a period when it could not lawfully be obtained from any of the streams in Scotland; otherwise, the close time would be unworkable.

Lord Young thought the clause applied to the latest period of close time, not only with reference to the space or territory of Scotland, but also to the mode of taking it. That was his individual opinion. No doubt these were salmon poachers, and ought not to be mercifully dealt with. The same legal considerations would have applied exactly to any gentleman in Aberdeen who had a salmon in his larder at the time.

Lord Craighill concurred with the observations of the others.

The appeal was dismissed with five guineas costs.

[As salmon poaching on our northern rivers is getting far too prevalent nowadays a much larger staff of watchers is obviously required if the Fishery Boards would secure the poachers "in the act," and have them properly punished, and not "let off," as is too often the case.—Ed.]

## DR. HAMILTON'S WORK ON FLY FISHING FOR SALMON, TROUT, AND GRAYLING.

The whole of the 10s. large-paper edition of this new work having been exhausted, and the demand still continuing, the publishers—Sampson Low, Marston, Searle, and Rivington, 188, Fleet-street, London—will give 12s. for any copies returned to them at once, clean and uncut.

## "DEATH IN THE POT."

A friend, who owns a capital bit of water on the Wandle, called on us the other day, and in course of conversation mentioned the following very curious incident:—He was watching a lot of trout in a mill tail and observed a dead fish. A closer inspection showed that it had its head buried in a tin pot. He procured a pole with a hook at the end, and fished it out, and found that the fish had got its head beyond the gills, which were much rubbed from the fish's endeavours to escape, stuck fast in an old meat tin, the lid of which had been bent inwards. On examining the tin he found in the bottom a lot of water shrimps. The fish had doubtless seen the shrimps, and in his endeavour to get them out had got caught and killed in this curious way. A pretty little addition to "Æsop's Fables," with the attendant moral, might be made out of this fact.

## A FISHERY BOARD FOR THE ISLE OF ELY.

### Freshwater Fisheries Act, 1884.

Mr. Pell gave notice that at the next Adjourned Quarter Sessions he would move "That all the rivers lying wholly or partly in this Isle be formed into a fishery district." He put this notice on the agenda on the the proposition of Dr. Cooper, President of the Cambridge and Ely Angling Association, and Mr. Hicks. The same thing had been done with regard to the rivers in the county of Cambridge. If the proposition was adopted they would have to appoint a Board which would have power to specify the size of the meshes of nets and make necessary rules for the preservation of small fish. If they would consent to a joint Board for the Isle of Ely and county of Cambridge, the same Act as was in force for the county would apply to them. He thought it would commend itself to the Court as tending to the preservation of the fish, and might also be a source of profit.

# CLUB REPORTS.

## THE ANGLERS' ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the above was held at the Foresters' Hall on Monday, Nov. 17th. The usual preliminaries disposed of, the question of the privileges on the North-Western Railway cropped up. The president informed the meeting that at a meeting held with the North-Western authorities, Mr. Neale acknowledged that no case of abuse of privilege-tickets had occurred on that line so far as London anglers were concerned, with whom he expressed his sympathy, and the matter might probably be reconsidered as to regranting the privileges, at least to such stations as were situated near waters rented by the association. It was resolved to ask the South-Western to grant the privilege-tickets from Putney, and the Great Eastern from Park. A case of an old ticket having been presented at Liverpool-street was brought forward. Inquiry was resolved on. A case as to the abuse of the privilege-ticket on the South-Western Railway was then gone into, and the ticket was declared to be forfeited. Among other business it was resolved to arrange a visiting list. It was also mentioned that this association alone had contributed towards the reward to the honorary bailiffs who effected the capture of the poachers and net on the Lea recently. The meeting was somewhat uncomfortably crowded, forty clubs answering to the roll call, several having left before the call. It would, perhaps, be as well, instead of calling the roll for each delegate, to write his name and the name of his club on a card and give it in. If calling the roll could be done away with, much time would be saved.

## ANGLERS' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

Since my last report, I beg to acknowledge, with thanks, the receipt of 15s. 8d. from the donation box of the Hand-in-Hand Angling Society. The next meeting will take place on Friday, Nov. 28th, when the gentleman of the committee will oblige by their attendance to arrange for the concert, which is to take place on Monday, Dec. 1st, at the Foresters' Hall in aid of the funds of the Anglers' Benevolent Society.—R. GHURNEY, Sec.

## ACTON PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

After transacting their ordinary business on Tuesday evening at their club-house, the George and Dragon, at which two new members were made, and the takes of fish read over by the newly-appointed secretary, Mr. Williams, from which it appeared that Mr. E. Eydmann caught some jack at Shepperton, and Mr. Pike and W. Howell some perch, roach, and dace from Uxbridge, the members and their friends, about 30 in number, adjourned to the large room of this famous old hotel, and held a smoking concert. Some excellent songs were well rendered by Mr. Hubble, E. Richardson, E. Churchill, W. H. Smith, F. H. West, Clark, Archdeacon, Gordon, W. Cook, W. Howell, and his three brothers. Mr. J. Blake, a newly-elected member, presided at the piano, assisted by Mr. Gordon. This concert is the first of an intended series, as the club have resolved to have one every Tuesday evening at 9 o'clock, when all our piscatorial friends are welcome.—W. E.

## AMICABLE BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

Mr. Taylor saved the club from a blank by weighing in two jack. The annual supper will take place on Monday, December 1st, instead of November 24th, as stated by the rule. General meeting night, November 27th.—J. WOOLEDGE.

## THE BERESFORD ANGLING SOCIETY.

The ordinary weekly meeting of the above was held on Thursday, Nov. 13th, at Grove Tavern, Camberwell. The chair being taken by Mr. W. R. Burgess, the business of the evening was the election of secretary in place of Mr. J. J. Frei, who was compelled to resign the post in consequence of the increasing pressure of his business, which prevented him from fulfilling the duties of the club in the able manner which he had hitherto done. A hearty vote of thanks was given to Mr. Frei, who still remains a full member. Mr. H. T. Barrett was then duly elected to the office of secretary in accordance with the rules of the club. It was also decided to increase the number of members, and to fill up one or two vacancies that have occurred during the year. As this is a club of some high standing, a favourable opportunity occurs to anglers wishing to join this society. Application to be made on Thursday evenings at 9 o'clock to the secretary, Grove Tavern, Camberwell-grove.

## BROMPTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of the above spent a very enjoyable evening last Wednesday, the day appointed for the supper fished for on the 26th October at Bourne-end, the stewards (Messrs. Brown, Burbidge, and Roach) providing a very substantial and plentiful spread satisfactory to all parties, as was well shown by the hearty vote of thanks given them, and ably responded to by Mr. Brown on his behalf. The toast of the visitors being drunk with musical honours, Mr. Hobden, of the Hammersmith United, responding in a very effective manner, the rest of the evening being devoted to harmony, Mr. C. Brown, chairman, Mr. E. Saunders, vice-chairman, Mr. Peckam presiding at the piano. The following members and friends contributed to a very pleasant evening :—Mr. Herbert, "Powder Monkey," given with good effect ; Mr. Moodie "The Midship Mite" ; Mr. Mansell, "The Village Blacksmith," encored with "Thy Voice," &c. ; and Mr. Kirton, "Never Round on a Pal," and a solo on the banjo ; Mr. Cecil, "Paddy Stole the Rope," encored with "Far Away," in his usual style ; Mr. T. Bently with a good chorus, "Sweet Singing Birds" ; Mr. Cobb, a solo on the banjo and the "Ignoramus Nigger," in good form ; Mr. Marsten, "The Hungry Lodger," accompanying himself on the banjo ; Master H. Brown, "The Harp that Once through Tara's Halls" ; Master E. Brown, "Tom Bowline," with great success, giving good promise for the future ; Mr. E. Saunders, in his usual telling style, "The Little Hero" ; Mr. Alexander, a few steps ; Mr. Sparrow, "Jack's Yarn," with good effect ; Mr. Peckam, in good comic style, "The Speaker's Eye" ; finishing up with "Auld Lang Syne," and "All Smiling Faces on Sunday." Mr. Dutton, roach and dace, and Mr. Roach, a good show of whiting.—W. DUTTON.

## THE CLAPTON.

The ordinary weekly meeting was held on Monday last, Mr. George Colls in the chair. The minutes of the preceding were read, approved, and signed ; the ordinary business was also carried through. Catches reported were : Mr. H. Graddon, a nice little jack of 4½lb., from Ponder's End ; Mr. Binks, a tray of jack from the Lea ; Mr. G. Colls, a good take of jack from Crawley ; Mr. Tidbury, some good perch from Day's water ; there were also other minor catches reported. We had a small muster owing to many of our members actively interesting themselves in the Election. The outing settled for the 6th December was again considered, and the secretary stated that in a few days he should send a full notice to each member. On Monday next we have a vocal and instrumental concert (smoking) after business, when I hope to see a large muster. Anglers from other societies are invited ; I can guarantee a cordial welcome and an enjoyable evening.—HENRY HOWSE, hon. sec.

## COBDEN ANGLING SOCIETY.

The majority of our members took the Thames for it on November 16th. As a few of the members went there on November 9th, and had some very good takes of fish, it was rather enticing for others to follow ; but they were not so successful as on November 9th. But we had a few fish brought home by the following members : Messrs. Howland, Maples, Tucker, and Stead.—C. REEVES, sec.

## GOOD INTENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of this club fished at Ware on the 16th for ten prizes. The fish being dead off, only two of the prizes were taken, and those by Mr. J. Bell and Mr. George Fortiscue. The remainder will be fished for on the 23rd, to go where you please.—R. MURPHY.

## GREAT YARMOUTH PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The meeting of this society was held as usual on Tuesday, the chair being occupied by the president, Mr. D. S. Bayfield, faced by Mr. C. K. Lamb. Disappointment has been felt by all the Yarmouth anglers, as Thursday, the day appointed for great catches of jack, ended in a blank, only illustrating that one may rule a match but not the weather. Mr. Bunn, one of the members, exhibited some specimens of the cork winged wrass caught by him at Ventnor, in May ; and by his accounts good sport is afforded by angling in the rocky gullies, where they may be seen around the seaweed as the tide ebbs. They take small shrimp readily, and, Mr. Bunn informs us, boys easily catch fifty a day, about six inches in length. I only wish we had some near Yarmouth, as whatever may be the reports of the great catches made in these waters, our society really wants some practical sport ; and I am also of opinion that others require it also. A London angler informed us that he read in one journal that Thurne Mouth was splendidly free from salt water. This seems incredible, as the person catching eels with his net miles further on took a whiting out of his eel net ; so really there can be but poor and uncertain sport at present. Experiments have been made on fish covered over with fungus that all in the aquariums suffer from ; and having removed it from specimens of roach and dace foreign to these waters with good effect, the fish now are alive, and to all appearances healthy, only minus some parts of either fin or tail that have been eaten away by this so-called disease. I shall feel great pleasure in sending you particulars of the treatment that I only trust will enable us to keep alive the occupants of our aquariums without the aid of spirits or spirit power. I shall give them two weeks, which, I think, will fairly decide if the remedy is a good one or not, believing the temptation would be too strong for others beside me if we had to administer spirits, such as the dew of Ben Nevis on a December morning ; so, should my remedy fail, I would rather throw up the diploma than give way to temptation where principle would be involved. So until then, Mr. Marston, I will patiently watch and wait. By the way, I saw Mr. Green, of Norwich, on Thursday, with a good 3lb. perch, and some ten jack, weighing about 60lb. gross from three rods ; but they come from the other side of Jordan, the water being like what the excisemen are looking for in some of our outlandish spots—viz., private still.—J. LARK, sec.

## GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

The usual weekly meeting of the above society was held on Tuesday evening at the Mason's Hall Tavern, Mason's Avenue, Basinghall-street, the Rev. J. Walker, M.A., in the chair. The minutes of the preceding meeting were read and confirmed. Mr. J. Fitzhardinge Rose was unanimously elected a member of the society. The chairman announced that an entertainment would be given on the 9th December, which would comprise dissolving views of the Upper Thames, illustrated by a powerful oxyhydrogen lantern. The description of the various views would be given by Mr. Parker, and a selection of music would be performed on the same evening. A vote of thanks having been passed to the chairman, the meeting was brought to a conclusion in the usual manner.—H.

## HAMMERSMITH UNITED ANGLING SOCIETY.

Very few of our members fished for the prizes in the last club match, owing, I believe, to the prevalence of coughs, colds, headaches, and business. The result was that on the 16th inst. the third prize only was won, and that by Mr. Penney ; and on the Thursday the first prize was taken by a very pretty show of roach and barbel from Datchet. The other prizes were not taken. They will, therefore revert to the funds of the society.—H.

## HOXTON BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

On the 16th we had a fair show of fish, J. Osborne having 14½lb. of handsome roach ; H. Steadman, 5¼lb. of chub ; A. Dean, roach ; J. Morgan, 2¾lb. jack ; and M. Norman, jack 4½lb. The members will have their first outing for prizes this season. The river Stort has been selected, from Roydon Lock to Harlow Lock. To leave London by the first train on the morning of the 23rd inst ; to alight at Burnt Mill Station ; to count fish at the Greyhound Weir, Burnt Mill station at 5 o'clock. The fish to be weighed in the club-room at 10 o'clock.—R. GHURNEY, sec.

## IZAAK WALTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

During the past week only two members have weighed in : they were Mr. A. C. Critchfield, who had 39lb. 8oz. of jack, and Mr. J. W. Morgan, who had 21lb. 6lb. of the same kind. The half-yearly distribution of special prizes will take place on Wednesday next, the 26th inst., on which occasion the members will have a supper. Those members who intend being present at the supper will kindly inform the secretary not later than the 23rd inst.—H. B.

## THE KING'S LYNN ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

The King's Lynn Angling Association held their second smoking concert at the club-room, Crown Hotel, 13th Nov., the chair being occupied by F. Ludby, Esq. A very pleasant evening was spent.—PISTOL.

## LIVERPOOL CENTRAL ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

The members of the above association held their second annual dinner on Monday evening last, at their club-room, 120, Dale-street. Dinner was on table at 8 o'clock prompt, when there was a capital muster to partake of the catering of host and hostess Armitage, who supplied the usual courses in rare style for the occasion. On entering the room it was a perfect scene for an angler's eye. An aquarium at each end of the table stocked with a choice collection of the finny tribe, the table was also decked with ferns, and in the centre was a pyramid of ivy adorned with bullrushes, moss, berries, and flowers of various kinds. Dinner being over we had the usual toast to "H. M. the Queen and Royal Family," followed by a selection of operatic airs by Mr. Liddington on a powerful dulcimer, the rest of the toasts intervening with the various songs given by the following gentlemen : Messrs. R. Poston, J. Poston, R. McQueen, G. Price, D. Brooks, C. Rimmer, and G. Smith. Among the songs of the last-mentioned gentleman was the "Blue-tail Fly," which suited the occasion immensely, and was the cause of an extra amount of applause. As it is now drawing near the small hours of the morning we conclude our programme with an essay on our last match, by Mr. B. Lukes, entitled "A Day in North Wales, and the Angler's Resorts on the Journey." Refilling and lighting the angler's companion we button up, as the night air is rather chilly, and disperse with hopes of good sport and plenty of it in the coming season.—R. S. MCQUEEN, hon. sec.

## NORTH-EASTERN ANGLING SOCIETY.

Only three members of the above out on the 16th inst., two of whom weighed in fish—Fletcher, barbel from Twickenham, and Mr. Goll, jack from Cookham.—G. T. FLETCHER, sec.

## OTAGO (NEW ZEALAND) ANGLERS ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of the above society was held on September 16th in the Douglas Hotel, when there were about a dozen members in attendance. The president (Mr. P. F. Stoddart) occupied the chair, and the following report was read and adopted :—"Your Committee have to report that the season 1883-84 has been a good fishing season so far as sport was concerned, but the association has been very poorly supported, and, therefore, the matches were not up to former years. The funds would not allow of any expense for prizes, and it is to be regretted that out of such a large number of licenseholders so few took an interest in this association, which is expressly formed to protect anglers." The following is the list of matches held during the past season :—November 9, 1883.—Spring competition : First prize, Mr. G. M. Marshall, 19 fish, weight 19lb. (Shag River) ; second prize, Mr. W. D. Smith, 8 fish, weight 11lb. 15½oz. (Shag River) ; third prize, Mr. R. A. Johnston, 28 fish, weight 10lb. 13oz. (Waitati). December 7, 1883.—Summer competition : First prize, Mr. G. M. Marshall, weight of fish 21lb. 1oz. ; second prize, Mr. W. D. Smith, weight of fish 20lb. 6oz. Match for gold medal presented by the Otago Acclimatisation Society (for fly fishing only) held on March 7, 1884.—First prize, Mr. James Wilkie, 12 fish, 6lb. 8oz.; second prize, Mr. S. Thompson, 9 fish, 6lb. 7½oz. March 21, 1882.—Autumn competition: First prize, Mr. W. D. Smith, 14 fish, 18lb. 4oz.; second prize, Mr. G. M. Marshall, 17 fish, 12lb. 2oz. Total weights of the two highest competitors for the season, Mr. G. M. Marshall, 52lb. 4oz. (society's gold medal); Mr. W. D. Smith, 50lb. 9½oz. As regards fishing generally, the Shag River was greatly run upon by our members last season, and with excellent results. The baskets obtained by some of our crack anglers were exceptionally heavy. Messrs. Chisholm, Wilkie, Marshall, W. D. Smith. S. Thompson, and Connell have all a splendid record of the season. Mr. Marshall on one occasion caught, in two days, 77lb. of trout, which is our best record for this river. Mr. Chisholm, in a day and a half, caught over 50lb. This shows conclusively what expert anglers can do on this stream. This season we propose remodelling our Association on entirely new lines, which will be explained at this meeting. One of our oldest members has promised to undertake the secretaryship, and we have no doubt that under his management the Otago Anglers' Association will in the future be as prosperous a society as the anglers of Dunedin would wish. Mr. Wilkie has presented the Association with an American split-cane rod, to be competed for during the season, valued at £6 6s. It is purposed to have regular correspondents at the various fishing centres, who will furnish the secretary with information concerning the various streams in their immediate neighbourhood. The secretary will also visit personally the most accessible streams from Dunedin, and will combine his experience of such with that received from correspondents in the form of periodical report, weekly or fortnightly as he may see fit, which will be issued free to members of this Association, and to non-members for a fee of 1s. 6d. each report. The report will describe state of various rivers, baits, means of access, accommodation obtainable, charges weight of baskets lately obtained, and all other matters interesting to anglers. All that is required of the anglers of Dunedin is their hearty co-operation to make this, the pioneer Angling Club of New Zealand, a lasting success.—Pringle F. Stoddart, Chairman of Committee. *Office Bearers.*—The following gentlemen were elected office bearers for the ensuing season:—President, Mr. P. F. Stoddard; vice-presidents, Mr. R. S. Smith and Mr. R. Chisholm; auditor, Mr. T. Peake; treasurer, Mr. W. D. Smith; secretary, Mr. G. M. Marshall; committee, Messrs. G. Munro, J. Wilkie, S. Thompson, C. Duncan, J. M'Callum, A. Boot, R. A. Johnston, and J. C. Short. *Prizes.*—The first competition for the gold medal given by the society was fixed for October 24, and there will be three competitions before the medal is finally awarded. Prizes will also be given, in addition to the medal, for the first competition—viz., for heaviest basket of fish, for second heaviest ditto, and for heaviest half-dozen fish. A series of competitions will also take place for an American-built cane rod, of the value of £6 6s., presented by Mr. James Wilkie; and a number of other prizes are promised, of which the conditions of winning will be advertised. *New Members.*—Some 30 new members were proposed and seconded, and hopes were expressed that the ensuing season would prove a noteworthy one in the matter of large baskets of fish.

## THE PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The ordinary weekly meeting of this society took place at Ashley's Hotel, Covent-garden, on Monday evening last. Amongst those present were Hessrs. Gray, Fennings, Foreman, Blamey, Arter, Gillatt, Robinson, Sachs, Pattisson, Lemaine, Harden, Meyer, Blundell, Bath, H. H. Brown, H. B. Brown, Jesse, Aldridge, Booker, Walker, Goodger, J. Lander (hon. sec.), T. Huggett, C. C. Blundell, Rev. G. Sumner, &c. Mr. Ghant was a visitor. Mr. R. C. Blundell was unanimously voted to the chair. The minutes of the two previous meetings were read and confirmed. Mr. Lemaine called the attention the members to a concert in aid of the Anglers' Benevolent Society, to be held in the Foresters' Hall on 1st Dec. next, under the patronage of Messrs. Spreckley, Geen, Murray, Marston, &c. Mr. Lemaine regretted to see the small amount of support the Anglers' Benevolent Society received from those whom it was intended to benefit—viz., the poorer class of anglers. He and many others had steadily subscribed ever since the formation of the society. He trusted the concert would be a success and the funds augmented thereby. Tickets could be had of the hon. sec. Mr. Sachs coincided with the remarks made by Mr. Lemaine; he was also an annual subscriber, and wished it better times. It was well worthy of the support of the great number of anglers in the metropolis. The hon. sec. announced the next smoking concert to take place on Dec. 15th. A very cordial and friendly letter was read from our hon. member Mr. Brougham. This gentleman is the able secretary of the T.A.P.S. He congratulated us on the increase of our influence, and the great vitality existing at the present time in our society. He had the pleasure of reporting our meetings in several of the daily newspapers. The reading of this letter was followed by loud cheers. Mr. Kennings officially announced that the Piscatorial Society's ball will take place at Willis's rooms on Jan. 28th. From the large number of tickets already applied for, it is anticipated the ball will be a great success. He trusted so great that it would become an annual affair. A list of stewards will shortly be issued, so gentlemen wishing to act in that capacity will kindly intimate their intention forthwith. The hon. sec. passed round for inspection a new spring-slip triangle which could be attached to a line at any point without the trouble of whipping on—a very serviceable hook which can be obtained in all sizes. There being a very fine show of fish on the table, the chairman rose and proposed the healths of the successful anglers Mr. Huggett and Mr. Fennings. He was proud to occupy the position of chairman with such a splendid show before him. The weights were as follows:—Mr. Huggett showed four trays of pike weighing 105lb., the four largest fish weighing nearly 40lb. Mr. Fennings a nice tray of roach and chub. The healths having been enthusiastically drunk, Mr. Fennings rose and explained that he turned out early in the morning; the weather was very cold, and on the river side a local wit asked him if he would not like to have a fire. He tried the roach with paste—no good; then the chub with cheese—same result; he then tried the tail end of the lob, and captured the tray of fish shown. There was no angler there besides himself, except a solitary hern who was doing well until a large hawk disturbed him, which also disturbed many other birds in the neighbourhood. The Welland was notoriously netted, and the river thereby almost denuded of fish; the worst part of all that the fish so poached were sold for a mere trifle, so that the locality was deprived of the pleasure of sport, and no one profited thereby. Mr. Huggett, who was cheered on rising, thanked the gentlemen for their kind expressions. He certainly was proud of the show of pike on the table. The result of his experience on this occasion was that snap-fishing was sometimes more efficient than spinning. The friend who accompanied him persistently fished the water spinning; he took less in number and smaller fish than Mr. H. captured with the snap. The pike at the present were well out in the stream, and not occupying the usual winter quarters—viz., the lay-byes. They were all taken with single triangle-tackle, specimens of which he handed round for inspection. Rev. G. Sumner (who is an enthusiastic trout-salmon angler) congratulated Mr. Huggett upon his fine take. He was happy in many ways to see so many pike upon the table. He hoped Mr. H. would continue to take as many as possible out of all rivers, especially trout and salmon ones. He regretted the present low state of the rivers, as the poachers had had such a chance. The splendid river Dove had almost been ruined by them, the grayling especially falling victims. He had seen some villainous nets on the end of very long poles, and in times of flood or thick water these were used, and the results were positively dreadful. He trusted societies like our own would do all in their power to prevent such depredations. Mr. Sachs and Mr. Foreman also complimented Mr. Huggett. Mr. Foreman said it would put other members on their mettle. He for one would try and beat the show on the table that evening. The Chairman proposed the "Continued Success of the Piscatorial Society," which was heartily responded to. The health of "The Chairman" was next proposed, and he was thanked very cordially for the way in which he had carried out the duties of the chair. Mr. Blundell responded, and the meeting terminated.—T. H.

## STANLEY ANGLERS SOCIETY.

Since my last report we have had some very good trays of fish shown by members of this society, and the following are the weights of the various takes:—Mr. T. Godsell, nine roach 3lb. 41¼b.; Mr. W. R. Humby, 28 roach 16lb. 8oz., and 28 roach 17lb. 9½oz. (five of these fish were over 1lb., the heaviest weighing 1lb. 9½oz.) also one perch 7oz.; Mr. Nokes, two roach 1lb. 8oz.; Mr. T. A. Sanders, one pike 7lb. 5oz.; Mr. C. Scull, one roach 1lb. 2½oz., 22 ditto 13lb. 2oz., one dace 4¼oz., one perch 6½oz., two rudd 1lb. 6½oz., 11 gudgeon 3¾oz.; Mr. C. P. Wheatstone, seven pike 19lb. 11oz.; Mr. A. F. Wrightson, four perch 3lb. 3¼oz., one ditto 8¾oz., two ditto 1lb. 4oz., one ditto 13¾oz., three tench 10lb. 8¾oz., the two largest scaling respectively 3lb. 15¾oz. and 3lb. 15¼oz.—G. E. W.

## STOKE-ON-TRENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

The third contest of the season in connection with the above society took place on Monday, Nov. 10th. The party, 19 in number, started from Stoke in saloon carriage, kindly provided by the North Stafford Railway Company, about 8.15 a.m., a dense fog prevailing, but by the time the party reached the rendezvous the sun had broken through and quite dispersed the obnoxious vapour. After leaving the train, a walk of about 20 minutes brought the party to the waterside, which quickly presented a very lively appearance, one and all seemingly bent on going in for a day's roaching, and in a very few minutes several brace of those fish were bagged, which told very plainly that roach were on the feed. The sport was good until about 2 o'clock, when the fish seemed to get very shy, and the angler had to do all he knew to induce them to take his dainty lure. One angler, mixing his bait "paste," with a small quantity of whiskey from his flask, succeeded in capturing a very nice dish of fish. Shortly after 4 o'clock the party adjourned to the hotel at ——, when the inner man was refreshed, and at 6.5 p.m. started on their homeward journey, arriving at Stoke about 8 o'clock. The weighing in took place at the club house, the Roebuck Hotel, and on the creels being emptied showed some very nice catches had been made. For the six prizes offered the results were as follows:—1st, Mr. M. Hodgkinson, 6lb. 14½oz.; 2nd, Mr. W. Hassall, 4lb. 15½oz.; 3rd and 4th, Mr. J. Baily and Mr. E. Cocker tied with 4lb. 5oz. each; 5th, Mr. J. Fenn, 4lb. 3oz.; 6th, Mr. J. Morgan, 3lb. 12½oz. There were many other baskets from 2lb. to 3lb. made, and every competitor succeeded in catching fish. The day was beautiful and fine, and all were unanimous in declaring it to be one of the pleasantest that had taken place in connection with the society. During the evening Messrs. Hodgkinson, Baily, and Hassall sang some capital songs, which were much appreciated.—J. Hollins, hon. sec.

## UNITED LONDON FISHERIES SOCIETY.

I beg to inform the members holding privilege tickets from the Anglers' Association and the Central Association that the agreement for the Springwell Fishery, Harefields, having terminated, we have *no longer the right* of angling in that water. The members *have the right of fishing* in the following waters until further notice, as described on the instruction cards. No. 1.—The Pike and Anchor Fishery, Ponder's End, Great Eastern Railway. 2.—Old River Wey, from Weybridge Lock to Pyford Lock, London and South-Western Railway. 4.—Uxbridge Canal, from Bottle Bridge to Slough, Great Western Railway. 5.—Grand Junction Canal, from Batchworth Lock (No. 81), to Springwell Lock (No. 83), North-Western Railway. 6.—Grand Junction Canal, from Cheddington-road Bridge (No. 126), to Leighton and Lensdale-road Bridge (No. 114), North-Western Railway. 7.—The Smaller Lea, from High-road, Waltham-Lane, to Enfield Lock, Great Eastern Railway.—R. Ghurney, sec.

## WALTONIANS.

November 16: Mr. A. Putnam, roach, 7lb. 1½oz.; Mr. T. Watkins, roach, 10lb. 14½oz., also one fish, a jack, 6lb. 10½oz.; Mr. R. Dodge, roach, 6oz.—A. J. Marriott.

## WELLINGTON.

Twelve of our members fished for three prizes on the 16th inst. at Wateringbury, but only one was taken by Mr. Phillips, with one small roach. I have to thank those members of the Rodney, Anglers' Pride, St. Alban's, Deptford Brothers, and Dalston who made up our party, and am sorry there was not better sport; for, with the exception of Mr. Phillips, Mr. George Mayo, of the Dalston (a ½lb. roach), and a member of the Anglers' Pride (a couple of perch), the day was a blank, although 26 anglers tried all they knew. Mr. Walker weighed in some roach from the Thames. The other two prizes will be fished for on the 23rd inst. at Shepperton. The half-yearly meeting will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 3rd, by which date all prizes not yet sent in must be in the hahds of the society, and all subscriptions cleared up. A full attendance of members is particularly requested. On Wednesday two new members were proposed and seconded, and will be balloted for on the 26th. —W. W. Alexander, sec.

## WESTBOURNE PARK PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

Several members of this society fished a competition in the Thames, on the 16th inst., with a result that upwards of 50lb. of good barbel were weighed in during the evening, and proved also to satisfaction that a frost overnight does not altogether deprive them of their appetite. The two prizes offered were secured by Mr. H. Hulbert, 1st, with 31lb.; and Mr. T. Oatley, 2nd, with 11lb.—the best fish weighing 3¾lb. Mr. H. Thompson, Mr. Evans, and Mr. Harrison also contributed. During the week some good bream have been taken by Mr. Buttery, two of them weighing 9lb.

**Charge of Laying Night Lines.**—On Wednesday, at the Purslow Petty Sessions, before Messrs. Rocke, Whittaker, and Green, Benjamin Cox, Knighton, was charged by Mr. Edward Bromwell, water bailiff, Ludlow, with illegally laying night lines in the Teme, near Knighton, on Sept. 18th. Mr. G. Hawley Edwards, Shrewsbury, appeared for the Severn Board of Conservators. Edward Bromwell, water bailiff, Ludlow, said, from inquiries made by him, he went to Knighton and found that night lines had been laid in the Teme by the defendant in the parish of Llanvairwaterdine. Three lines were laid, and one trout had been killed. Defendant admitted laying the lines, and was fined 15s., including costs, it being the first case of the sort in that district.

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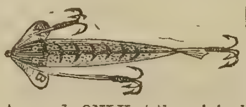

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Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only, and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith. Unless this rule be adhered to, no notice will be taken of such communications.

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# The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1884.

## THE PISCATORIAL SOCIETY'S BALL AT WILLIS'S ROOMS.

WE hear that the applications for tickets for this ball are very numerous indeed, and there is every probability of the affair being a great success. We trust the Committee will remember that an overcrowded ballroom is about as uncomfortable a place as a law-court when some great case is on.

## MAJOR TRAHERNE'S DRESSING FOR FLIES.

MAJOR TRAHERNE writes : "I have only just seen the article about dressing lines you have quoted from a former number of the GAZETTE. I see that the recipe for dressing is omitted. Perhaps you may like to give in your next. It is as follows : Mix a pint of linseed oil (not boiled oil) and a pint of copal varnish ; boil till it singes a feather. (This operation must be carried on in the open air, owing to the inflammable nature of the solution.) When cold it is ready for use."

## THE CONCERT IN AID OF THE ANGLERS' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

THE concert which is to be held in aid of the funds of the above Society at Foresters' Hall, Clerkenwell-road, on Monday evening next (December 1), promises to be very successful. Tickets, price 2s., 1s., and 6d. each, can be had of the Secretary, Mr. R. Ghurney, 10, Baches-street, Charles-square, Hoxton, N. Mr. Thomas Spreckley, the President of the Society, will be present. Among the artistes who have kindly volunteered their services are : Miss Kate Turner, Miss Edith Jones, Mrs. Lonsdale and Miss R. Lonsdale, Mr. B. Palmer, Mr. A. Bignell, Mr. G. Middleditch, Mr. E. Clarke, and Mr. J. Pitts ; solo pianoforte, Mrs. G. Clarke ; solo violoncello, Mr. F. Griffiths ; accompanist, Mr. C. Scrivener ; the whole under the direction of Mr. W. H. Page. We trust anglers will heartily support the promoters by attending in large numbers, and thus materially benefitting the good cause of the Anglers' Benevolent Society.

## DEATH OF DR. LLEWELYN THOMAS.

IT is with much regret we learn that Dr. Llewelyn Thomas died on the 26th inst. at his house in Weymouth-street, after three days' illness, at the early age of thirty-six. He was surgeon to the Central London Throat and Ear Hospital, aurist to the Jews' Deaf and Dumb School, Physician to the Royal Academy of Music, Guildhall School of Music, and to Trinity College, London. Dr. Thomas, who was a clever and enthusiastic angler, especially with fly for trout, was well known in the best angling circles in London. He took great interest in the attempt to introduce grayling into the Colne at Delaford Park, and his last letter to the GAZETTE was a description of the experiment. He will be deeply regretted by a wide circle of friends. He was one of the most talented and promising of the rising men in the medical profession.

## WELLS'S NOTTINGHAM REELS.

MR. W. WELLS, 1, Sussex-street, Nottingham, sends us one of his reels which was so highly spoken of by Major-General Clay in our columns recently. We are very much pleased with it, and if most Nottingham anglers use reels which run as freely and truly as this, we do not wonder at the great proficiency they attain in casting from the reel, which we are more than ever convinced is, as Dr. Brunton called it many years ago in our columns, the "poetry of spinning." You can get quite as much variety of action out of the bait as with the Thames style—from a brilliant steady spin to a slow wobble, or series of short, jerky spins. The winch sent works on a centre ; but Mr. Wells has also a wood reel with check, which works on a very fine steel spindle instead of on the centre. We have never tried it, but are inclined to think one revolves about as easily as the other.

## WORMS, AND THE PREPARATION OF WORMS FOR ANGLING.

By ALFRED MACKRILL, T.A.P.S.

AFTER reading your very graphic and interesting account of our day's fishing, I shall be pleased to explain the way in which I collect and prepare worms for angling purposes. I am quite sure that many a brother angler would meet with success where often he has a blank if he would study the bait part of the business.

A well-scoured lob or brandling is the very best bait a Thames angler can have all through the fishing season, with this exception—during July, if he is fishing for roach ; then I have always found a single gentle on a No. 12 round bent, bound on the finest drawn gut, the best bait for all-round fishing.

The worms I use consist of the lob or lawn worm, the blood, and the brandling. The lob can be obtained at night from any lawn or meadow, where the grass is very closely cropped, by the aid of a lantern. Great care must be used in catching them ; if injured they die, and if broken they are useless. If you take the worm just below the head between the soft part of your forefinger and thumb, you can with very little force pull the worm out of the ground.

The following is the way in which I keep the worms after I have caught them :—I have six tubs in the garden about 2ft. each in diameter and about 4ft. deep. These I sink into the ground 15in., and then fill them up with garden mould about 20in., and as I collect the worms I place them on the top of the mould in tub No. 1 until I have 2,500, and then the other tubs until full.

The worms will live in tubs so arranged for months ; no trouble need be taken. The worms will work down into the mould. A cover must be placed on the top of each tub to keep the birds and rain out, the cover to be slightly raised for ventilation. I look at the tubs once a week, and if I find any dead ones at the top I immediately remove them.

The worms can only be taken on a warm, damp, moonless night, and on these favourable evenings I catch my supply. During the close season I manage to get nearly 20,000 lobs, and have plenty during the hot summer months when worming is out of the question.

Now, for the blood-worms and brandling. These I have to breed. The blood-worm will be found in rotten, decayed leaves in abundance. The brandling I breed in the following mixture : stable dung, garden mould, vegetable matter of all kinds, the refuse of the kitchen, watered continually with the cook's pot liquor. A heap of this made up 12ft. square and 2ft. deep will supply millions of worms. Now comes the most important part—the preparation of the worm for the hook. I take two flower-pots large enough to hold two quarts of water, well plug the hole at bottom with a cork, fill them three-parts full with fresh moss washed very clean ; the moss must be wet, but not very wet. Pick out the brightest and pinkest-locking worms—say, one hundred—place them carefully on the top of the moss, cover the pot over to prevent the worms crawling out, place the pot in a shady corner, leave it for twenty-four hours, then take your other pot and place the worms very carefully one by one in that ; repeat this for six days, taking care that the moss is fresh and well washed each time. At the end of the sixth day you will have a worm clean, transparent, and full of life. The worm will then be ready for your bait-box, which should be nearly full of fresh moss, well washed, and be wet, but not too wet.

The worms for the ground-bait I clean in moss for two days only, you want the fish to select ; and if you have the choice morsel on your hook there is every probability that on the hook will be taken. The brandling and blood-worms for ground-bait, I simply take as many as I want out of a stock pot. They will be found in a compact mass at the bottom, and do not require cleaning for ground-bait. Place these in clean washed moss in a small box, and all is ready. A bag of boiled rice (2lb.) and the same quantity of soaked bread completes the ground-bait, with a bag of bran to mix with the whole. Never throw a dead worm in with your ground-bait ; one stinking worm will drive all the fish out of your swim. Fish are a very great deal more particular than many anglers are aware of. I close my remarks with the following : One may be a very skilful angler, but, as old George Hone says, if the fish won't bite, "nobody can ketch 'em." If you want the fish to bite study the bait.

[By blood-worm, we take it Mr. Mackrill means the little red or cockspur worm.—ED.]

## DEEP-SEA FISHING IN THE ORKNEYS.

THE murderous practice of snatching fish appears to prevail in the Orkney Islands as well as elsewhere. Mr. Menzies Ferguson, M.A., tells us in his "Rambles in the Far North," Flintown, in the parish of Firth, is a picturesque and pleasant village that takes the fancy of the traveller at once. It lies nestling at the foot of undulating hills, and looks out upon the bay of Firth, known in the old Norse days as *Aurridafiordr* (salmon trout Firth), as it gleams in the bright sunlight, studded with green holms and passing boats. We need not wonder that it is a favourite resort with Kirkwallians, who delight to spend a part of the summer here. The Manse was our destination, and we were pleased to find it one of the most beautiful residences in Orkney.

There are some good oyster beds in the Bay, and as much as £2,000 has been drawn from them in one season. The disciple of Izaak Walton may capture a few sea trout at Renebuster, Finstown, or Isbister.

Further on we passed the lochs of Stenness and Harray, which is embosomed amongst the surrounding hills. The lower loch, that of Stenness, communicates with the sea, and is of irregular shape, being about four miles by two. It abounds in trout, coal fish (*Merlangus carbonarius*), cod, skate, flounders, and sometimes herring. Many a good basket of trout has been obtained upon this loch, and many a breakfast-table has borne witness to the excellence of such a dish. The loch of Harray, which is about four miles and a half by three-quarters of a mile or more, is full of fine brown trout. Nets, line, and "otters" were once in universal use on these lochs, but, of course, such gear is now illegal, though we could not say that the otter is at the present time unseen. Keen anglers here may obtain as good sport and as good takes as can be had anywhere in Scotland.

In Orkney, as elsewhere, there still exists much of the superstitious feeling once so prevalent. It is quite a common practice amongst the Zetland fishermen, when out at *haaf* or deep-sea fishing, to stick the blade of their knives into the mast to bring luck. Another plan is to spit in the mouth of the last caught cod, and the consequence, they say, is that it will be followed by a fish equally large or larger. Before bidding farewell to the North Sea we shall describe some of our fishing exploits, which were very enjoyable in those summer months. One evening we formed the resolution to go cod fishing the following morning. We retired early to bed, that the morrow might find us fully prepared to make an early start. Relieved, as it was, with visions of monstrous fish being pulled aboard by our eager hands, the night passed quickly enough. The knocking of our landlord soon dispelled those bright anticipations, and having thrown on our clothes, we partook of a hasty meal and set out for the beach. Our two fishing guides were there already, hauling down the boat to the water's edge, and putting all the fishing gear into proper trim. In forty minutes we were out on the open sea, close to the eastern entrance of the Pentland Firth, and in a favourite spot to begin operations. Rigging ourselves out in oilskin suits, we prepared to shoot our lines and catch what fish we could. The line consisted of a circular hoop of iron, with a pretty heavy lead weight in the middle. From each end of the hoop a fathom's length of line was suspended, having a bright hook attached, and from the weight between ran the main line. The hooks were baited with limpets or cockles, or other shellfish, and sometimes with pieces of red herring. Having shot over our lines from the side of the boat, we allowed them to touch the bottom; then, pulling them up for a fathom and a half, we continued drawing the lines up and down until we felt a bite, when the line would be hauled up as quickly as possible. Whenever the glistening of a cod was seen through the water we began to get excited, and pulled away with fresh energy until we got the fish to the surface, from which we hastily filliped him aboard. It sometimes happened that as we were on the point of landing our fish he would quietly drop off the hook, and, with a waggish flop, disappear to the bottom. Such fishing was very pleasant. By changing our ground we managed, with two lines, to haul aboard about three score goodly-sized cod and a few ling before the sun had reached the zenith. By this time the pangs of hunger began to make themselves felt. A supply of oat cakes and fresh milk was produced, and our natural craving quieted. Another hour or two brought a few more fish; but after that our luck changed. Considering we had got enough for one day, we shipped our lines, hoisted our main and jib sails, and steered for the shore before a brisk breeze. The sea air and the healthy exercise had given us a good appetite, and when we landed ample justice was done to our substantial dinner.

In fine weather such excursions were our great delight, and brought their own peculiar rewards of fresh fish and fresh experience. There is a method of catching deep-sea cod other than that referred to. It is by means of an instrument called a "murderer"—not a very euphonious name!—consisting of a long bar of polished lead, measuring about 18in., with numerous hooks attached, and suspended at the end of a long string line. This instrument is towed at the stern of the fishing boat, and by its means many a large cod bids farewell to the Pentland Firth. It seems, however, that many escape with torn gills and other misfortunes. Such a method of cod fishing does not seem altogether fair—at least, to the foolish fish. They expect something more substantial than cold lead and a baitless hook. But I suppose invention is justified of her children.

Saith fishing is, perhaps, more interesting. These large, black fish are caught with rods and white fly hooks, generally in great numbers. The most suitable time for them is shortly before the gloaming until dusk. One very favourite spot for these fish is the north-east point of the little island of Switha, half-way betwixt South Walls and South Ronaldshay. There many a summer evening, as the sun was gently sinking behind the hills of Hoy, and casting its slanting rays across the Sounds, some fifty boats would be seen busily engaged in fishing for the strong coal fish. As the dusk crept on the air would become melodious with the songs and the cries of the merry fishermen, and, like the sea, ripple with their hearty laughter. One small boat would many a time come ashore with over five score of grey fish.

About midsummer, 1882, a most extraordinary take of these fish was obtained. For upwards of a week they came down in shoals from the northern islands in pursuit of the small sand eels, and literally made the sea appear a moving mass in many places. At this time the usual method was abandoned, and the eager fishermen pulled the great majority of the fish aboard with clips—large hooks fixed on rods. As the multitude of grey fish swam hither and thither in pursuit of their favourite "sea breed," the fishing boats followed as fast, and renewed the wholesale slaughter. On shore the scene was as remarkable, for as each boat came in with its load the scaly denizens of the deep were piled in heaps upon the beach, until the wives and fishing girls carried them away. One week of such sport was sufficient to drive the most of this remarkable shoal further south, where they met a similar fate. For more than a quarter of a century the like had never been experienced. Part of the same multitude of saithe was surprised off the coast of Peterhead some weeks later, when some ingenious son of science blew them up with dynamite, and strewed the surface of the sea with their lifeless bodies! Such a method of destruction seems far more objectionable than the simple process of gaffing them from small boats.

During the spring season herring fishing is carried on in a peculiar manner. Four ordinary stocking wires are suspended horizontally upon a line at intervals of about 18in.; at the end of each wire a small bright hook is attached with about 6in. of small cord, and the end of the line is weighted by a piece of lead. No bait whatever is put upon the hooks, and the line is sunk to the bottom from the side of the boat, and kept in constant motion up and down. The herrings appear to be attracted by the bright hooks, for three and four at a time are usually hauled on board. The time best suited to this kind of fishing is between sunset and dusk.

CREEL.

## A DAY'S FISHING IN PRIVATE WATERS.

HAVING most fortunately been favoured, through the kind interest of an influential friend, with permission to fish in one of the finest preserves in England, your readers may be interested in some account of our sport.

Soon after we arrived at the station we procured a trap at the hotel to convey us and our goods to the seat of war. The country all the way was charming, and on each side were splendid turnip fields, affording good cover for partridges, which the driver informed me were full of game of all sorts. At last, through the trees, I espied the water, where it was a case of "to be or not to be?" The "question" was very soon answered by the keeper, who informed us that the roach were well on the feed, and that a favourite spot of his had been well ground-baited for two days previously. We were well provided in the way of baits, having wasp grubs, gentles, red worms, brandlings, marsh worms, and two or three different kind of pastes, amongst which was "King's Natural Bait." It has always been a wonder to me that this bait is not more generally used, as, when mixed with cold water, it makes a most beautiful paste, white, and very stiff, which, when carefully put on the smallest triple hook, very seldom comes off. I have always found it a most killing bait for roach and dace. The keeper had also provided lob-worms and live-bait. We found the punt already moored close to the side, and very soon had the rods up, when, after having guessed the depth—not, plumbing it, for fear of disturbing the fish—we set to work. My friend's line was scarcely in the water—in fact, the float had not had time to cock—when up it went, the next moment disappearing clean out of sight, and before he could strike there was such a pull at his rod that strained to the utmost his "patent gut" trace; but after about two minutes' careful play a fine roach, nearly 1lb. in weight, was safely landed and deposited in the well of the punt. By this time I was fast on to a fish that pulled tremendously, and which on landing proved to be a fine rudd of over 1lb. weight. The keeper in the meantime had baited a three-hooked paternoster with lob-worms, and very soon was adding his share to the well. It was hardly my idea of sport, though, as it merely consisted of putting your line in the water, and a bite almost immediately ensuing, the average size of the fish being a little over 1lb. Shortly after the keeper proposed having a live-bait out in the shape of a gudgeon for jack, which we agreed to, and a gudgeon was fished out of the can—but such a one! the largest and finest specimen I ever saw; but beautiful to look at as he was, and no doubt would have been equally so to eat, the jack were evidently not of the same opinion, for although he was swimming about in the most lively manner all day, never a run did we get. At the end of the day, in fact, it was just as lively as when we put him in, and I have no doubt is alive and well at the present moment. The roach appeared to be as hungry as ever, and kept on affording us excellent sport; nor did we appear to be the only ones who were enjoying themselves, as a certain Mrs. Grebe with her two children appeared to be on the most intimate terms of acquaintance with the roach, Mrs. Grebe doing all the catching while the two Miss Grebes did all the eating part of the programme. At last W—— proposed lunch, and getting the grub out we turned round to partake thereof, but scarcely had we done so when his float was off. I, being nearest, tackled the rod, the fish immediately going for the tackle, and before I could stop it ran right across my own line just as that float was disappearing; so reaching out with the other hand I got hold of that rod also, having then two fish, one on each rod, pulling like anything at either arm, and to make matters worse, before my friend could get up to render me any assistance the paternoster line was sailing about, and, somehow, just as W—— got hold of the rod, there was a general foul — the whole lot being all mixed up together. Luckily, at this moment, the keeper came up, after a short absence, and, with the aid of a large net, managed to bag the lot, which consisted of two fine roach on the paternoster line and a rudd on each of the rods. As my readers may imagine, the tackle was in an awful state. After luncheon I thought it would be as well to go in for higher game, so started off with my spinning rod (one by which I lay great store, made by Mr. Aldred, of Oxford-street, a 3-piece glued-up triangular rod, and which for spring and suppleness I am sure is not to be surpassed) in search of any wily jack that was likely to be deceived by my glittering imitation baits, of which I had a good assortment. To give my readers an idea as to what a lot of fish there must have been, as I went along the bank shoals and shoals of fish, from about ¼lb. to ½lb., sailed away into deeper water; but, though I spun right round the lake not a run did I get, though likely spots were abounding, the bank being lined with rushes and reeds of all kinds which were alive with wildfowl of almost every description, amongst which were some peculiar specimens of duck and lots of grebe. As I was spinning along the lee side of the lake the keeper told me of a very peculiar incident that occurred there a few years ago: Whilst a gentleman was spinning parallel to the bank, which on this side was a very gradual slope, a jack of 10lb. rushed at his bait, just missing it, and with such velocity that, before it could stop itself, it was deposited high and dry on the bank, several feet from the water's edge. Not getting any sport in this lake, the keeper proposed trying the other one, which we did, he rowing whilst I spun, trying in turn every bait I had in the artificial line, as well as gudgeon, roach, and dace; but, though I carefully fished the lake all over, they were not to be had that journey, notwithstanding the keeper informing me that the place was abounding with jack, amongst which were some monsters, one particular one he remembered when he was a boy, and which had a hump on its back. But, alas! no jack, nor even a solitary hump, was to be tempted, and so we went back to the roach and rudd, which had been biting well all the time. As we arrived my friend's little boy had just taken a rod, after being duly cautioned to strike gently, as he was in the habit of jerking fish about 1lb. weight clean out of the water, without the least pity for its feelings, or the slightest regard for rod or tackle; but, when the float did disappear, he struck so lightly that, naturally, after a few seconds, the fish was off. Explaining to him that he ought to fasten the hook well in him, he tried again, and this time as the float began to bob a look of deep determination came over his sweet, innocent little face, and, grasping with both hands the 20ft. rod, he struck with all his might, and out came, about a dozen yards behind him, a magnificent specimen of a perch about three inches. It was one of the funniest things I ever saw. As it was beginning to get dark, we thought we had better pack up, which took us a good time to accomplish. After this came the fun of emptying the well of the fish which it contained: two large canvas bags besides our creels were filled, and still there were a lot left. I should think we had close on ½cwt. in the bags, besides what was left behind. The trap turning up at this moment, we bade farewell to our field of glory, and started for the hotel and a well-deserved supper. On arriving there a certain individual belonging to the establishment—namely, the cat—very soon discovered that we had not come home empty-handed, and would not go until we had paid our footing in the shape of a ½lb. roach. Having demolished a capital supper we started for the station, and, in about half-an-hour arrived at the London terminus, before we parted coming to the conclusion that, though we had certainly had as good a day before, we never had passed such a pleasant time of it. And, as my order extends through the whole season, I hope to be able to give my readers a further account of our doings.

MCWALTON.

## ON THE DESCRIPTION OF SALMON FLIES.

By MR. GEO. M. KELSON.

### MAJOR TRAHERNE'S PATTERNS *(Continued)*.

### NO. 17.—"EVANGELINE."

BEFORE proceeding to comment further upon the subject of wings, let us just look through our list of implements for fly dressing, which revision perhaps comes better late than not at all.

In the first place, then, are our old fly-maker's scissors worthy the name? No. Rather an inelegant and abrupt summing-up that, but the word comes in pat for the purpose.

"Use is second nature," we know; but let me tell you that those "old friends," however much we may become accustomed to them, are nothing like so handy and so appropriate as embroidery scissors. Yes, with these we are far more accurate; they get where others won't go, and are directed so much more easily. Their points should be ground very fine above and below to admit of our cutting the stump of wings to what we like—that is, to a perfectly true taper; and, later on, I will note what we gain in reference to this. Then, to my mind, where do we see a proper pair of tweezers? The "catch" is always too bulky, not in width or length, but in thickness, and only bites at the mouth, especially those made of steel. "Where else should they bite?" it may be inquired. All along the nipping part, I fancy, which is that space alluded to as the catch.

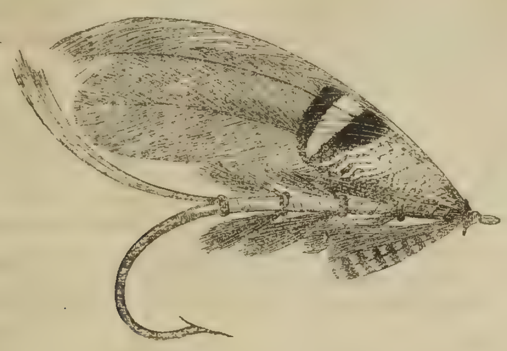
Then would they "hold on"; "rotten hackles" be an expression of the past; and we should never be unpleasantly reminded of a favourite corn, and find no occasion to mutter unbecoming adjectives, which some people set down as curses.

The objection may appear slight; I merely desire to notice the disadvantage. The remedy is to untrim them, for the spring to lose its control, and when so opened, to file the jaws thinner; but the brass sort can be bent and regulated with a pair of pliers, to shut truly, and need no filing at all.

The vice question, I am told, has been ventilated in the GAZETTE. I did not see the controversy; at any rate (speaking of myself again, which I always seem to be doing), I cannot work *precisely* with a vice, and so never use mine, even for the smallest trout flies. Of course professionals do, because they can progress more rapidly; but whether in such diminutive flies their work is up to our standard is entirely another question. That it is very serviceable to dressers who work elaborate bodies of salmon flies from the head end of the hook there can be no two opinions.

Of the stiletto I have spoken previously. The ordinary bull-necked stumpy sort are still to be seen with mother-o'-pearl handles in "ladies' companions," but they are not so suited to us as those sold by Wilcox and Gibbs, which, in dimension, shape, and temper, exactly answer every purpose. To use an ordinary needle for picking out bodies is unquestionably a dangerous business—it penetrates too easily, and it frequently detaches and liberates fur spun round and round the tying silk, and consequently loosens the tinsel forming the ribs.

The strokes of our stiletto should be pretty much after that of an artist's pen in shading, and should begin at the head end of the fly, the operation being directed towards the barb of the hook. The light and rapid movements "draw down" rather than "pick out" the accumulation, which should incline, as nearly as possible, in the line of march, as the fibres of the hackle. But it may be observed that the performance is not to be thought of until the fly is completed; in fact, it is the finishing touch.



And let me repeat how very useful this little article is from the beginning to the end of the work, and how frequently it is put into requisition when we are fishing.

Neither should we be without spirits of wine, for the least touch of floss silk bodies with a damp hand soils them. With that, or even a little eau de cologne, to moisten the corner of a towel to clean the fingers, and one will be more at home with a somewhat ungovernable inconvenience; but when the symptom returns, which is sure to happen at the most delicate moment, drop the work and use the towel again.

The next item can be ticked off, I hope, without hesitation; however, in my estimation, cobbler's wax is the best of all. We should only use it when fresh; it is apt to deteriorate, and it loses much of its consistency when dissolved, which, in no single instance, is desirable for fly work.

Nor will the next item detain us long. Files we must have, and we cannot get them too fine or too sharp.

And now what about our feathers? How important it is—let me say in preface—to collect them at the proper season of the year. I cannot hold to the cruel and unnecessary practice of plucking birds, neither need we torture them, although it is an absolute advantage to rob them of their winter jackets. A little extra protection from the piercing winter winds may be easily provided in the fowl house after any free use of the scissors; but really the few feathers or hackles we generally take are never missed at all. I have seen necks of roosters, grisly, shrivelled up, and otherwise spoilt from constant pulling, so much so that the birds are only fit for breeding purposes—nothing more.

Coch-y-bonddus and Knee-caps are the most useful natural hackles, and the most difficult to find. I believe Farlow and Co. are the only people in this country who can provide the true knee-cap; some day, I think, we shall hear a good deal more of this valuable feather.

Perhaps there are no necks that change so much between winter and summer months as "blue duns"; the best time to be after them is at Christmas, when the birds have quite recovered from moulting. I can only call to mind teal and golden pheasants as exceptions. The latter completes its annual and new outfit here long before other birds show signs of casting off their seedy summer garb and we never see a really good speckled teal feather till the middle or end of February.

Another most useful bird to all fishermen is the mallard—the brown mottled flank feather. But I had better leave that now, and refer to our illustration, as "time flies"! So it does, fast—very fast; it strides on—it wears on, yet is it ever new, and, but for that simple reason, it would remind one of the barque that never sets an anchor—rolling forward, ever on its way.

However, I have heard people say, "if we use him well we can get from the hand of Time more than he will take from ours," which seems good reasoning, too. Be that as it may, I can vouch for this much, that he will always repay the labours of our minute industry. Indeed, any forgotten information—of how to hold this feather, or prepare that—could be restored by very little study if we could just get him to leave a series of successive events in our memory as he passes, in such a manner, too, that they could be called into remembrance as future occasions require.

And now, what of Miss Evangeline? Whether she be "Miss" or "Mrs." heaven only knows. At least, arrayed in all her charms, she is a very "taking" young lady. If she has not "taken"—as a fisherman says—it may be that she has never been tried;

> "But, if in nuptial union she should last,
> 'Twill be th' 'Goss'mer silk' that holds her fast."

That she, however, will unite to angling society, and be always confined to perpetual admiration, is, in my opinion, beyond the shadow of doubt.

It may be assumed, from my intimation, then, that Evangeline is "fresh from non-existence"; in other words, the anniversary of her first birthday in the ordinary course of things will take place in 1885, and therefore I may be excused from jumping at further conclusions of her inherent capability. But that she will not be destitute of friends in the opening of the season is my firm and sure conviction.

There is, perhaps, no living fisherman who has more faith in a fly than myself; yet I can but reflect—even with all these beautiful and modern specimens—that could we dive deeper into the vast ocean of Thought our reward would be the discovery of numberless resources, which are waiting for us, and as yet undreamt of "in our" (piscatorial) "philosophy." There, and there only, could we permeate our work with any close and loving observation of nature.

Foresight, we do know, as well as firmness, proves a successful combination to the salmon angler; then let us take special care of our stock of flies just now; let us put plenty of naphthaline crystal in our packets, and let them be put away in coy recesses now—now while winter's gathering dirge comes whispering in.

Evangeline may be described as follows:—

Tag: Silver twist and golden topping coloured silk.
Tail: Topping.
Butt: Black herl.
Body: In four equal divisions—the first two of silver tinsel, butted as before, with two blue chatterer feathers (in each) top and bottom, as illustrated; the third and fourth, floss silk and butted, the former being the colour of the "tips" of the four red crow's feathers, which are placed as shown, the other red claret silk, the crows being repeated. Both of these sections are;
Ribbed: Silver tinsel.
Throat: Two jay's—one on either side.
Wings: Two yellow feathers from the blue macaw.
Cheeks: Summer duck, with golden topping over.
Horns: Red macaw.
Head: Black herl.

N.B.—It should always be understood, when reading "the sections are butted," that the head "butts" the final one.

## THE CRAFTINESS OF CARP—OUR "LAKE."

"NEITHER I, nor anyone else, can tell you how to catch satisfactorily with the angle the *paterfamilias* of the carp: he is so sly, and nibbles in such a namby-pamby way, that he strips the hook of its bait mouse-like. The angler that can catch *large* carp, Captain Williamson says, 'must possess several qualifications extremely valuable to the angler, and bids fair, by general practice, to be, according to the old saying, able to teach his master.' All I can tell you is, that you must fish for the carp proper with as fine tackle as you use for the roach, and at the same time it must be stronger, for carp grow to salmon size. The baits are worms, larvæ, grains, pastes, green gentles, and green peas. A sweet paste is perhaps the best. . . . A Huntingdonshire correspondent once wrote to me that he had a pond well stored with very large carp, and that after seven years' patience with line, rod, and hook, he could not catch one of them. He asked my advice. I told him that it lay in a net."—From Ephemera's "Handbook of Angling."

[We also possess a piece of water which holds some carp—perfect patriarchs, some of them. In the hot weather they roam about near the surface, and in the spawning season roll about in the weeds like pigs. We have fished the water almost every week for two summers, and have taken numbers of bream between two and six pounds, and many tench, roach, and rudd; but we have never got hold of a carp. And yet we have used the finest tackle, drawn gut and hair, tried every kind of sweet paste, worms, gentles, potatoes, blackberries (bream like blackberries), figs, bananas, a bit of crumb of bread just under or on the surface; in fact, there is not a bait recommended for carp fishing we have not tried, both with float and with ledger. Others who have fished the same water have had no better success with these carp. In other waters not so much fished we have taken them with small red worms and paste. We confess we have never tried for them "from daybreak to five o'clock," which is said by some to be the magic time, but have often wondered that when fishing late—from sunset to midnight—for eels, the carp have never touched the baits, though tench have, long after dark. Of course, we have tried ground-baits of all kinds. Potatoes mashed up with bread and pollard we have found bring the bream on best, and we should be obliged if any of our readers can suggest some plan which they find successful under similar circumstances. The roach and rudd in the same water are also getting uncommonly 'cute. At first we could catch a dozen or fifteen, from ½lb. to 1lb. and over, in a very short time; now you may roach fish all day and hardly get a nibble, except on certain days when they "come on" pretty freely, and yet there are thousands in the water. We often watch them on a bright day going about in shoals with the pike sneaking after them behind the weeds, and every now and then making them fly out in all directions. We put a hundred one and two-year-old trout in the water, and they throve wonderfully, rising freely to the artificial fly, as long as they lasted, which was only a month or two, for the pike soon cleared them out. A score and a half of black bass, from 2oz. to 1lb., shared the same fate. A friend who was fishing recently caught a jack of 4lb., and when landing it noticed it was followed by three larger fish right up to the edge of the water, one of them making a dash at the float. He thinks it was a "relief party" attempting to save their comrade from the police. The same friend left his roach rod on the bank with a bit of paste on the hook, and when he got back was astonished to find his line in the water and fast in some weeds. On pulling it out, a moorhen was found firmly hooked in the tongue. One day a moorhen was paddling about on some sunken boughs of a willow close to where we were fishing, when a pike seized her by the legs, and it was only after a tremendous amount of flapping and fluttering that she got free, and for half an hour afterwards used as bad language as it is possible for such a respectable and intelligent bird as a moorhen to use. She was close to her nest, but for a long time dare not approach it. That moorhens are intelligent no one will deny. For a long time we could not imagine who stole our worms and paste while we went in to lunch; but one day the mystery was explained: there was Mrs. Moorhen with her head deep in our worm bag, and every bit of a good lump of paste had vanished. Now, we always leave our unused bait on the bank after fishing for the benefit of these charming thieves. It is very pleasant when the fish won't bite—or when they will, for that matter—to watch the moorhens at work, or perhaps we get a visit from a couple of "rainbow-coloured halcyons," as the poets call them—in plain English, kingfishers. You see a flash of blue steel disappear in the willow overhanging the water. If you watch for a short time you will see a plash on the surface of the water, and then the bird is back at its place on the bough. Dozens of times will they dive in this way, doubtless each time getting some small fry of roach, or bream, or rudd. But these are welcome strangers, and if they could catch the wary old carp which so complacently sail under our rod as we sit quietly smoking and angling for them, they would be welcome. We confess there is, to us, an endless delight in watching the habits of the fish, bird, and insect life in our pond of two acres or so—lake, we prefer to call it; sounds better. But we might write all night on this subject; in fact, our better half tells us we think a great deal more about it than we do of the blessed olive branches, who are "sure to get drowned in it." Heaven forbid!—Ed.]

## HOW TO DRY AND COLOUR WEEDS, GRASS, &c., FOR FISH CASES.

A correspondent asked us recently if we could instruct him how to dry and colour grasses for the ornamentation of a case of fish. On referring to Mr. Montagu Browne's most valuable work on "Practical Taxidermy" (published at the *Bazaar* Office, Strand), although the subject is referred to in the index as being treated in Chapter XII., it is in Chapter XIII. that the following notes occur:—"Paper used in the drying of botanical specimens is sold; but being too expensive for this particular purpose, a supply of large sheets of common grey paper used by ironmongers and grocers, or even brown paper will suffice. The objects should, directly they are gathered, be laid out straight on a board, or on a floor, and covered with paper; then more ferns, grasses, &c.; again a layer of paper, and so on. A board weighted with bricks should be placed over all, and suffered to remain for a few days; the ferns, &c., are then to be turned, the paper dried, and the process repeated. When thoroughly dry, they may be coloured with oil paint thinned with turps and varnish, sufficient to give lustre without shininess. Here and there break the green colour with red, blue, and yellow, in a manner which will occur to anyone having artistic ability. Ferns and grasses treated in this manner soon dry, and retain their colour for an indefinite period—the only thing to be said against them being their rather unnatural flatness, due to pressure. This, however, may be counteracted by a little judgment during the drying, one plan being the regulation of pressure at certain points, aided also by clean *dry* sand.

"Many grasses (not the flowers, but the leaves or blades) dry well. Amongst the best of these is the "wire-grass" found in woods, growing especially over runnels in those localities. The flower, also, of this plant is most valuable as a decorative agent. The wood melick is another elegant and suitable plant.

"The sedges (*carex*) dry and colour well, as also several of the water rushes, reeds, and flags. The 'toad rush' (*Juncus bufonius*), and its allies, found in damp places, by roads, by canals, and in pasture or cornfields, dry and colour excellently.

"Mosses of various sorts growing in woods, on trees—lichens, gold and grey, moss or lichen-covered twigs, sprigs of heather, furze, sea-lavender, all dry well, and come in usefully.

"Many persons like their moss and grasses dyed. This is, perhaps, allowable in some cases for common work. To those who desire to dye their grasses, I recommend Judson's powder dyes as the readiest medium, the directions for manipulating which are given with them. Any rough grass in flower does for dyeing, and a visit to the fields just before haymaking will supply the amateur with all he wants for this.

"Teazles, thistles, and the umbels (seed-heads) of various plants will be found of service; but everything must be thoroughly dried before being coloured, or before being introduced into shades or cases. Nothing must be coloured with water-colours or gums, as some writers contend, or mould will inevitably follow. A few drops of creosote, or the black carbolic acid of commerce, poured into the case or shade just before closing up, is a very good thing to prevent mildew, though if everything be thoroughly dried, and only oil colours are used, no danger from this cause need be apprehended."

Mr. Browne kindly supplements this information, in answer to an inquiry we sent him, with the following formula:

"Take a little Prussian blue ground in oil, *lemon* chrome in dry colour, finely powdered (this your correspondent can do himself); mix the two to the tint required, thinning with turpentine (three parts) and paper-varnish (one part). This may be varied for grasses, as for ferns, by broken tints of red, white, &c., &c."

We take this opportunity of again advising our readers who take an interest in setting up fish and other animals, &c., to obtain Mr. Browne's work.

## ROACH IN THE TIDEWAY—A GOOD GROUND-BAIT FOR ROACH.

By Captain Williamson.

When the roach lie in the tideway, you must only expect them to bite best when the flood comes in, especially at the first of it, when they commonly are very keen. If there are fish in the water, they will generally bite during the latter part of the ebb. At such times they lie chiefly on the flat gravel sands on the sides of streams, especially below bridges.

Bait the place where you fish with oatmeal a little browned over the fire, and then make up into balls with a small quantity of treacle. This draws them together far better than any other ground-bait I ever heard of. Throw a piece of it about the size of a marble, now and then, where your hook lies. It will gradually be dissolved, and attract numbers.

## CONVICTION FOR SELLING TROUT DURING THE CLOSE SEASON.—CAUTION TO BUYERS.

At the Newtown (Montgomeryshire) Petty Sessions on Friday, before E. Jones, L. Lewis, and R. Lloyd, Esqs., and Captains Adams and Johns, William Bowen Jones, of Newtown, was summoned by Alfred George, agent to the Severn Fishery Board, for selling trout during the closed season. Mr. George said he was aware that defendant had been selling trout, but had not an opportunity to prosecute before. Morgan Morris, builder, said: On the 28th of October I bought 2lb. of trout from the defendant at 8d. per pound. I have bought fish from him many times. I have never seen any other person buy trout from him. Defendant, in reply to the Bench, said he had been in the habit of selling fish for five years. Witness (by the Bench): There were twelve or fourteen. They were very small ones. Defendant was fined 10s. and 10s. costs. The Bench told defendant they could fine him £1 for each fish. The Chairman wished it to be known it was just as much an offence to buy the fish as to sell them.

George James Eaton, of Starkholmes, Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required, from gentlemen who can fish, to prove whether they may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—(Advt.)

# CORRESPONDENCE.

[*We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.*]

## BRANDY AND PIKE BAITS.

Sir,—I am constrained to say a few more words. If it is true what Geo. Bankart, Esq., says in your last issue, that giving brandy to pike baits "is neither more nor less than *scalding* or cauterising the delicate fibres of the gill breathing apparatus," then the cruelty must indeed be of the most painful description, and fully accounts for the increased activity of the fish. I thought it was *very bad*, but let us hope it is not so bad as that. From this it would appear that I am wrong; but I can scarcely agree with this portion of his capital letter, because I should think that the spirit would not touch the gills of the fish if it were *poured* down its throat, and shall still maintain that the increased activity of the bait would be caused entirely by partial intoxication. I say partial because there are so many phases of drunkenness.

What "A Coggeshall Volunteer" and A. S. Isaac, Esq., say is very good banter, but foreign to the argument.

One more quotation from the excellent letter by Geo. Bankart, Esq., and with which, I need not tell you, I do agree: "As it is *not necessary* to sport, I hope that all *humane* anglers will agree that it need not, and *ought not*, to be practised." Good, very. The whole question is in a nutshell.

If pike are "on" brandy is *not necessary*; they will take a dead bait, for I have caught several jack with a dead bait on live-bait tackle. If they are "not on," I am of opinion giving baits brandy will not make them "on."

You, Mr. Editor, in a foot note to a letter of mine the other day said something to this effect, referring to pike: "You may *rub his nose* with the bait and yet he will refuse to take it." You are quite right, for I have experienced the same thing with jack myself—once at Stoke Newington, in the New River.

To my mind, pouring brandy down the throat of a fish, in the manner described by your correspondents, is, to say the least of it, most *unnatural*, not to say repulsive. I have an idea that a few remarks from Dr. Günther on this subject would rather astonish these gentlemen, and bring before their notice a species of cruelty they seem to have entirely lost sight of.

Up to the present, I have seen positively nothing to make me alter my opinion; in fact, I consider most of the arguments of those opposing me are more in my favour than otherwise. You might just as well operate on a worm to get the bream "on."

I have tried for bream where there have been *tons* of them and could not take a fish, and nothing would enable me to catch one. It is the same with pike, and yet some of your correspondents would try and make us believe indulging in this practice is doing the fish a kindness. Is it? Then all I can say is, I am simply surprised that any human being should show his sympathy for the dumb creation in a manner so peculiar.

Sir Thomas More says: "The world is undone by looking at things at a distance." This is precisely the state of your correspondents. Let them examine the subject more closely, and it may be the means of altering their opinions.—I am, &c.,

Mark Antony.

P.S.—1. If "A Coggeshall Volunteer" thinks I am wrong, and the increased action of the fish does not arise from drunkenness, will he kindly inform me what it does arise from? Because if it does not arise from drunkenness I am convinced the agony must be most intense, *and makes the matter all the worse.*

2. What proof have your correspondents that administering brandy to animals quite unused to it does not make them intoxicated almost immediately?

3. Surely neither of your correspondents can honestly believe that a fish "going round and round like a steam-engine, with *amazing* rapidity," is *enjoying* itself? This is a little too much. In fact, you might have knocked me down with the proverbial feather when I read it, and that is a fact.

4. I think A. S. Isaac, Esq., is *very* rough on me, for I merely repeated what he himself published. I saw no harm in *that*. If there is, then I must beg his pardon, for I have no wish to quarrel with any man.

Lastly. *You*, Mr. Editor, seem very fond—seem to take a particular pleasure—in giving me a rib roaster; but in your paper, only week before last, I saw an account of a pike *37 inches* long weighing 10lb. I have seen pike *much shorter* weighing 28½lb., as stated. I asked you the question—and asked it in all sincerity—because the 10lb. pike, your account said, was in *good condition*. Great Scot! Now this, Mr. Editor, I must repeat once more, is a little too much, and is one of those things I cannot understand. I thought it was a misprint, and, as usual, asked for information.

[We do not remember seeing the report about the pike, but if it appeared it was manifestly a printer's error, and we should have thought that "M. A.," if he referred to it at all, would refer to it as a printer's error. We can assure "M. A." we have no desire to "roast him"; he often makes some sensible observations. Since writing this, we have seen the "copy" from which our note was taken and find it is not stated the fish was in "good condition." Neither did we say so in our note. Mr. Guise will perhaps say if the length given was not a mistake.—Ed.]

## OBESITY IN ROACH.

Sir,—Referring to instances of above, mentioned by "Giant," in your last issue, I find, in C. Pennell's "Modern Practical Angler," page 273, referring to carp, that "old carp are very bad breeders, and frequently retain their eggs for years, presenting occasionally the appearance of an immense tumour in the region of the abdomen."

Probably the curious enlargements in the specimens under notice may be traced to this origin. If carp, why not roach and bream, as they belong to the same family?—I am, &c.,

Leuciscus Rutilus.

## A NOTE FROM NOTTINGHAM—CHUB FISHING, &c.

Sir,—This week it is the general complaint among the anglers that there is nothing doing, with the exception of a bit of pike fishing, Mr. Hopewell getting four good fish on Monday, in the Holme Peirpoint water, three of them weighing over 30lb., the largest fish 16lb. Some very good pike have been taken in the Weston water; in the different lakes and private ponds some very large pike have been caught—in one near Mansfield I hear of one being got over 20lb.

A few chub have been caught in the Shardlow length. This fish does not seem to be well on the feed yet. Some of your correspondents advise the use of pith and brains. Now an old friend of mine, and, I should think, one of the best chub fishermen on the Trent, always uses cockspur and brandling for winter fishing, using a No. 5 hook, and threading four or five worms on; we have both fished the same length of water the same day many times, and he has invariably beat me, I fishing with pith and brains. In fact, I don't care for brains as a bait; I think a bit of roasted potato far preferable for your ground-bait, as it gets down better, and the fish like it as well. If brains are used, a little potato should be mixed with it, as it is so light that it is more likely to take the fish from you.

I hear that quite a shoal of salmon have been seen in the Derwent near to Wilne Mills, getting ready to spawn. I hope the water bailiffs will look after them.—I am, &c.,

A. W.

## WORM TACKLE FOR SALMON, &c.

Sir,—Any further extracts from "Ephemera's" book upon salmon fishing would, I am sure, be welcome to many of your readers. If you can spare the space in the Gazette, may I beg for a description of the "worm tackle for salmon" mentioned by a Mr. West in your last number but one? Any hints as to how to use the worm, how deep to fish, &c., &c., would much oblige. I have occasionally used a worm when the water was rather too thick for the fly, but never yet had a bite from a salmon.—I am, &c.,

Angler.

Godalming.

[We hope to give the information wanted; but at present have no space to spare.—Ed.]

## SHORE FISHING.

Sir,—I should feel much obliged if "E. G.," whose interesting article (No. 4) I have been reading, would kindly inform us the best places to seek such salt-water fly fishing as he describes, and the best time of the year to select for the purpose? I, like many others, take great delight in river fly fishing, and would like very much to go in for this shore fishing with the fly, which should yield both health and recreation.—I am, &c., Castleconnel.

Nov. 25.

## WATERPROOF SILK v. SILK AND HAIR LINES.

Sir,—Can you tell me why the waterproof salmon and trout lines are now so generally preferred to the old silk and hair that, at many tackle makers, the latter can only be obtained to order? Although I am an old-fashioned fisher, and learned my art with the old lines, I am unprejudiced; but after trying the waterproof I have gone back to the silk and hair, convinced that I, at least, could do better with them. They are certainly more elastic, hence the risk of breaking is less. The weight of a waterproof line does not vary, wet or dry; whereas the silk and hair, when wet, is heavier to throw—an advantage in my opinion, but is little or no heavier in the water. Save for dry fly fishing, I can see no advantage in the waterproof line. I usually kill, in my fishing season, from 170 to 230 salmon and grilse. For the last two years I have compared notes with a friend who has fished the same water with me, and who invariably uses a stiffish rod and waterproof line, as opposed to my supple rod and silk and hair line. In the first place, although he is a far more painstaking and slower fisher than I, he kills at least 40 per cent. less fish than I do, and yet we use the same flies. He probably takes from five to ten minutes less time to kill a large fish than I do. But the most startling difference lies in our respective consumption of tackle. I may say that I never break my gut, whilst he does so continually. This season, to kill 194 fish, I only used two single gut collars, with an occasional new strand by way of repairs. It is true that I always make my own gut collars, and know what they are made of. My friend must have used more than a dozen during the same time. I never lost a fly, and he lost many. Whether he or I missed more fish it is, of course, impossible to tell; we can only go by results, and not by might-have-beens. I never dry my line. It always lasts me at least two seasons, and with that I am content. It would not pay me to take the trouble of drying after each day's fishing to insure another year's wear. Considering what we do spend, ungrudgingly, on salmon fishing, does it really matter whether, in one item, we make an expenditure of 30s. or 40s. last over 2 years or 3?

I have been much interested in the letters and extracts which have appeared in your pages on the subject of striking. Referring to the quotation from "Ephemera," in my experience the term *tug* is almost as inapplicable as *bite* to the action of a salmon in taking the fly. The feeling to me has always been more that of a dull resistance. To the best of my belief, I *never* strike, but offer a similar dull resistance for a second or two before raising the point of my rod.

What do you think is a fair average of hooked fish to lose? A good scotch salmon fisher told me, some time ago, that the proportion of fish lost was one in three. My own experience shows something more like one in seven.—I am, &c., M. B.

London, Nov. 23.

[This is one of those questions which have often been dealt with in years past in our columns. The advocates of silk and hair could not convert the advocates of dressed silk lines, and *vice versâ*. For several years we always used silk and hair fly casting lines, then for a time undressed silk lines, but for the last ten years have used only dressed silk lines, preferring them to all others. Several friends, good anglers, use silk and hair lines, and they certainly do cast more lightly than a waterproof line, and do not sink so rapidly. But we find that for all practical purposes a tapered dressed line, which has three yards of fine drawn gut on the end of it, is *light enough;* you can cast better against a wind with it, and in a heavy wind it is not blown out of the water and blown about, as is a light undressed line—at least, not to the same extent. The silk and hair line very soon rots, and it often comes off the reel in annoying curls, especially if the line has been allowed to dry on the reel. If you put on a spinning bait for a change, the hair and silk line kinks badly, far more so than a dressed silk line. Finally, you can cast at least 25 per cent. further with it; size for size it is 50 per cent. stronger. There are advantages and disadvantages in both lines; but in our opinion, and after trying both, we feel certain the dressed silk is the most generally useful to the fly fisher. We fear that "M. B." will think that, having asked us to bless the silk and hair line, like Baalam, we have done the reverse. As regards his last query, we should say it is a most difficult matter to arrive at a fair average. You go out one day and kill fish after fish, and put it down to your own skill; another day, with same rod, flies, &c., in the same water, you lose fish after fish, and put the fault down to the fish or your liver. In fly fishing for salmon or trout, or, indeed, in any kind of fishing, we should imagine that the average depends entirely on the nature of the water; a rough, rocky, difficult river is, of course, far more in favour of a fish than the quiet river free from obstructions, or a lake. We should say that to lose two out of three fish in the former case would be less disgraceful than to lose two out of ten in an easy water.—Ed.]

## TINCT. IODI.

Sir,—There is a small error in letter "Tinct. Iodi," page 252, third line: for "and what iodidi," read "and what iodide."—I am, &c., H. W. Peard.

## MR. PENNELL'S THREE FLIES.

Sir,—With reference to the letter of your correspondent, "Pike," in regard to Mr. Pennell's three typical flies, I observe that Mr. Pennell says, in the prefatory note to the fourth edition of his "Modern Practical Angler": "As regards the three 'typical trout flies' I advocate, and their representations, experience has shown that neither lithographers nor professional fly-tyers can be relied upon; and of flies made at the tackle shops, and sold as my patterns, I can frankly say that ninety-nine out of a hundred would probably be quite useless in 'fine' waters, and very indifferent performers anywhere. I fear, therefore, that those who would give my system of flies and fly-tying a real trial will have to learn to tie the flies for themselves."—I am, &c., Trout.

Nov. 26.

[Are not these remarks of Mr. Pennell's tantamount to throwing up his brief?—Ed.]

## STRENGTH OF TROUT LINES.

Sir,—I should be glad if some of your numerous readers would give us their experience as to what should be the minimum strength of a trout line.

It is often said that silkworm gut will stand a pull of so many pounds before breaking, and yet the same size of gut, when tried on a dynamometer, breaks at a much less strain.—I am, &c., F. W.

## LARGE GUDGEON.

Sir,—Visiting the United Brothers on the 22nd, I was shown a gudgeon that, when caught, weighed 4oz.; it was caught by a member while fishing the Ravensbourne. Can any brother reader inform me if there is a gudgeon of that weight among the various public or private collections around London? A friend informed me that he caught one about that weight some years ago up the Thames, and a gentleman astonished him by giving him 5s. for it. At that time money was of more value to him than a fish about 7½in. long, considering he had some bream in his bag at the same time going between 3lb. and 4lb. He was willing to give the lot for that sum. He thought that the gentleman had "gone wrong" when he would only have the gudgeon. I should like to know where that gudgeon went to, now that I know more about fish?"—I am, &c., Pixie.

## AN ENORMOUS SALMON.

Sir,—I send you the measurement of what I believe to be the largest salmon ever netted in Britain. It was landed by the fishermen, while fishing for ova, on the Tay at Almond Mouth, on the 18th. It measured 4ft. 11½in. in length, and 2ft. 5in. in girth; it was a male, in splendid condition, being a spring fish new from the sea. Being the close season, it had to be returned to the river. It is a pity the exact weight was not taken; the fishermen believed it to be about 80lb.; it must have been heavier than the 70lb. one taken on the Tay, which you have seen a cast of in the South Kensington Museum; this one was 6½in. longer than that. It is to be hoped some angler will get hold of him when the fishing opens. During six days, 272 salmon and grilse were landed. Amongst them were five clean fish, averaging about 22lb. About 25,000 ova were taken from those ready to spawn. It has been a very good spawning season, so far as it has gone. At every suitable place great numbers of fish can be seen on the reds. Looking over Perth Bridge, hundreds can be seen, some of them very large fish.—I am, &c., P. D. Malloch.

Perth.

## SHORE FISHING.—No. V.

### By E. G.

There is no doubt that, for casting, flies with hackle for legs are the best; but when towed behind a boat, the wool legs are just as good.

In bright water I have found a very good fly to be: body blue wool, ribbed with dark green crewell, hackle black, wing green peacock herl; also, olive-green body, ribbed with blue, hackle black, wing a single blue-tipped feather from a cock pheasant's neck tied flat on the back. There is a cream-coloured feather on the pheasant which makes a very taking wing. Fishing from a boat on April 9, this year, I took twenty very fine pollack with it—the body scarlet, ribbed with silver. Pheasant's feathers have a peculiar gloss on them which seems to be very attractive to sea fish. Peacock herl—either the green or bronze—is very good for bodies or wings. A good fly for clear water is: body dark green, ribbed with pale blue crewell, tail small bunch of green peacock herl, legs any dark hackle, wing copper-coloured peacock herl and a single small blue feather from the neck lying flat on the top. In thick water use plenty of colour. Body scarlet, ribbed with silver and white wings, shows well. At dusk use light flies—a white body, ribbed with silver, legs white hackle, white wing, or a silver body, white hackle and wing. I advise a little more care and finish to flies used at the mouths of rivers or in the pools just inside, because, as before remarked, sea trout may occasionally be met with, and even salmon at low water when the fresh water is in them.

I have frequently had the latter follow up the fly in salt water, but have never had the luck to hook one.

On looking over some old numbers of the Fishing Gazette, I found a letter on August 24, 1877, from Capt. A. Clark Kennedy, in which he describes the capture of a salmon in the sea.

He says: "On one of the hottest days in July, I was fishing a pool about two hundred yards above low water mark, where the river Bush in County Antrim falls into the sea. A great many fish had entered into the pool with the previous tide, and they rose very freely at the fly. They did not seem very particular in the choice of flies as to colour, but would look at nothing but small patterns. During the afternoon I had thirty-two salmon and grilse in play, and should be sorry to say how many rises I had besides. Of these thirty-two, however, only the comparatively small number of eleven were landed, owing to the fact that the fish, when hooked, made for the open sea, and when in the strong stream at the mouth of the river the hold gave, in most instances, only two fish, however, taking flies away with them. When the tide came in towards evening, I could see a great many fish leaping in the waves as they approached the entrance of the river, so that as the fish had left off rising in the pool, I went down to the shore and had a few casts among the waves. I had not fished more than five minutes, when a capital rise and a run of about thirty yards of line told me that a good fish was on. This was in the open sea some way from the river's mouth, and in pure salt water, among breakers, also, of some three feet or more in height. The fish gave good sport for about five minutes, and more than once ran out nearly 80 yards of line, and, having played him in the Atlantic, he was gaffed by my man up to his waist in the sea, the big rollers almost carrying his legs from under him before the fish was safe on the beach. It was a good grilse, about 7lb. in weight, and, luckily, was well hooked by the tongue; had this not been so it would probably have been knocked off the fly by the strength of the waves. Grilse and white trout have, I am aware, been often caught in tidal waters; but I think it is very seldom a salmon takes a fly in the open sea."

This is rather a long extract, but it is the only instance I have met with of a salmon being taken with fly in the sea. Mr. Wilcocks once told me he knew a very large fish to have been caught in Torbay on a pollack line, and I have heard of cases of their being taken with living sand eel on the west coast of Ireland.

In certain places grey mullet are taken with a fly at night. I have some, but have not yet done much with them. These are dressed about the same size as a white moth, hackle and wing white, body silver. A wash-leather tail is recommended by some. Go to the shore of a harbour, or any place that mullet frequent, after dark; you will hear them splashing, then throw in the direction of the sound. There is one thing about this fly—if the mullet do not take it, the sea and brown trout will. I have had several good ones with it this season.

But to return to bass, pollack, and coal fish. Should you be fishing from a rock or projecting head, and there is a strong tide stream running away from you, it is a good plan to put one of Brooks's "baby spinners" on the gut above the tail fly. Throw down the stream, and bring it back to you sometimes steadily, sometimes with a tremulous motion. If this does not prove effective, throw out and keep letting line from the reel about a foot or two at a time, occasionally pausing and working the flies. When you have got out, say, 40 to 50 yards, wind in again steadily, occasionally pausing and giving the rod a jerk. To do this a strong, stiff rod must be used, and great care taken not to smash it if you rise a fish. The best plan—if your standing-place admits of it—is to step sharply back, and do not raise the rod more than an angle of 45 deg.—I am assuming you have it pretty low when the fish takes.

It is, however, useless to try this plan of letting out line with a weak rod, as the weight of the heavy line alone, even without a fish, would soon ruin it.

It is, I think, in sea fishing best to work the fly as is generally done in salmon fishing. The lure is no doubt taken for a small fry, cephalopod, or some crustacean, and the latter two—which undoubtedly form the staple food of fish—have a decidedly jerky mode of progression.

A gaff is the most convenient thing to use, and I consider Mr. Kelson's plan of carrying it to be the best and safest I have seen, and intend to adopt it.

In conclusion, have plenty of big hobnails in your boots, or you may peradventure take a sensation header; and when you land a bass take care of your fingers—he has a plentiful supply of prickles and cutting blades, and knows well how to use them.

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# RIVER REPORTS.

### TIME OF HIGH WATER IN THE THAMES.

To find the time of high water in the Thames at any of the following places, to the time of high water at London Bridge (given below).

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Add | 30 minutes for | Chelsea. |
| | 40 „ | Putney. |
| | 45 „ | Hammersmith. |
| | 50 „ | Barnes. |
| | 55 „ | Kew. |
| | 75 „ | Richmond. |
| | 80 „ | Twickenham. |
| | 85 „ | Teddington. |

Example :—If it is high water at 2 o'clock at London Bridge, it will be high water at Teddington about 3.25, or eighty-five minutes later ; but it must be remembered that a strong wind accelerates or retards the tide very much.

For Times of High Water at London Bridge.

| | Morning. | Afternoon. |
|---|---|---|
| Saturday, November 29 ... ... | 10.29 ... ... | 10.59 |
| Sunday, „ 30 ... ... | 11.30 ... ... | 11.59 |
| Monday, December 1 ... ... | 12.0 ... ... | 12.24 |
| Tuesday, „ 2 ... ... | 12.48 ... ... | 1.12 |
| Wednesday, „ 3 ... ... | 1.37 ... ... | 2.2 |
| Thursday, „ 4 ... ... | 2.26 ... ... | 2.50 |
| Friday, „ 5 ... ... | 3.14 ... ... | 3.40 |

High Tides December 2, 3, and 4.

## THE LOWER THAMES.

### General Remarks.

According to anticipation, the large roach are being taken in the tidal waters, and the examples are most encouraging. It will be seen from the Twickenham returns that there are a couple of takes of 28lb. each, besides other good results. In the case of Mr. Johnson and friend, some of the fish were sent up to Mr. Spreckley, whose description of them was, "They were great beauties." The principal event of the week has, however, been Mr. Bull's great take of large barbel at Teddington, as will be found recorded below, and, as evidence of the weight of the fish, they were all weighed at the Richmond Piscatorial Society, the ten fish weighing 82¼lb., or an average of over 8lb. each. At one time Teddington was famous for the capture of very large barbel, but the take now reported for one day's fishing has never been exceeded on the Thames for fish of that size. Mr. Bull is deserving of great praise, after enjoying the sport and sport and giving accurate weights of the fish, in returning all except one to the river again. The angling altogether in the tideway has been satisfactory, and in roach and dace-fishing barbel have been taken up to 8½lb. The cold, frosty weather will make some change for a time, but, where anglers are disposed to face the chilly air, there is little doubt some good jack would be brought to grief, as they appear now to be taken of a nice size. The effort of the Richmond Piscatorial Society, which entirely originated by Mr. H. Dickenson, the respected vice-chairman, of placing some young trout in the tidal waters, has again been repeated this week, with some beautiful specimens from the famous nursery of Mr. Andrews, of Guildford. The expense of this movement has been defrayed by a special subscription raised by Mr. Dickinson ; and that gentleman has also succeeded amongst his friends at Kingston in obtaining a sufficient amount for the purchase of 100 good-sized trout to be turned into the river at Kingston. There can be no doubt Mr. Dickinson is doing the right thing, and his work is deserving of thorough appreciation. The fishermen generally say if they had more customers they could find plenty of fish. The returns above Teddington are very limited, but it is mainly owing to the absence of anglers.

### Angling Results.

**Richmond.**—Job Brain, in three days, 40lb. of roach and dace, and a barbel of 8½lb. Henry Howard, in a couple of days, twenty-four dozen. Henry Mansell, in one day, ten dozen. Henry Wheeler, in four days, 60lb., and Christopher Brown, in one day and half a day, 26lb. of good roach.

**Twickenham.**—John Spong, one day with Mr. W. Johnson and friend, 28lb. of good roach ; another day with Mr. Hilton, thirty-seven roach weighing 17lb. ; and another day, 16lb. of good roach. Henry Spiers, in one day, 28lb. of fine roach. Edward Finch, during the week, has had some good takes of roach. George Coxon, in two days, 28lb. of roach and dace, and in single days John Coxon, jun., has taken 13lb., Samuel Mesley eight dozen, William Spong six dozen, and Joseph Dobbin five dozen.

**Teddington.**—Mr. Bull, fishing at Teddington with Frank Kemp, in one day got ten barbel, weighing 82¼lb., the respective weights of the fish being 9½lb., 9lb., 9lb., 8¾lb., 8¾lb., 8¾lb., 8lb., 7lb., 7lb., and 6½lb. Charles Baldwin, in three days, nineteen dozen of good dace and a couple of barbel.

**Kingston.**—John Johnson, sen., in one day, nine dozen of fine dace. One gentleman, fishing by himself, has caught three jack, the largest 5¼lb. The bank fishers here and at Surbiton have had some good takes of roach and dace, and some good perch and chub.

**Hampton Court.**—Mr. G. Woods, of East Moulsey, has taken three jack, the largest 4lb., and George Martin, in a couple of days, has taken ten brace of very fine perch and a jack of 6lb. The anglers at "Tagg's Island Fishery" have been getting some roach and dace, and anglers on the banks of the river have got roach, dace, gudgeon, and perch.

**Hampton.**—Mr. Hammond has caught a jack of 4lb., and another gentleman one of 8lb. There ought to be some good jack fishing in the deep at the present time, for it has always been famous for size and quantity. The bank fishers have been amongst the roach, dace, gudgeon, and perch.

**Sunbury.**—Edward Clarke, jun., in two days, twelve brace of perch, and over two dozen of gudgeon. Bank fishing has been fairly good amongst the same fish as at other places.

**Walton.**—George Hone, in one day, two jack, the largest 5lb.

**Staines.**—Charles Hone, in one day, three jack, the largest 5½lb.

## UPPER THAMES.

River still very bright, and all kinds of fish most difficult to approach. Perch are shy, but can be had early and late with a minnow. Mem.—Do not use more than one bait on the paternoster at a time. It is less troublesome and more effective. Roach seem very difficult to get to feed in any form. Two or three fish may be taken in a swim, and then all is over. This I believe is because jack are now on the roam seeking what they may devour, and a *posse* of roach must be "nuts" for the now hungry and weed-roofless beggars. Chub should now be "seen to," and for baits permit me to advise cheese paste or pith and brain, or, in the absence of these luxuries, scalded greaves or my old favourite tail of lob. At Windsor a fine jack of 17lb. has been taken by Mr. Little, of Twickenham ; and two anglers in the same district have had a 34lb. basket of barbel, and a Mr. A. Harbard a single barbel scaling 5¾lb. The Maidenhead, Cookham, Bourne End, and Marlow waters seem to be very quiet, with the exception of large takes of small perch. Where do all the big Thames perch migrate to? At Harley Messrs. Vico, Berger, Gherkie, and Sykes have been busy—the latter gentleman showing on the evening of the 23rd inst. chub of 3½lb., 2¼lb., and 2lb. respectively. R. Shaw, in the Hurley waters, with a patron, has had 20lb. of jack lately, the best fish scaling 7lb. Thursday evening.—Strong gale blowing from the west and south, with every indication of the storm culminating in rain. Twenty-four or more hours of heavy downpour would greatly improve the angling qualities of the river, and would wash away the leaf tea which now permeates it, and sickens fish and fishermen, and also—Marlow Buzz.

### Thames (Datchet).

The water as low as ever, and a most discouraging state of things exists ; but we shall not be long without some rain if appearance of the sky is anything to go by. Nothing whatever to mention save a jack or two. A gentleman with me got two jack about 3lb. each. Last week, Keene took three jack in a very short time, largest fish 7lb. There was a strong force here yesterday jack fishing ; but I have not been able to learn results.—G. Lumsden.

### Thames (Eynsham).

I have not heard of any angling having been done near here this last week. In the Thames, on Saturday last, I had four chub in the Evenlode, weight 9¼lb ; heaviest 2¾lb. Yesterday (Wednesday) Mr. Geen caught thirteen chub, weight 23½lb., in the Evenlode, and to-day, in the Windrush, he took twelve chub, weighing 21½lb., all caught with pith and brains. The water is low and bright. Perch and roach are not feeding well now.—W. B. Howe.

### Thames (Goring).

Water in prime order for jack, perch, and chub fishing. I have had six days' fishing this last six weeks, and took 50lb. of jack, two largest going 16lb. My best day for jack this week, two going 10lb.—J. Rush.

### Thames (Oxford).

According to all accounts, there is a really large jack in the Postmeadow stretch. At the commencement of the week he broke away from one angler, and to-day he served another in precisely the same fashion. Since I last wrote the weather has set in bitterly cold, and very few anglers have cared to face the piercing north and north-west winds and their concomitant discomforts. The river is lower than it has been at any period of the year. At the University Paper Mill the wheel power is reduced to almost a minimum, and in several places in the vicinity of the city the water has sunk into a mere thread. Sport has consequently been very unsatisfactory, the takes small, and the size of the fish proportionate.—The Cherwell Otter.

### Ancholme District.

Winter has set in early this season, and in full force. Sheets of water are now covered with ice of about an inch in thickness : as a consequence we are thinking more about skates than fishing-rods.—Thomas Ford.

### Chichester.

Very little has been done here the past week. The early mornings have been ushered in by white frosts, the canal in parts being coated with ice. A few perch and one small pike are all I hear of. Selham and the Ouse have proved unremunerative. One can but notice when strolling down the Chichester Canal the number of unattended pike-rods. A fine perch was found dead a few days since with a double gorge hook imbedded. It is a pity this wholesale pot-hunting cannot be stopped ; it does not give the legitimate anglers a chance.—George F. Salter.

### The Dee, Don, &c. (Aberdeenshire).

For a few days prior to, and ever since the termination of, the angling season in this quarter, the rivers have been more or less flooded, the result partly of rain and partly of the melting of snow on the hills. We have had boisterous weather, cold weather—in the low-lying districts a considerable rainfall, and on the hills a good deal of snow. Just now the Dee shows less body of water than it has done at any time since the close of the rod season. What was anticipated has not been realised, as down to date no ascent of fish to the spawning grounds at all worth speaking about has taken place. It is true that about the last days of the fishing, and when all too late to enable the angler to secure a fair record, a good many heavy fish moved up the river, but further than that there has been no run. Consequently, in the lower and middle waters there are comparatively few fish on the reds, but from Aboyne upwards they are closely covered principally with small salmon. Indeed, in the remoter reaches of the river spawning is now well advanced, and a good many fish are turning seaward. Seldom with so many fish far up the river has so little destruction amongst them been committed or such a good and early spawning season been experienced. The result is highly gratifying to anglers in that there will, therefore, be something like adequate compensation for the scarcity of fish in the lower sections. In the rivers keeping low till so far through the season one good end has been served, and that is, that fish in any great number have not ascended the smaller streams as they would otherwise have done had there been plenty of water early enough. The result is that the fish have kept more to the main streams, where the chances for "water burning" are more risky, and the operator's success proportionately less on account of the far greater body of water. Doubtless a good many fish took to the Clunie, which, more that any other affluent of the Dee, runs high whenever there is rain, on account of its situation among the higher hills. But then that stream is very closely watched in general. Spawning in it may be said to be farther advanced than even in the very farthest up reaches of the Dee itself. The Corgarffers and Ballaterians have had very little temptation to raid on the Gairn this autumn. We have heard of great havoc in bygone times being committed among the salmon in that small stream by organised bands of sturdy Hielanmen. This "back end," if the same reprehensible proclivity is still latent in them, they might have saved themselves the trouble of swooping down from the hills for all the results they would have likely obtained. The Huick, though a considerable stream, is not a natal one, and it's only a straggler that ascends it ; hence, the votaries of *the long iron* have no inducement to visit it. The Tarland burn, up which a fair quantity of fish proceed every fall, is denied their acquaintance this time, and it's well ! The Tanar is well looked after, thanks to the watchfulness it receives at the instance of one of the most generous and sport-encouraging lessees of Dee fisheries. The Cannie and the Sheoch are so far down the river that the spates come on too late for to encourage fish ascending them. A few sea trout and whitling may have got up these streams, though there were certainly no signs of them when the fishing closed, and there's no great harm there were none. And what about the Feugh? Well, fewer fish are up that stream this year than usual. Heavy fish cannot get up it, and so few in number were the back-lying fish, and so meagre the run of small ones the autumn spates encouraged, that it is safe to say there is not one in ten in the Feugh at present, compared with the number at a corresponding period at an ordinary season. Mr. Young, H.M.'s Inspector of Fisheries, recommends the destruction of the rocks at the Fall, in order to allow fish an easy ascent. That is all very good in its way ; but does it not occur to anyone who knows the temptation to poaching, which vast numbers of spawning fish in a small stream afford, that the more fish in the water, the greater the necessity for close watching and a large staff of watchers? How then would it accord with the highly economical (shall we call it spirited ?) policy of the Fishery Board if they had to send up seven or eight bailiffs to promenade the Forest of Birse Valley, of Strachan, and the Glen of Dye for a few months every year? There are numerous first-class spawning beds in the Feugh and Dye, and were it not that we have heard that leistering is regarded by the inhabitants thereabouts as highly laudable in its way and "capital fun," we should say the more fish up these streams the better. We may remark here that owing to the low waters scarcely any fish went up in summer, and that, therefore, in our opinion, there has been little kippering in the glen dwellings this autumn. We are very strongly of opinion that all small streams up which grilse and salmon run most in June and July ought to be more closely watched between the first of September and the middle of November, than during the "dead" of winter. Fish in such streams mostly spawn very early, and it is therefore of infinitely greater moment that they should be well protected during the period we have indicated than later on. Relatively the Spring fishing was as great a success as the Autumn fishing was a failure. The Summer fishing need not be spoken of, so bad indeed did it prove. The Don has done poorly. No water and no access upward all summer. If Mr. Young had recommended a Special Act of Parliament for the removal of the Don Dykes, the recommendation would have been one of the best he has yet made. "Auld Glentakit's" contribution in verse on the evils of these dykes made many wince. To him we would say, in the words of Nick Bottom, the weaver.—"*We* shall desire of you more acquaintance, good '*Auld Glentakit!*'" Disease is apparent amongst the fish in the Don—that we regret. Some poachers recently got what they had evidently not calculated on—their net (not filled with salmon—oh, no !) caught on hooks sunk for the purpose by one of *your* (Mr. Editor) Don acquaintances up the river a bit Suppose they had been loath to leave it, which perforce they were obliged to do.—W. M.

### The Dove.

Matters have been rather quiet on this river since my last. The weather and water have been all right, but anglers have been comparatively few and far between. The temperature has fallen greatly, and a hard white frost has prevailed every morning. This ought to bring the grayling on the feed—indeed, it has done, as on Tuesday and Wednesday they were rising much more freely than they had done for several days previously. The expert rods found no difficulty in securing sport, but as we have said, only a limited number of them have been out. We always have a kind of lull amongst our anglers before Christmas, and, I suppose, the usual slackness may now be said to have set in. Bottom fishers are doing better with the worm than the maggot, which rarely kills well on the Dove in a low temperature of the water.—THE SPLODGER.

### Exe (Exeter).

A few perch have been taken in the canal with live minnows and brandlings, but beyond this, there has been nothing doing, the wind having been northerly or westerly during the week. An unknown friend yesterday sent me "Foster's Scientific Angler," and it is a masterpiece on angling, and for bottom fishermen and fly anglers is a perfect *vade mecum.* I hope to send a more favourable report next week.—J. A. KELLEY.

### Ilfracombe.

Sea fishing.—During the past week boats drifting for herrings have had very poor success, the most caught at a haul being a half maize. They fear the east wind has taken the herrings from our coast, but boats fishing with ground lines have had good sport. Over three tons of fish have been caught, consisting of cod, conger (some weighing over 40lb.), ling, and skate, while rod and hand line fishers have come in for a share. Saturday : Mr. German, a conger, Mr. Slocombe, cod, 17lb. Monday : Mr. German, conger, 17½lb., Mr. Slocombe, cod, 16lb. Tuesday : Mr. Ellis a cod. Wednesday : A gentleman, a large cod. These were all caught from the jetty. Thursday, an immense porpoise. Weather very squally.—E. COMER.

### Leicester.

Since my last report we have had a sharp taste of proper winter weather. Frosts have covered the brooks with a fairly thick coating of ice on several nights, thus preventing anglers from following the sport except in sharp running waters. On Friday and Saturday last week, in spite of the inclement weather, a good number of anglers were fishing the home waters, and, upon the whole, with a fair amount of success, both pike and chub biting well. Several good brace of pike were caught, averaging between 4lb. and 6lb. Chub anglers were numerous, and a good number of this species have been shown during the week at the club house. Lately pith has been, and continues to be, the most killing bait for the chub. Sport in the outlying districts has been of a quiet character ; in no instance have heavy bags been reported. To-night (Thursday) there would seem to be a change in the weather, it being slightly warmer, and small rain has fallen during the greater part of the day. The waters in this locality are in fairly good condition, and moderately high.—ALERT.

### Lugg and Arrow (Leominster).

Both streams are in good fishing order, but keep very low and remain clear. Snow fell in this part the beginning of the week, but made no difference to the water. There has been good sport had in both streams with the grasshopper and maggot, and a few good fish have been taken with the fly. Very good sport has been had near Ivington with the maggot, and some good fish have been taken. In the Aymestry district some very fine grayling have been landed with the grasshopper. The water near Eardisland was fished on Monday, and a nice lot of grayling were taken with the maggot. There has been some very good grayling taken in the Stanton water this week with the grasshopper. The Pinsley is in good fishing order ; the fish are biting freely. A good dish of fish was taken on Friday, and a good basket on Tuesday with the fly. Fishing in the Bodenham and Monkland waters very quiet.—GWYNNE.

### Medway (Tonbridge).

Twenty-four hours' constant rain is wanted before the Medway will have even a drizzle, let alone a good run. With the main river as low as possible, and many of the side streams almost dry, it is impossible to have anything like a successful day's fishing ; yet, notwithstanding this, a few pike were taken as well as some large chub with live bait, and the bottom fishers have been rewarded with occasional bags of roach. Otters are again having a gay time of it, and, the ground being as hard as a brick, it is next to useless to try and trap for them. Only let the weather break, and some of these gentlemen—and ladies, too, I hope—will have their death recorded by—YE MEDWAY WATER RAT

### The Ouse (Huntingdon).

The water is in good condition, and weather very favourable. Jack are on the feed. Some decent ones have been taken. On the 24th, I took one fine fish going 10lb. 3oz. ; on the 25th, four going 8½lb. 7¾lb., and two 4½lb. each ; on the 26th, one 3½lb., making a total 38lb. 15oz., and having five more runs, but missed the fish, so it shows they have been on. Boach and dace are the bait used, but they will take either.—H. ROUT.

### Teme (Ludlow).

There was some good fishing Saturday and Monday, and some nice grayling were caught with the maggot, the fly on those days being almost worthless. Mr. Parker caught some fine grayling in the Ashford waters on Monday, and eleven fine perch, averaging ½lb. each, were caught down by Saltmoor on the evening of Monday. The Leintwardine club waters have had scarcely any visitors, and things in that direction are remarkably quiet. Eighteen grayling were caught up the Clun, maggot fishing on Monday. The Corve and Ony have been fairly fished. A very sharp frost on Monday night, and a heavy fall of snow on Tuesday morning, suspended fishing operations for a time. Snow covered all the fields and roads, until Wednesday's sun melted it.—S. LUDLOW.

### Teme (Tenbury).

This stream still keeps in good order for fishing, still keeping clear, but low. A fall of snow was had in this part on Tuesday. Good sport has been had with the maggot, and some very fine fish have been taken with the grasshopper. There have been but few anglers out with the flies this week. In the water near the Teme bridge a very good lot of grayling were landed with the maggot. Some good sport has been had in the Eastham district. On Saturday a capital dish of grayling were landed with the maggot in the water near Little Hereford. A gentleman tried the water near Corn Brook, and with the grasshopper took a good basket of fine fish, averaging ½lb. each. The Kyre, Rea, and Ledwyche are in good fishing order, but low. A few good fish have been taken in the Kyre ; but little fishing in the Rea and Ledwyche.—WORCESTER.

### Trent (Alrewas).

There have been no reports to hand respecting the take of fish during the past week. The river is low and clear, and in good fishing order. The small quantity of snow that fell has had no detrimental effect upon the water.—ANON.

### Trent (Newark).

The water has been very low and clear all this week, and in pretty good condition for chub and pike fishing, but I have not heard of any very big catches having been had. Taking the week on the whole, it has been very uncomfortable for fishing, that is, as far as the weather was concerned, for it has been very raw and cold. We had some very sharp frosts three or four nights, with the wind in the N.E. ; but yesterday morning I noticed the wind had changed to the N.W., and there has not been much frost to speak of since. To-day (Thursday) there has been a heavy wind blowing—a pike day, without doubt, if the anglers were bold enough to venture out, and could succeed in keeping a firm foothold on the banks. These sharp frosts this week should drive the jack out of the streams into the deep holes in slack corners and eddies ; and they also should have the effect of rousing up the chub, and making them take kindly to pith and brains. I should say, under the present circumstances, these two fish will be the safest venture just now ; pike, livebaiting, or spinning, and chub, with pith and brains. Water now very low and clear ; in fairish form for the fish just named.—THE TRENT OTTER.

This week has been a blank to all our members. I thought Saturday a grand day, and with Mr. Slater as companion fancied myself in for a good thing ; but as it proved, my usual bad luck overweighted his usual good. We tried live bait, snap and gorge spinning, and dead gorge, but all of no use. There were eight members I know out, and every one had same tale to tell; the fish were there, for we saw more than one ; but they would not be tempted. Messrs. W. Lane and Chatterton tried the river on Monday. The former lost a grand fish ; he was never struck, but simply took the bait and went away with float and tackle. I know there was a fish in the same place last year, which would prove good exercise carrying home on a cold day. On Tuesday, Messrs. Dale and Chatterton tried a noted water lower down the Trent, but still no result. We shall not do any good now until we have a flush of water. No doubt the best game until then will be to try the chub. Any one wishing to see good samples of coarse fish may do so in our market any Wednesday or Saturday.—I have made no reference to the doings of the two other clubs.

### Trent (Nottingham).

News of sport this week has been very scarce. The river continues very low and clear ; clearer, in fact, than it has been for weeks past. A few chub and pike anglers have visited the lower waters, and at Fiskerton a good basket of the former was caught with bullock's pith and brains. The reserved reaches have been tried for pike, but these fish do not seem so numerous in the Trent as previously. So far they seem to prefer the streams to the backwaters. On Thursday night there was a slight downpour of rain, and the weather generally was boisterous and cold. Rain —or a sufficient quantity to produce a rise—is greatly required, and, until a rise comes, I am afraid sport will fall off in character. Last (Friday) evening there was a special general meeting of the North Wellington Association for a ballot of members. Apart from the river favourable reports of pike fishing reach me from the preserved lakes and reservoirs of the district.—THE MAN AT THE CLUBS.

### Wye and Derwent.

The weather has at last changed, for we have had some very sharp, frosty nights which has caused the grayling to feed much better, both at top and bottom, and several baskets of good-sized grayling have been landed, chiefly off the Chatsworth club water and the Darley Dale waters, both above and below Darley bridge. The best baskets have been made by D. P. Pearson, Esq., Sneinton, Nottingham, and several other anglers have been having fair catches, mostly with bottom fishing with maggots and worms. Cockspurs maggots are very scarce in this district now. Both chub, roach, and dace have been feeding very nicely lately ; pike have not fed so well during the past week. The dirty water which comes into the Derwent every day above Darley bridge completely takes the fish off the feed for about three hours, for fish will neither rise nor bite while this mine water is running into the river. Why do not the "Trent Board Men" see to these pollutions and get them stopped ? On Monday week there were seven of our members of the Matlock Bath Angling Association took a waggonette and a pair of horses to inspect Mr. Stephen Peach's (of Hulland Hall, near Shottle) trout hatchery ; on their return home, the waggonette was overturned, and several of them slightly injured ; Mr. Buxton and Mr. S. Smith being the most hurt. Weather to-day (Thursday) is very rough and boisterous ; rain expected. I have seen several grayling lately that have been quite full of spawn. Where could I get a quantity of good maggots, and what would the cost be ?—George James Eaton.

### The Wharfe (Yorkshire).

The frost has come at last, much to the delight of the grayling fishers, who have been anxiously looking for it weeks ago. "Watchet" was the first angler who availed himself of the change in the weather, so far as I am aware ; he went out last Monday upon the Otley Club water, and was rewarded by the capture of a nice dish of grayling, numbering six brace. Didn't the party who went to Burnsall last week wish that they had postponed their trip just six days, when, no doubt, the result would have been very different from what it was ? But angling, like many other mundane affairs, is composed largely of "ifs," and regrets do not in the slightest degree alter circumstances that *have* been. The weather is wonderfully fine for the time of year ; in fact, one can hardly imagine that the usually thick, murky month of November is now almost past and gone.—Francis M. Walbran.

## OF BAITS, AND WHERE TO FIND THEM.

Observing the interesting letter from Mr. A. D. Campbell on the above subject in your issue of 22nd inst., and having in my possession Brooke's "Art of Angling ; Rock and Sea Fishing, with the Natural History of River, Pond, and Sea Fish," 1740, I thought perhaps the following extracts on the subject might interest many of your readers :—

"Of Baits, and Where to Find Them.

"Of natural baits the worm is not the least considerable ; there are several sorts, but the largest is :—

"The lob-worm or dew worm. This is a proper bait for salmon, trout, chub, barbel and eels of the largest size. It is to be found in gardens and churchyards by the help of a lanthorn late on a summer's evening. In great droughts, when they do not appear, pour the juice of walnut-tree leaves mixt with a little water and salt into their holes, and it will drive them out of the ground.

"The brandling, gilt tail, and red worm are all found in old dunghills or the rotten earth near them ; but the best are found in tanners' yards under the heaps of bark which they throw out after they have done with it. The brandling is most readily met with in hog dung. These are good bait for trout, grayling, salmon, smelts, gudgeon, perch, tench, and bream.

"The marsh worm is got out of marsh ground on the banks of rivers, and is of a bluish color. It is a likely bait for salmon, smelts, gudgeon, grayling, trout, perch, bream, and flounder in March, April, and September, though they use it from Candlemas till Michaelmas preferable to any other.

"The tag-tail is of a pale, flesh-colour, with a yellow tag on his tail almost half an inch long ; they are found in *marled ldnd* or meadows after a shower of rain, and are a good bait for a trout if you angle for them after the water is discoloured with rain. And here you must observe that all worms should be well scour'd in moss that has been well wash'd and cleaned from all dirt and filth ; after it is wrung very dry, both the moss and worms should be put into an earthen pot, close stop'd, that they may not crawl out. This pot should stand cool in summer, and the moss should be changed every fourth day ; but in winter it should stand warm, and if you change the moss once a week it will be sufficient.

"Besides these worms that are to be found in the earth there are others which breed upon different herbs and trees which afterwards become flies. The principal of these are the palmer worm, the oak worm, the crab-tree worm, and the caterpillar. These are to be kept in little boxes with holes to let in the air, and they must be fed with leaves of the same tree on which they were found. These are good baits for trout, chub, grayling, roach, and dace.

"The earth-bob or white-grub is a worm with a red head as big as two maggots, and is soft and full of whitish guts ; it is found in a sandy light soil, and may be gathered after the plough, when the land is first broken up after grazing. You may know in what ground to find them by the crows, for they will follow the plough very close where these animals are to be met with. This is chiefly a winter bait, from the beginning of November to the middle of April, and is proper for chub, roach, dace, bream, tench, carp, trout, and salmon smelts. They are to be kept in a vessel closed stop'd, with a sufficient quantity of the earth they were bred in, and they will be ready for use all the winter.

"The clap bait is found under cowdung, and is like a gentle, but bigger. You must seek for it only on such land as is light and sandy, for it is much of the same nature as the earth-bob, and may be kept in wet moss for two or three days. It is an excellent bait for trout, but almost every other fish will take it.

"The cob bait, caddis-worm, and straw-worm are only different names for the same bait. They are found in pits, ponds, brooks, and ditches, and are covered with husks of sticks, straws, or rushes. They are very good bait for trout, grayling, carp, tench, bream, chub, roach, dace, salmon smelts, and bleak. The green sort are found in March, the yellow in May, and a third sort in August.

"The flag-worm or dock-worm are found in the roots of flags that grow on the brink of an old pond. When you have pull'd up the roots you will find among the fibres of it reddish or yellowish cases ; these you must open with a pin, and you will find a small worm longer and slenderer than a gentle, with a red head, a palish body, and rows of feet all down the belly. This is an exceeding good bait for grayling, tench, bream, carp, roach, and dace.

"The ash grub is a milk-white worm, with a red head, and may be had at any time from Michaelmas till June. It is to be found under the bark of an oak, ash, alder, or birch, if they lie a year after they have been cut down. You may likewise find it in the body of a rotten alder if you break it up with an ax ; as also under the bark of a decay'd stump of a tree. It is a good bait for a grayling, chub, roach, and dace."

The above concludes the author's remarks about worms, and is followed by all sorts of suggestions, from "hard sheep's blood dry'd upon a board and cut in pieces fit for the hook" down to "periwinkles taken out of the shell are good baits for roach in the river Thames, as are likewise shrimps uncased for the pike and chub."

Robert Moll,
Hon. sec. Norwich Angling Club.

## FISH CULTURE.

The secretary of the Howietoun Fishery states that upwards of ninety thousand yearling trout were delivered last season to all parts of Great Britain and Ireland, and that two consignments of trout ova and one of salmon ova from the fishery were forwarded to New Zealand successfully. He goes on to say :—

"Trout require careful preparation before they can be transported with safety, the time necessary varying from three or four days in the case of yearlings to as many weeks for large trout.

"The hatchery has proved most successful, and upwards of ten millions of trout ova are now annually incubated at the Fishery.

"All eggs are eyed on glass grilles, experience having shown the strongest embryos and healthiest fry are obtained by this method.

"The introduction of partially eyed ova into the market has proved of immense importance in economically stocking large tracts of water. So soon as the embryo is sufficiently formed, the ova should be laid down in gravel redds, contiguous to some small stream falling into the rivers or locks to be stocked. As all unimpregnated eggs are removed before despatch, no loss can occur from byssus, and all the expense and trouble of artificial hatching is avoided.

"Full information as to the situation and formation of redds will be forwarded on application.

"When streams, either from the quantity of sediment in the water, or from their liability to flood, are unsuited for partially eyed ova, they may yet be successfully stocked with fry ; but as in most natural waters the mortality at this age is very great, large numbers are required.

"Yearlings are, *par excellence*, the size for general purposes. They are strong enough to find their own food, thus avoiding the principal cause of mortality among fry, namely, starvation ; they are easily carried, and stand the journey well ; they accommodate themselves with the greatest facility to new water ; and they thrive so fast in ponds, that they will be found a very profitable investment.

"Two-year-olds are recommended where coarse fish or large trout already exist in the water, or where expense is no object and sport in the shortest possible time is required.

"The difficulty of conveying trout increases with the number of hours occupied on the journey. Intending purchasers are requested to state their nearest railway station, and the exact distance from it to their water. From the experience of previous years, it has been found that although there is no difficulty in carrying trout in iced water for any journey not exceeding twenty hours, unless the water which is to be stocked is of a similar temperature some loss will arise from inflammation of the gills. Trout will, therefore, only be forwarded in cold weather. The fish are sent by express passenger trains in tanks of two sizes : 40 gallons, weighing between 5cwt. and 6cwt. ; and 18 gallons, weighing about 1½cwt. It is particularly requested that a lorry or other suitable cart be sent to meet the fish on arrival.

"Yearlings vary from 2½in. to 5in. from November to June, and two-year-olds from 5in. to 8in.

"For long journeys, especially to the South of England, trout should be ordered early in the winter, as they can then be transported at less expense.

"All communications to be addressed to

"J. R. Guy, Secretary,
"Howietoun Fishery, Stirling."

[We can recommend the Loch Leven trout for English streams. Last season we caught several in the Darenth ; they were very handsome fish, fought well, and had grown rapidly. We advise our readers to have nothing to do with American *Fontinalis* ; they are useless for English rivers—do pretty well in small ponds when food is abundant, but will not breed.—Ed.]

## CARP FISHING.

"R. A. B.," in his recent note on "Carp Fishing," has shown how such should *not* be done. Perhaps the following contrast may be of sufficient interest to make it as pleasing to your correspondent as it undoubtedly was to myself :—

A few weeks since I was favoured with permission to fish a private pond well stocked with large carp. The owner of it thought it a waste of precious angler's time to attempt to hoax so capricious a feeder, and so cunning a biter, the more so as many adepts at the art had been previously disappointed. The day of my adventure was rough, though warm. The wind at times was almost sufficiently strong to blow a man out of his hat ; but towards evening it lulled, and the carp began to move, jumping clear of the water in their well-known vigorous, if not graceful, manner.

I was fishing in about 4ft. of water, with two rods resting on pegs, as for bream. I had ground-baited with soaked bran and ordinary gentles, and had placed on each hook two or three wasp grubs. These I always find appreciated by the crafty *Cyprinus carpio*. To complete the sweet-toothed dainty, I took a small box of honey, and, without touching the bait with my fingers, thrust it into the box, and coated it with the manipulated nectar. I waited and watched with the superabundant, or rather superhuman, patience necessary on such occasions, and had almost concluded that my patron's prognostications were about to be fulfilled, when my upper or left-hand float, lying flat on the water, began to glide along the surface in a very suggestive and gratifying manner.

I struck, not "ile," as the Yankee would say, but a game fish, which rushed upward and onward as if eager to cut my acquaintance. I had hardly felt the grip of my first fish when float No. 2, lying at length on the right, began to move in the opposite direction to the struggling captive, which already questioned my right of deprivation. "A bird in hand is worth two in the bush," and a fish on the hook is worth two in the water. I resolved at once to let my second bold epicure take his hook and his chance. The rod was firm, the line was good, and soon 60 yards of it formed a miniature cable between the fish and the shore. My quarry was evidently steeled to the encounter, and soon disappeared round a bend in the bank.

"Frailty, thy name is woman !" My first-hooked carp pursued the uneven tenour of his way, and showed signs of exhaustion. I looked down at my companion reel and saw that but few yards remained of the rapidly-running line. I had given it the previous day to a fair enthusiast to place on the winch, and the idea that perhaps it had not been properly fastened, and the fear of losing it altogether, aroused me to a sense of danger and change of action. Seizing the line with the right hand, while holding my bending rod with my left, I placed it between my teeth, and held on with a nodding grip of desperation whilst I successfully grassed my first hooked and now defeated opponent. I then brought his roaming companion nearer home, and in a few minutes he joined his mate on terra firma. Their well-balanced figures showed their fraternal judgment—the one weighing nearly, and the other just over, 6lb.

F. Miller.

# CLUB REPORTS.

## ACT ON THE SQUARE SOCIETY.

The members of this society, which is, I believe, the only society in this end of London which does not weigh in on Sundays, has removed its quarters from Ye Old Ferrie Boat, at Tottenham (after three years and a half), to the Duke of Norfolk, Norfolk-street, Globe-road, Mile End, where they will be glad to meet brothers of the angle on any Thursday evening. In justice to our late host, Mr. H. Day, it is only fair to state that he did all that lay in his power for us without receiving anything for his trouble, but it was found that the distance was too far from London for most of our members either to weigh in fish or attend the meetings; consequently it was resolved to remove and see if we could not have better meetings, and also try to infuse new blood, to rouse some of the old members from that state of lethargy into which they have fallen of late. We fish our next match to-day (Saturday), from Carthagena Weir to the Fish and Eels, for a prize presented by our respected chairman, Mr. H. Chapman.—A. George.

## THE ANGLERS' ASSOCIATION.

Special Notice.—In consequence of the concert in aid of the funds of the Anglers' Benevolent Society being fixed for Monday, Dec. 1st, the usual monthly meeting of the committee will be postponed to Wednesday, Dec. 3rd, at 9 p.m.—R. Ghurney, sec.

## AMICABLE BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

The following members weighed in fish:—Mr. Medcalf, one jack; Mr. Harding, roach. The annual supper will take place in the club-room on Monday. Dec. 1st, at nine o'clock sharp. The annual distribution of prizes will take place on Monday, Dec, 8th.—J. Worledge, sec.

## BERESFORD ANGLING SOCIETY.

The usual weekly meeting of the above society was held at the club room, Grove Tavern, Camberwell, on Thursday, the 20th inst. Chair taken by Mr. W. R. Burgess. Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed; after which it was decided to call a special attendance for the following week to consider the adjourned prize list, and other important business.—H. W. Barrett, sec.

## CENTRAL ASSOCIATION OF LONDON ANGLING SOCIETIES.

The next delegate meeting will take place on Friday, December 5th, at 9 o'clock.—J. A. Fitch, sec.

## CITY OF LONDON ANGLING SOCIETY.

On the 16th Mr. Castell weighed in roach from the Roding, just saving the club from a blank. On the 23rd we had three members out, and we were again saved from a blank by Mr. Nitz weighing in a small jack from Pulborough.—Cas.

## THE CLAPTON.

The usual weekly meeting was held at the Swan Hotel on Monday last, a committee meeting being held at seven o'clock, prior to the general meeting at eight. It being the monthly smoking concert night, there was a capital muster of members and their friends. Mr. G. H. Field in the chair. The secretary reported having sent out about a hundred circulars to members, &c., apprising them of the outing fixed for the 6th prox. He had received some letters in reply; but he hoped that members present had some suitable water to recommend. The Bures, Chelmsford, and other waters proposed were considered too far away, so it was decided to fish the Lea on the towpath from the Rye House to Ware, making Mr. Longmale's, the Red Lion Hotel, St. Margaret's, the headquarters, leaving Liverpool-street Station at 8.8 a.m., calling at Hackney Downs 8.19, Clapton 8.22, reaching St. Margaret's at 9.12; cease fishing 4 p.m.; one rod each; go where you please within above limit. A handsome prize for heaviest jack, roach, and perch. A circular giving full particulars will be sent to each member. Mr. Short weighed in chub from Angel-road. Other angling matters were discussed, and so closed the business of the evening. The concert then followed, which Mr. H. J. Tibbatts opened most excellently with "Nil Desperandum." Prominently noticeable was the very artistic singing of several members of the Clissold Smoking Concert Club, viz., Mr. Irwin, "Drinking"; Mr. Chapman, "Come into the Garden, Maud," deservedly encored and kindly responded to with "The Anchor's Weighed." Later in the evening, this gentleman, by special request, delighted his hearers with "Then You'll Remember Me." Mr. Ibbetson sang very effectively, "True, True, till Death," and for an encore substituted a thoroughly well-rendered recitation. Mr. Colyer (hon. sec. of the Clissold) was very funny in the topical comic song, "Fishing for Truth in a Well," and later in the evening gave another equally funny song. Mr. Bendon caused roars of laughter by a very comic lecture on "Hey-diddle-diddle." Mr. Shean sang "The Boatswain" with good effect. Mr. Parker, jun., delighted the members with "Village Chimes" on the fairy bells, and in response to an enthusiastic demand for an encore later in the evening gave "Variations on Scotch Airs" on the same instrument, which was highly appreciated. Mr. Ghurney sang capitally "Jolly Nose"; and Mr. Meade was very funny with "Rheumatics," accompanying himself on the piano. Mr. Tregenza sang two very good comic songs with great success. Mr. Parker, sen., gave a humorous recitation, "The Yorkshireman." Mr. Pratt, who possesses a very fine and powerful voice, was much applauded in his song, Mr. Kidd was deservedly encored in the funny song, "I knew a Nice Old Maid." Mr. Robinson much pleased the company with "Give me the Man with Honest Heart"; and Mr. Beck's "Old Simon the Cellarer" was rendered in his usual pleasing manner. The "Health of the Visitors" was tendered in a neat little speech, responded to by Mr. Colyer. The "Health of Mr. Winterbottom" for his kindness and ability in presiding at the pianoforte, was warmly responded to; and a very hearty vote of thanks to the chairman, followed by the "National Anthem," brought a most enjoyable evening to a satisfactory close. —Henry Howse, hon. sec.

## DORSET ANGLERS SOCIETY, MANCHESTER.

The members of the above society held their annual dinner at their new club, house, the Radnor Hotel, Radnor-street, Hulme, on Wednesday, Nov. 12. Dinner was on the table at eight o'clock, when there was a capital muster of members and friends to partake of the excellent catering of Host and Hostess Newsham, who supplied the courses in rare style for the occasion. On entering we were most agreeably surprised to see the manner in which our host had decorated the large room for the occasion, the walls being covered with banners and Union Jacks, also a few specimen-cases of our members' angling skill; the table being stocked with choice flowers, evergreens, and gold fish. After doing full justice to the dinner and dessert, we commenced the evening's harmony, with Mr. Rathbone, president, in the chair, Mr. Foster, vice-chairman (in the absence of Mr. Goss, vice:president), with the usual toast of "The Queen and the Royal Family," followed by a choice selection of overtures and operatic airs by Mr. Watson (violin) and Miss Watson (piano), interspersed with songs by members and friends. As it was now among the small hours of the morning we concluded with the toast of "Our Host and Hostess," with musical honours. After thanking the Chairman and Vice-Chairman for their kind services during the evening, we dispersed to our homes well-satisfied with everybody.—W. Hand, hon. sec.

## GLOBE ANGLING SOCIETY.

Only a few fish have been weighed in during the last fortnight by the members of the above society, which were as follows:—Mr. H. Lake, roach 1lb. 5½oz., dace 9oz., one small jack 3lb.; Mr. L. Harrington, roach 2lb. 1oz.; Mr. F. Lawrence, roach 8oz. The usual monthly concert, in aid of the funds of the Anglers' Benevolent Society, was held at the headquarters on Weduesday evening, the 19th inst., and proved very successful. The chair was ably filled by Mr. L. Harrington, faced by Mr. H. Woolner, who were well supported by a host of talent, both vocal and instrumental. Mr. Grace presided at the harmonic flutina, and Messrs. White and Abbott on the violin. Special mention may be made of Mr. Medson, who sang in splendid style "She Wore a Wreath of Roses" and "Hark, the Drum." Mr. Frank Ottoway, the inimitable bone player, also gave a surprising performance on the bones, which was unanimously declared by the company to be very clever. Mr. W. Brown, in his usual easy manner, gave the "Big Ben Tower"; Mr. Vaughan, "Our Jack's Come Home To-day"; Mr. G. Brown, "As Onward we Travel"; Mr. H. Mills, a very amusing comic song entitled, "Crouch End Hill," and on being encored gave "The Dear Old Times Over Again"; Mr. Yewell, "I Have Been and Got Married To-day," in good style; Mr. Frankham gave "The Frenchman"; Mr. Wade, "The Black-Eyed Gaffer," a very comic negro entertainment, and a solo on the banjo; Mr. H. Woolner sang "Ehren on the Rhine," in excellent style; Mr. L. Harrington, a comic recitation, and many others keeping it up till 12.15 a.m. A few remarks from the secretary in support of the Anglers' Benevolent Fund, and a vote of thanks to the chairman and vice-chairman, terminated a very comfortable evening.—J. J. Holmes, sec.

## GOLDEN BARBEL.

On the 2nd inst. Messrs. Harper, Chapman, Bigsby, Hall, Stanton, J. Green, and J. Jones had a nice show of roach, dace, and perch from the Thames and the Colne. On the 9th inst. Messrs. J. Jones, Bigsby, J. Roach, Harper, Hall, W. Roach, Crow, J. Stanton, and J. Green exhibited roach, dace, perch, and jack from Windsor and the Grand Junction Canal. On the 16th inst. J. Green, roach and dace; J. Roach, dace and roach; Hall, roach; Bigsby, roach and dace. On the 18th inst. Mr. F. Kemp visited Richmond, and succeeded in getting 14lb. of nice roach and dace. On the 23rd inst. J. Roach had roach and dace; Chapman, roach; E. Hall, roach; T. Bigsby, roach and dace; and J. Stanton roach from the Thames and the canal. "Our boys," by the above, are getting back to their old form, and now the cold weather has set in I hope they will have some good sport from some of the old shops.—Pixie.

## GOOD INTENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of this club fished for the remaining prizes on the 23rd inst., go where you please, the result being all the prizes taken. Mr. Snook, 1st; Mr. Maybury, 2nd; Mr. Solomon, 3rd, &c. There was a good attendanee of members on the 25th, and it was decided to fish for our Christmas prizes at Broxbourne, pegged-down, on December 14th. Our prize list will be very heavy, and will be thrown open to all members, honorary included.—R. Murphy.

## GREAT NORTHERN BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

On Nov. 23rd Mr. G. Watling weighed in 9lb. 1oz. roach and dace; Mr. E. Smith, dace; Mr. Parrett, jack, 2lb. 5lb.; Mr. King, roach; Mr. J. A. Fitch, perch.—J. A. Fitch, sec.

## GREAT YARMOUTH PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The only business to record this week at the meeting on Tuesday was—the secretary reported that J. Priske, Esq., of London, caught, whilst fishing for roach at Surlingham Ferry, a nice trout of ½lb., clearly showing that trout will thrive in the waters near here, as no mention has been made of any trout being put in these waters for two years, when some were tried as an experiment. The meeting in respect of endeavouring to get the same privileges extended to provincial societies in the Eastern Counties the same as the metropolitan will be attended by the secretary, as representing the Yarmouth Piscatorials, and it is to be hoped good results will follow.—J. Lark.

## GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

The usual weekly meeting of the above society was held on Tuesday evening at the Mason's Hall Tavern, Mason's Avenue, Basinghall-street, Mr. Bentley in the chair The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The secretary laid before the meeting the diploma awarded to the society at the International Fisheries Exhibition. Mr. Parker proposed and Captain Alfred seconded Mr. Thomas H. Sowerbutts as a member of the society. The ballot for this gentleman will be taken on the 9th prox. In the report of the last meeting it should have been stated that Mr. Lake exhibited a very fine take of perch, and that his friend, Mr. Goddard, had a very fine specimen of an 8lb. jack. The arrangements for the entertainment to take place on the 9th December are being rapidly proceeded with by the sub-committee appointed to carry them out—viz., Mr. Parker and Captain Alfred. Notices will be sent to the members of the society, and a goodly attendance of members and friends is confidently expected. The chairman, having brought this and other matters to the notice of the meeting, was awarded a hearty vote of thanks, and the business of a very pleasant evening brought to a close.—H.

## HAMMERSMITH UNITED ANGLING SOCIETY.

On Thursday, Nov. 20th, we held our first smoking concert, and a most successful one it was, both in point of numbers present and in the talent displayed. Too much praise cannot be given to our hon. secretary, Mr. H. G. Penney, for the care and trouble he was at to bring about this success. The usual business having been disposed of, Mr. Vincent commenced the evening's entertainment with some well-executed operatic selections on the piano, for which he was justly applauded. Singing was then commenced by Mr. Reynolds with "The Old Sacristan," and was well sustained during the evening by Messrs. Elms, Peachey, Penney, Toms, and others of our own society; and by Messrs. Turner and Burgess, visitors, the former gentleman being greatly applauded for his excellent rendering of "Come into the Garden, Maud," and "My Sweetheart when a Boy," and the latter-named gentleman for his comic songs, including a new one entitled, "Most Decidedly Not"; but more especially was his rendering of that fine patriotic song, "Balaclava," cheered to the echo in the most enthusiastic manner, as the recit[illegible] of such heroic deeds by our own gallant countrymen ever will be. Banjo duets were given by Mr. Cobb and Mr. Marstin, of the Brompton Club; and by the former gentleman, "The Ignoramus Nigger," which caused much laughter; songs by Mr. Cecil and Mr. Moody, also of the Brompton, and by Mr. Dobell, of the Cambridge Society; recitations by Mr. Peachey and Mr. Arnold, and a comical stump oration by Mr. Gower. Mr. Burbidge, of the Brompton, responded to a vote of thanks passed to our visitors for their presence and assistance, and from his remarks we gathered they were pleased with the evening's amusement, and will favour us by attending on a future occasion, and we most certainly shall return the compliment to those clubs who visited us whenever they desire to have visitors. Among the gentlemen present were Mr. Philip Geen, to see whom among us again we were all delighted. With him was Mr. Parker, of Handboro' Mill, near Oxford (this is the spot for big roach and dace and gigantic perch; but, oh! ye of "Phrygian Cap" tendencies, it is private, strictly so, and you have no right there; possibly an application to Lord Randolph Churchill's brother might decide your chances of a day's fishing there). We also had visitors from New Windsor, besides several of the inhabitants of this locality, to see whom at our concerts we are always pleased, as on these occasions the room is open to anyone caring to be present.—H.

## HIGHBURY ANGLING SOCIETY.

For the last two or three weeks our members have not met with their usual sport among the finny tribe, the weighings in being much below the average. I am happy to report, however, that on the 24th inst. Mr. Devonshire succeeded in landing a splendid jack of nearly 17lb. weight, which has been placed in the hands of the taxidermist for preservation.—J. E. Wheatley, sec.

## HOXTON BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

Twenty members visited the Stort on Nov. 23rd to fish for eight prizes, the boundary selected being from Roydon Lock to Harlow Lock. The takes were very small, five prizes only being taken, as follows :—Messrs. J. Morgan (jack), J. Osborne, J. Hayward, J. Huntley, and M. High with roach. A number of fish were taken, but had to be returned to the water. Mr. R. Ghurney had jack from the Lea. The Christmas prizes will be fished for on Dec. 14th.—R. Ghurney, sec.

### INDEPENDENT JOVIAL ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of the above society fished at Richmond on the 22nd for six prizes, among them being one given by Mr. Marjason, and another by Mr. Bingley. Only four prizes were taken, the water being very low and bright. The following were the winners :—Mr. J. Brain, 1st ; Mr. C. Smart, 2nd ; Mr. H. Howard, 3rd ; Mr. H. Cann, 4th. The remaining prizes will be fished for, with others we have in hand, the when and where to be arranged at the next meeting.—C. Smart, sec.

### IZAAK WALTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

Mr. G. Bliss won Mr. J. K. Charter's prize. The half-yearly distribution of special prizes took place on Wednesday, the 26th inst., on which occasion the members indulged in a supper. The chair was occupied by Mr. G. Manning ; the vice-chair, Mr. J. Twohey. After the cloth was cleared, the chairman presented, in his usual genial manner, the various prizes to the different winners ; at the conclusion of which, several members gave specimens of their vocal powers, which brought a very pleasant evening to a close. Four special prizes, given by Messrs. W. Clarke, A. Turner, B. Crook, and G. Bliss, will be fished for on the 14th December, at Great Marlow : all kinds weigh.

### NORTHUMBERLAND ANGLING CLUB.

The members of the above club held a social and smoking concert in the Douglas Hotel, Newcastle-on-Tyne, on Friday evening, 21st inst. The chair was occupied by the president of the club, Mr. W. S. Vaughan, and the vice-chair (in the absence of the vice-president) was filled by the honorary secretary to the club, Mr. J. Harbottle. There was a good "beat up" of members and other angling friends. Mr. Atkinson, of Stocksfield, contributed a capital paper on "Salmon Angling in the Tyne," which found an acceptable place some time ago in the columns of the *Field*. The secretary's paper on the "Romance of Angling," and his original song for "The Speshul Occashun," met with an enthusiastic reception. The health of Mr. T. W. Wraith, the winner and holder of the president's challenge for the year, was drunk with all honours. Messrs. Hutchinson, Duncan, Beall, and Wraith rendered some capital songs, and Messrs. Capper and Parsons gave some angling episodes. Mr. A. Bell brought down the house with the favourite song, the "Fishin' Klub," and also in his singing of "The Dutchman." The president of the Newcastle Angling Club, Mr. Dendy, responded to the toast of "Our Guests" in a capital speech, and rendered with much feeling the recitation, "Victor Galbraith." Mr. J. J. Pace, secretary to the Newcastle Angling Club, contributed to the harmony of the evening by singing the song, "Simon the Cellarer." "Auld Lang Syne" and the president's health brought to a close one of the most enjoyable evenings ever held by the club.—J. H., hon. sec.

### PECKHAM BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of the above fish a match for the cup on the 30th, at Walton ; train leaves Vauxhall at 8.50. On Dec. 7th, at Kingston, for seven prizes. Messrs. Page and Durant, out with Arthur Messenger at Teddington on the 23rd, had 12 dozen fine dace ; no other member weighed in. I hope all the members of this society will be present at the Foresters' Hall on Monday next. Our host gives his annual "beefsteak supper" on the 4th. Number of tickets limited.—Gadfly.

### THE PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The usual weekly meeting of this society took place on Monday last at Ashley's Hotel, Covent-garden. Amongst those present were Messrs. Pattisson, Meyer, Gray, Jesse, Brown, Huggett, Booker, C. C. Blundell, Fennings, Batt, Aldridge, Watson, Sparrow, Goodger, Bennett, Foreman, Adlington, Harden, Gillatt, J. Lander, hon. sec., &c. Mr. Batt was unanimously voted to the chair. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. Mr. Lecluse during the week weighed in a nice jack from the Thames, nearly 7lb. in weight. Some little time ago this gentleman weighed in one between 8 and 9lb., also from the Thames. Mr. Lecluse is to be congratulated, as these fish are few and far between. It was announced that a committee meeting will take place on Monday next, when the details of the next smoking concert will be arranged. The musical friends of members are specially invited, as on previous occasions. Mr. Jesse suggested that it should be a programme evening. The committee will consider this at their meeting. The chairman, Mr. Batt, rose and proposed the health of the successful anglers, coupled with the names of Mr. Huggett and Mr. Fennings, the members cordially joining in same. Mr. Huggett, in thanking the members for their kindness, thought that on the present occasion he deserved to be toasted as the unsuccessful angler rather than the successful one. His show was very small ; but then small shows of fish often required more taking than larger shows. The fish (chub) bit pretty well in the morning, but in the afternoon refused to move. The cheese fishing is over for the season on account of its becoming too hard when immersed in the cold water. He again thanked the gentlemen for their kind wishes. Mr. Fennings worked hard, but with poor success. It was the first time he had shown fish from private waters. He found it fearfully cold punting about by himself. Mr. Pattisson related some of his experiences in fishing the Hertford water. On one or two occasions lately he has taken 10lb. to 15lb. of roach and dace, some of the dace being remarkably fine. He also took two jack, one 3lb. and one 2½lb., with paste on fine roach tackle. Particulars of a show of jack by Mr. Foreman (who arrived late) will be given next week. Mr. Harden rose to propose a new member, who was duly seconded by Mr. H. B. Brown, viz., Mr. Neish, of 66, Watling-street. *On dit*, that this gentleman, if elected, will be a great acquisition, being a celebrated trout and salmon angler. The ball circulars are now issued. Tickets can be obtained of the various stewards, Messrs. Arter, Blamey, Blundell, Brown, Fennings, Foreman, Gray, Harden, Hatfield, Robinson, Perelli Rocco, Sachs, and Wheatstone. The chairman proposed "The Continued Prosperity of the Piscatorial Society," which, as usual, was most cordially responded to. Mr. Gray, in a few well-chosen words, proposed "The Health of the Chairman," who had carried out the duties in so efficient a manner. Mr. Batt briefly replied, and the business of the meeting was brought to a close.—T. H.

### PORTSMOUTH WALTONIAN ANGLING SOCIETY.

The season now being over for trout and salt water angling, the Waltonians have been visiting their old quarters at Chichester, but what with the lowness of the water and the cruel easterly winds of late, there has been no sport worthy of record. Thursday last was a red letter day in the annals of the club, Lord Henry Scott, of Beaulieu (Hants), having given them permission for a day's pike fishing in Sowley pond, an immense piece of water extending over 100 acres, situated on the Beaulieu Estate. Accordingly, about 30 of the members availed themselves of the opportunity, and left Portsmouth town station at early dawn for Lymington, where conveyances were ready to take them on to the scene of action ; punts were provided, and everything went off jolly. There was capital sport, and considering the shortness of the days at this time of the year, everyone was perfectly satisfied with the outing, arriving home at their club-room about a quarter past nine, when the victors were declared : Mr. Ritchie taking the largest pike, weighing 29½lb. ; Mr. Butler, jun., the second, 22½lb.; and Mr. Fulljames the third, 13lb. There was also a quantity of smaller pike, averaging from 2lb. to 8lb. The fish were in excellent condition, and the two largest have been sent on to Mr. Saunders, of London, to be set up, and will be hung in the club-room among its other trophies. Before the business of the club terminated, a vote of thanks was accorded to Lord Henry Scott for his kindness in granting the use of his pond, and also a similar compliment to Mr. A. L. Emanuel, the chairman of the society, for the genial and attentive manner he carried out all the day's arrangements.—Daggerwood.

### RODNEY PISCATORIALS.

On the 23rd inst. Mr. C. Grant weighed in roach from Shepperton ; Mr. C. A. Grant had perch from St. Margaret's ; Mr. R. Smith also had perch from the same water ; Mr. Flower had perch from Roydon. On the 30th inst. a competition will take place for prizes given by Messrs. R. Chantry and Diggins. This being a special competition, the members present during the last two weekly meetings have decided that all competitors meet on the Eton side of Windsor Bridge as soon as time will permit after the arrival of the first train from London on that date, and fish from Windsor Bridge to Surley Hall. The fish taken this day will also be entitled to compete for the gross weight prizes given by Messrs. Hughes and Dodd, for the month of November, in addition to the prizes given by the afore-mentioned gentlemen for this date. A special meeting is called for Wednesday next, the 3rd December, to consider certain propositions in reference to revising several rules of this society, and the election of officers. Members not present on that evening must be contented by the business done by those that are present. The decision to be final till the end of this season. Members having any complaint to lodge are requested to do so on this occasion, when all members are summoned to be present, and let those members present decide if such complaints are just or not. On this occasion business of the society will be the sole business of the evening.—Pixie.

### ROYAL GEORGE ANGLING SOCIETY.

Although the 23rd inst. was a very cold day, a number of our members had courage enough to be up early and at their work on the river. Messrs. Rider, Palmer, Hewett, Guynan, Carter, Sinclair, and Parsons all did fairly well, the takes varying from 7lb. to 2lb. roach and dace. Mr. Wood had a show of chub from the Upper Thames. To-morrow (30th) the members fish for a handsome prize, given by Mr. Csomor, roach only to weigh. On Dec. 7th we fish our Christmas sweepstakes, the conditions to be arranged on the next meeting night, when we hope to see a good muster in the room. Our next "smoking concert" will take place the Tuesday before Christmas, when the successful competitors will receive the prizes won by them in the sweepstakes.—W. H. Rider.

### STAINES ANGLING CLUB.

The members of the above club turned out on November 23rd to fish for jack, and only four succeeded in taking fish—Mr. H. Biddle, one jack 2lb. 3oz. ; Mr. F. Biddle, 1lb. 10oz. ; Mr. A. Palmer, one jack 1lb. 13oz. ; Mr. Edward Butterfield, three jack 5lb. 10oz. The prize not being taken, the members will continue the same on November 30th. I hereby give notice to our London anglers that we have altered our lodge night from Monday to Saturday evening, when we shall be most happy to meet any brother anglers at the Waterman's Arms, Church-street, Staines.—F. Sykes, sec.

### STOKE NEWINGTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of the above will fish for three prizes at St. Margaret's on the 30th inst. ; one prize for the heaviest gross weight of jack, the other two for the heaviest gross weight of any kind of fish.—T. Gretton.

### WALWORTH PISCATORIALS.

Several of the members competed on the 23rd for the prizes offered for competition on that date by Messrs. Sutcliffe and Mawbey. This being an open competition in public waters, the competitors visited various parts of the country in hopes of getting fish. Those that travelled far from home fared worse than those who visited Father Thames near home ; and at 10.45, the time appointed to decide the winners, Mr. Delhaye, sen., who had passed the day with Finch at Twickenham, was declared the winner of the first prize with seven dozen nice roach weighing 20lb. 12½oz. ; Mr. J. Bedford came second with roach from the Lea, and Mr. Hibble third with roach from the Thames. The next competition will take place on December 11th for prizes offered by Messrs. Linstead and Mawbey, the conditions to be decided at the meeting held at headquarters on the Thursday previous to that date.—Pixie.

### WELLINGTON.

The two prizes not taken on the 16th were fished for at Shepperton on the 23rd inst., Mr. Hopkins winning the 2nd, and Mr. Wright the 3rd prize. Next Wednesday will be half-yearly night, when members are requested to attend early. The special prizes will be distributed on Wednesday, the 17th December. A supper has been arranged for this occasion at 7 o'clock punctually, for which I shall be glad to receive members' names as soon as possible.—W. W. Alexander, sec.

### WOOLWICH INVICTA ANGLING SOCIETY.

Mr. F. Latham and Mr. B. Cook of the above society, together with Mr. J. Shipston of the Woolwich Brothers Angling Society, fishing with H. Spiers at Twickenham on the 23rd inst, had a very handsome take of roach—Mr. Latham, weighing 12lb. ; Mr. Shipston, 9lb. ; and Mr. Cook, 5lb. The fish, though not very large in quantity, were a very nice average lot, going ½lb. to 1lb. each.—F. Latham, hon. sec.

Poachers in the Salvation Army.—The poachers of Barnard Castle are fruitful of expedient. If I confess that I have a friend among them who occasionally informs me of their proceedings, when such information is not likely to be detrimental to their interests, I hope my readers will not run away with the idea that I mix in bad company, and am generally a disreputable member of society. My connection with the Barnard Castle poachers is indeed of a shadowy description. Far from aiding or abetting them, I have a holy horror of the whole practice, and I should, therefore, make a capital county magistrate. Well, I'm told that a week ago a party of these individuals had been out fishing, and in ways well known to poachers, had obtained a fine lot of fish. These were stowed away variously, being tied round the bodies or suspended down the trousers legs of the gang. It was a Sunday morning, and several policemen were about, so that the poachers were somewhat dubious of running the gauntlet safely. It was almost certain that they would be challenged by some "active and intelligent" officer. While they were in the midst of the discussion, however, and when no plan of action yet presented itself, there came afar off sound of the drum and the fife—the modern accompaniments of religion. The gang were simultaneously inspired. They would join the Salvation Army, and putting on long faces, and singing lustily, they joined forthwith. Anyone paying particular attention would have seen that the most sanctimonious-looking of that army, walking stiffly and awkwardly, dropped out at various points on the march, and did not return. They were on a different errand entirely. They wished to conceal their ill-gotten spoil.—"Spectator" in the *Darlington Times*.

Although more than a million copies of *Cassell's Popular Educator* have been sold, this remarkable work is still as largely in demand as ever, and the publishers have made arrangements for re-issuing it in serial form during the present month. The secret of its ever-growing popularity seems to be that it is so framed as to meet the requirements of every class of learners. Testimonials from schoolmasters, mechanics, artisans, farm labourers, and persons in every position of life, speaking of what this unique work has done for them, are continually reaching the publishers. Mr. Thomas Burt, M.P., does not hesitate to acknowledge how much he owes to the *Popular Educator*, which has been recently characterised by a leading educational journal as "a School, an Academy, and a University in one." Part I. will be published on the 25th inst.

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## THE SALMON FISHERY LAW.—IMPORTANT DECISION.

At the Bridge Hall, Barnstaple, before W. P. Hiern, Esq. (chairman), and Sir Arthur Chichester, Bart., Chas. Stribbling, Dan Moxon, Henry Skerry, and John Kempe, fishermen, were summoned for using a net in the close season, capable of catching salmon. Mr. Bosson appeared on behalf of the Conservators; Mr. J. Thorne (of the middle Temple) for the defendants. The case was brought to test the powers of the Conservators under the 36th section of the Salmon Fishery Act, 1865. The section provided that any person "using" a net or other instrument or device for "catching salmon" without having a proper license for the same, &c., shall be liable. The real question at issue was whether after the salmon close season the fishermen had a right to use their salmon nets, or any nets that would catch salmon, for any fishing purpose whatever, and if the Conservators succeeded in the case it would be ruled illegal to cast any net into the river after close season. Mr. Bosson pointed out that the license for the salmon net ended in September, and, therefore, if it was proved that the salmon net was used in October it was used without license. This was the first case taken under the section, and if the Conservators succeeded the fishermen would have themselves only to thank, for it was well known that since the close season tons upon tons of salmon had been taken from the Taw and Torridge. Mr. Thorne objected to this as being irrelevant. Mr. Bosson said that whatever decision the Bench came to there would, he believed, be an appeal. P. C. Bastard, water bailiff, stated that on the 29th October the defendants cast a net in his presence in Heanton parish, and drew two salmon and some other fish. The salmon were returned to the water. The season for catching salmon with the net had ended. After a few questions to the witness, Mr. Thorne very ably reviewed the law in favour of the defendants. He argued, in the first place, that the men were not trying to catch salmon, and that they were only doing what had been the custom within living memory. Secondly, they could not possibly do what they were doing with a proper license because no license was granted or was in existence giving permission of such thing. It would be a manifest absurdity to convict a person for fishing without a license when it was shown that it was impossible to get a license of any sort. The Act of Parliament did not intend the view taken by the prosecution. Prior to the Act of 1861 anyone could take fish of any sort without hindrance; the Act of 1861, with a view to protect salmon, divided the year into a close and an open season, and made it illegal to take salmon during the close. Anyone could prosecute, but it being the duty of all to see to this protection, no one in particular did so. The Act of 1865 provided machinery in the shape of Boards to see that the law was carried out, but funds were necessary, and the license was instituted with a view to raise funds. The Act of 1861 provided for proceedings and penalties for catching salmon in the close season, and the Act of 1865 gave no additional powers in this direction—it only forbade fishing in the open season without a license. The Conservators seemed to be under the impression that the Act of 1865 gave them extra powers extending to the close season, which, if they were given, would have been much more plainly stated by the Legislature. He quoted from Justice Blackburn, in the case Lyne and Leonard, to show the soundness of this position—that the license had no effect and gave no powers to the Conservators in the close season, beyond those in the Act of 1861. Justice Blackburn said —"The object of granting licenses was to obtain sums of money to carry into effect the Salmon Fishing Acts, and it is only fair that those who benefit by the protection should bear the expense of it." Another point was with regard to the penalty. The Act provided that a person found fishing without a license could be fined "double the price of the license." The license was to be the measure of the penalty, but no licenses were granted for the close season, and how could they apply the measure of the penalty in this instance? The Act of 1865 provided for the punishment of fishing without a license when a license could be got; the Act of 1861 provided for the punishment of taking or attempting to take salmon during the close season. The proceedings were under the Act of 1865, and no attempt had been made to show that the defendants, in the presence of the water bailiff, fished for salmon or attempted to break the law. Mr. Bosson replied to Mr. Thorne, after which the Chairman said the Bench saw no great difficulty in this matter, and they had decided to dismiss the information. It seemed to them that the Act of 1865 was to be read with, and according to, the tenour of the Act of 1861, and that being so the section in question did not apply to the case before them. The following section also seemed to help them:—A penalty was provided in case a license was not produced when asked for or "a reasonable excuse given." Surely it would be a reasonable excuse to reply—"I cannot show a license because none are granted." Mr. Bosson then applied for case, which was allowed.

In the December Part of *Cassell's Magazine*, which will form the First Part of a new volume, two new serial stories will be commenced, one entitled "Sweet Christabel," by Miss Arabella Hopkinson, and the other "A Diamond in the Rough," by the author of "Horace Maclean." A new feature, entitled "Our Reading Club," will be included, its object being to supply every information required for the formation and arrangement of reading clubs, suitable programmes for reading, &c.

## "FAR AWAY BIRDS HAVE FAIR FEATHERS."

(Written at Overskaig Inn, Loch Shin, Sutherlandshire.)

Rhiconich! Rhiconich! come hither, mail car,
And carry me off to new foe and new war.
My sulky opponents lie lazily here
In the depths of Loch Shin, and do seldom appear.
Their dark golden armour is hid in disgrace,
They are beaten and own it, and daren't show face.
But *Northward*—the word! to Rhiconich afar!
With new foe and stronger there wage we a war;
His bright silver side let him sport in the sun,
For bloody 'twill be ere the day is half done.
Rhiconich! Rhiconich! my heart, arm, and leg
Are braced up for combat at Loch Garbet Beg.
Farewell, then, Loch Shin, and Griam, his brother,
And Garvie that flows from the one to the other.
Farewell, thou wild Fôrrest, where roameth the deer,
Till the crack of the rifle shall startle his ear;
And thou Cock of the Walk, that so high towers o'er
The hills that surround thee, farewell, King Ben More!
Blow horn, and hark for'ard! Loch Shin in the rear,
Lochs Griam and Mertland, and *More*[*] each appear;
Where, at the north end, stands a lodge trim and fair,
Which looks like a miniature Grosvenor-square.
Then right down the Laxford, and so in a crack,
We are under the shadow of cloud-capped Ben Stack.
Ben Stack on our left lies, while far to the right
Ben Arkle glooms *darkly*, although the day's bright;
Whilst between them the lake's laughing waters do lie,
Like the dangerous glance of a fair maiden's eye,
Who seeth two rivals, each mad with her charms,
And eager to prove love by prowess of arms.

. . . . . .

But still down the river the rattle-trap sped,
To the right bank we cross, and Rhiconich's ahead!
Get a glimpse of the sea, here, as onward we spin,
And at length we alight at the door of the inn.
Oh, bold are the peaks, and wild is the scene!
But my thoughts were of salmon—no fisher so keen.
I order my dinner; my gillie is hired,
Trap to bring home the fish, sir, should Dugal be tired;
And so all is settled—at least, in my head—
'Twill be *murder* to-morrow, and *now* the word's *bed*.

. . . . . .

But after a week of hard flogging, I swore,
"If the trout in Loch Shin *sleep*, the salmon here *snore!*"
For the sun had been blazing, the heavens like brass—
"By the beard on my chin, am I man, sir, or ass?"
At last came some thunder, and down poured the rain,
And the very next day I was *counting the slain!*
So, Rhiconich! here's luck from the old whisky keg,
But in droughts, oh, preserve me, from Loch Garbet Beg!
—E. M. T.

A Four-Footed Angler.—A correspondent writes to the *Lewistown Journal* that he came suddenly upon a very large bear in a thick swamp, lying upon a large hollow log across a brook, fishing; and it was so much interested in its sport that it did not notice him until he had approached very near it, so that he could see exactly how it baited its hook and played its fish. The bear fished in this wise: There was a large hole through the log on which it lay, and it thrust its forearm through the hole and held its open paw in the water, and waited for the fish to gather round and into it; and when filled the bear clutched its fist and brought up a handful of fish, and sat and ate them with great gusto; then down went the paw again, and so on. The brook was fairly alive with little trout and red-sided suckers, and some black suckers. The bear did not eat their heads. There was quite a pile of them on the log. The oil in its paw attracted the fish and even better than a fly-hook; and its toe-nails were hooks, and sharp ones, too, and once grabbed, the fish were sure to stay. They also catch frogs in these forest brooks, and drink of the pure water in hot summer days, and love to lie and wallow in the muddy swamps like our pigs in the mire. They often cross narrow places in lakes by swimming, and also rivers, and seem to love to take a turn in the water. The same observer once saw one swimming from the mainland to the big island in Moosemaguntic Lake, with just a streak of its back out of water, looking like a dog moving along. Sometimes you see only their heads out of water; at other times half their bodies are to be seen. Scientists account for this difference by condition. If fat, the grease helps to buoy them up; if lean, they sink lower in the water.

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[*] Loch More Lodge, shooting box of the Earl Grosvenor.

# NOTICES OF BOOKS, &c.

Calvert's Mechanics' Almanack and Workshop Companion for 1885, containing, in addition to the usual matter of an almanack, practical, technical, and industrial information, especially instructive and entertaining to artisans and handicraftsmen, and those generally engaged in mechanical, engineering, and building and constructive trades; decorative, artistic, manufacturing, and kindred operations. Illustrated with diagrams. Price 4d. Sold by John Calvert, 99, Great Jackson-street, Manchester.

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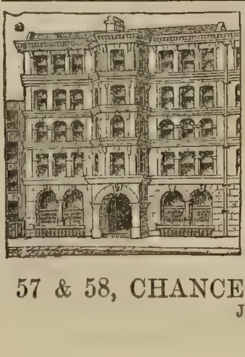

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Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only, and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith. Unless this rule be adhered to, no notice will be taken of such communications.

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# The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1884.

## THE NATIONAL FISH CULTURE ASSOCIATION.

A COUNCIL meeting of the above Association was held on Thursday at their offices in the Exhibition Grounds, South Kensington. The President, the Marquis of Exeter, was in the chair, and among those present were Mr. Wm. Senior, Mr. T. J. Mann, Rev. J. J. Manley, Dr. Brunton, Mr. H. Ffennell, Mr. R. B. Marston, and the Secretary, Mr. W. Oldham Chambers. Some important business was transacted. The Chairman announced that Mr. Silk had got five hundred fine black bass across the Atlantic to the Irish coast, when a tremendous gale sprang up, and the steamer rolled for three days in the trough of the sea, and all but a few of the bass were killed. Some cat-fish and sun-fish brought at the same time stood the knocking about much better, as also did some carp which were sent as a present to the National Fish Culture Association from the United States Fish Commission. The parents of these fish were taken over to America from Germany a few years ago. They were only a dozen or two in number, but their progeny has been distributed over the whole of United States, and now thousands of waters have been stocked with carp. It will never pay to cultivate carp in this country, for the simple reason that sea fish of vastly superior quality can be bought in our most inland districts at a quarter the price. From an angling point of view, carp do not count for much.

## A NOVEL APPLICATION.

IT will be seen from our advertisement columns that the Secretary of the National Fish Culture Association is asking for tenders for the supply of worms to feed the fish in the Aquarium at South Kensington.

## WOODFIELD AND SONS' NEW EYED-HOOKS.

### BY H. S. HALL.

IN recent letters to the GAZETTE I have several times alluded to some new eyed-hooks which were being made under my instructions. Messrs. Woodfield and Sons, Easemore Works, Redditch, have taken immense pains to carry out all the minutest details, and they have now succeeded in producing some excellent hooks, which I am anxious to bring before the notice of the angling public.

Samples of different sizes have been forwarded to the Editor, and I hope he will be able by personal trial to endorse what I have to say in favour of Messrs. Woodfield's manufacture. The approved "side-twist," of which we have heard a good deal lately, will be found in these hooks, and, from my own experience in twisting hooks in the soft state, I think I may say that though these latest samples are not all quite theoretically perfect, they are about as good as they can practically be made. At all events, they avoid the absurdly exaggerated sneck which recent eyed-hooks had developed. As I have already stated in a recent number of the FISHING GAZETTE, I tried some of Messrs. Woodfield's first patterns, amongst heavy trout and grayling, in August and September, and I found them equal to anything in the shape of eyed-hooks that I have ever used. The present hooks are further refined and improved, and if, when made in bulk, they can be turned out as good as these first samples, anglers will next season bless Messrs. Woodfield for the care and trouble they have bestowed upon this most important item in the fly-fisher's gear. Messrs. Woodfield desire me to say that, as manufacturers, they cannot supply anglers direct, but that their hooks will be easily obtainable through any respectable tackle house.

[We quite agree with Mr. Hall that it is very unlikely we shall get any better samples of his eyed-hooks than these ; in fact, for all practical purposes they are perfect, and anglers are much indebted to Messrs. Woodfield for the courteous and careful manner in which they have carried out his wishes. Mr. Hall deserves our best thanks for the infinite pains he has taken in the matter. —ED.]

## THE GORDON FLY.

CAN any of our readers inform us if there is anywhere in England a place of the name of Haul, and in the event of their being so, if anything is known of a Mr. Gordon thereabouts who used to visit the Dee, Aberdeenshire, some 20 or 25 years ago?

The information is required with a view to elucidate some points connected with the origin of the Gordon fly.

## ODDS AND ENDS IN SALMON FISHING.

### BY GEO. M. KELSON.—No. 6.

IT is not an uncommon occurrence, I believe, for young anglers to picture to themselves and conjure up visions through the exercise of their fertile imagination things void of life, and invest them with more or less vitality. The tendency with them to do so, however much it may decline, is never entirely lost, neither does it altogether subside even in manhood.

Many a time have I had in my mind's eye an apparently distinct representation of the ideal salmon pool—the pool of all others where the most timid piscator could scarcely hesitate to wade.

Now, as far as the mere fact of wading is concerned—and this is the subject we agreed to introduce and enter into to-day—if we make allowances physically, take into consideration the immense superiority of the one in practice over the other who is not, and weigh carefully the advantage of the tall over the short, there is nothing much that a master in the art can do which the average angler, if he will only consent to take the necessary pains, cannot accomplish.

It is, however, manifestly improbable and practically impossible for any novice to follow in safety the footprints of others.

Take, for instance, your big, black-browed, lusty fisher-fellow, up to every move, and what chance have you? Not that they are in reality web-footed; but these sturdy dons, these amphibious professors spend the best part of their pleasant lives breast-high in water. Why, you have no chance at all. Nay, I may go further. I may positively contend that even a leviathan could not support himself as easily nor make such headway, as the weak-knee'd but practised dwarf—he, mind, being utterly ignorant of the business, and relying solely upon his strength.

What, then, are the exigencies of this all-important branch of our pursuit? Though as far as "means and appliances" have to do with it, there is little to add more than to remind you of the stress I laid upon being well appointed, with suitable nails in the brogues ; for to accurately estimate the profit we derive on that score is beyond calculation, and can only be credited by those who are in a position to speak from experience ; neither need I discuss here "the fortunes we inherit," by being able to wade ever so well.

"As to boots in preference to shoes?" Well, I am of opinion they give more support to the ankles.

"And thick soles?" Yes ; in rocky rivers they are unquestionably better than thin ; they prevent the feet from becoming tender ; it is then you know that we lose so much power.

In fording a rapid, let me tell you, a good strong stick properly used will be of much service. You may well insinuate that "this is an insignificant allusion" ; but I remember the time when I should have been only too glad of the hint. However, one cannot cross a river too slowly. There is no necessity to waste time ; but your steps, I mean, cannot be too short. The stick—down stream, of course—is firmly planted before each pace is taken, and directed every time only as far as you intend to move, though it must always be the least trifle in advance.

And now for a word or two of the dangers and accidents likely to accrue, and how to avoid them ; then I will, with your permission, leave the subject "to be continued in our next," perhaps, as I particularly desire to take this opportunity of touching other questions, which have been privately pointed out to me, and in the words of my friend, "clamour for attention."

In wading, not the least important among other objects is to keep ourselves dry ; it is an illusion, I think, about "the risks we run in getting drowned," for if we can swim, the mere fact of being in waders is not after all so "awful" as people imagine. I have had to swim for it more than once, and so has many a salmon fisherman ; but I never yet experienced the sensation they say of "our legs coming up and so keeping our heads down."

Once I remember I went through a romping rapid simply where I was taken. It seemed that I had no power other than presence of mind ; and a little of that at times is worth any amount of muscle. I need not relate any more ; still, it requires very little prophetic power to forewarn that "the quicker we get to our place of landing under such circumstances, the less time we are in the wet," though, generally speaking, we should find it less disheartening to swim further on than land on a mud bank.

But joking apart, I must not underrate the perilous position I should have been in had there been any rocks jutting out into the run, or had it been a "hedgehog pool"—in Shannon phraseology, "antler pool."

"We may, with luck, skim over all sharp, tusky-pointed rocks springing up from and lurking on the bed of the river—woe-betide us if we do not ; but in being swept by the torrent against scraggy side rocks that project, instinct would immediately induce us to protect our head with our arms, or we might strive to go feet first, time and opportunity permitting.

Happily such a buffeting as lies concealed in the picture rarely befalls any of us. At all events, we cannot do better than bear in mind when crossing any ordinary ford that the impetus of the water is constantly varying ; in one moment it may be pressing us hard, while in the next—yet in the same spot—it is comparatively easy to stand against.

In taking each step and before completing it "dig your foot in."

"It's all very well to say so, but it's not so precious easy to know what you mean," is the conventional reply.

Neither is it, perhaps, to make it exactly understood in writing ; but you have to press the foot firmly down (stamp it down if it will not stay), then without actually moving it and continuing to press it, you force it, as it were, backwards and forwards to "dig" the nails in while gradually leaning more and more towards and over their hold, which you will finally ascertain will not give way ; then, and not until then, do you raise the hind foot.

Always keep the legs pretty wide apart, it will give you a firmer footing ; and never by any consideration face or turn your back to the stream unless you are certain you can do so with impunity, otherwise, before you know where you are, you will be swept swiftly away. Go above or below boulders ; never tread on them if they can be avoided ; and look above you every now and again, particularly if the water is rising, in case of floating debris.

It would not take so very long to become proficient if one could but hoard up all past experience, so that "what *ought* to have been done" may be an actual reminiscence.

Perhaps the one great secret to remember is not to "lose our heads"—at any rate, our lives would be safer, we can quite depend upon that ; and another is that, however courageous we may be, there is no necessity whatever to be rash.

I have often thought that all danger in crossing rivers might be brought down to a minimum by fixing a couple of iron pegs on either side and attaching a light galvanised chain to rest across in the bed of the stream when not in use, for really in full water some of the places we have to face tries the most courageous, the most confident.

If any of these crossways are conflicting—if they are dark—the safe path can be picked out with no great difficulty; and the track will not be so hard to find lighted up with just a little reason.

However, in reviewing the sport in any way you will, you may safely take it that it is much shorter and much more simple to proceed from ignorance to knowledge than from error, for then there is nothing to unlearn or forget—I mean the bad habits which in our early days custom has in all likelihood established and wrought in us.

Accident rather than design is responsible for having brought to light one or two of those minor and "established truths in angling" that I used to talk about which even Progress in its persevering mood has not yet extinguished. Indeed, why should we set aside facts that hold on apparently without effort, though sometimes without reward? Nevertheless, some few ideas which years ago were seemingly substantial and well-founded can no more revive now than could a flowering plant scorched by the mid-day sun and then frozen by the night.

We will turn now to the more fashionable and favourite topic of

### Striking a Salmon.

I perused with interest the Irish correspondent's quotations from "Ephemera" in the Gazette on the 22nd ult., and *from the observations contained in the Editorial footnote*, it appears to me that "Ephemera," Major Traherne, and myself are all advising the same mode of procedure, only in different words.

"It seems quite clear to us," says our Editor, "that 'Ephemera,' although he speaks of striking, and even jerking, recommends the gentle pull which Major Traherne advocates so strongly." Being absent from town, I cannot refer to the expressions I used in the Gazette upon the subject; but I am convinced that Mr. Wm. Thomas read me exactly when he stated in his letter:—

"Mr. Kelson tells us he has fished all his life with single hooks, but finds that if the double hooks are understood and properly used they are far better. The pith of his argument *is* to strike from the winch with flies up to a certain size, and he gave us instances when the line ought to be held instead. 'The winch should be so constructed,' says Mr. Kelson, 'that in hitting a fish the hooks penetrate before the reel-plate revolves; but that it *will* revolve before the flesh is torn.'"

And he adds:—

"By following Mr. Kelson's instructions, I find it absolutely impossible to break the gut or line, or strike too hard."

My great reason for recommending striking from the winch is contained in that sentence; an excited tyro, you may understand, cannot hit his fish too hard, and by so doing miss him or break away.

Naturally, a finished professor may have his hand on the line or not, as he pleases, and never, or rarely, make a mistake. But any observations of mine, as I have constantly urged before, areaddressed to beginners, and as I still undoubtedly hold to the opinion that the "winch of the day" at Farlow's is so perfect for the purpose which I exhort, I have taken upon myself to refer again to the subject.

"Ephemera" was a favourite, practical, and thoroughly conscientious author, and none of us ever wished him to keep his commodity to himself when he came forward to offer us a piece of advice.

However, authors may view things differently, and so may anglers; they choose their own points of observation from visions which are wont to float before them—*from the means afforded.* But look what wonders time has worked with us; look at our modern resources and at the vast improvement in everything connected with salmon fishing in the last decade (gut excepted); therefore, in that sense, have we not far better "means" now whereby to approve such and such a course of action? As an angler—well, I have nothing to boast of, more than forty years' experience, during which time, I am glad to say, I learnt to make rods, lines, reels, &c. But I have taken it into my head lately to offer through these columns suggestions somewhat at variance with the general mode of angling, and the more I write the more I feel how utterly impossible it is to communicate from mind to mind that enthusiastic belief which is at the basis of all the meaning of our sport, unless I can speak out my whole heart, in the hope that what I may advance may be taken without reservation. No, I desire to keep nothing back; I trust in time to let "every secret that I have guessed" be known, and any suggestions that I may offer will be from opinions formed after trials and successful results from impressions which have arisen—from conceptions that would insist upon coming to birth by the river side.

Is it then so very extraordinary when I venture to suggest that angling works five-and-twenty years old can scarcely be consistent with all scientific theories which have only lately been practically proved to be correct?

Allow me to put it more forcibly. What would our ancient and beloved old friend Walton have to say, and have to submit to, were he to get a peep at a salmon angler on a railway bridge with one of Slater's reels (Nottingham fishing), and "hitting 'em" at the very least one hundred yards away!

Ah, well, a good free and honest discussion of our various systems brings forward a profusion of progressive means, concentrates designing wisdom, and always offers agreeable topics for contemplation. But as it now is with the past so will it some day or other be with the present; and the very article I am penning will be nothing but an old scawled scroll.

Pray let me point out before continuing that I have not the slightest disposition to notice what may or may not be considered defects nowadays, other than having all angling interests at heart—a feeling equally shared and always evinced by our Editor.

We will now refer to the quotations again which I spoke of above.

"Ephemera" is reported to have said, in the sixth line of "Hooking a Salmon":—

"My general rule is not to strike at a salmon until I feel him."

And so it is mine, with these three exceptions which I call to mind, and then we must not wait for even that: "when a fish makes a long rush at the fly and remains stationary"; "when he takes you on the edge of a sharp-running stream and just wriggles sideways into a side eddy"; "and when he seizes the fly and comes on with it towards you."

No. 1 happens in the spring of the year in low and bright water; No. 2 occurs frequently throughout the summer; and we may meet with No. 3 at any time if the fish is a very large one.

In each case it comes to downright skill in striking at the proper moment, for in the next the fish will be gone—not because he has broken you, for if you do not strike he will not have had that opportunity; but he will just shake his head, as if to say, "No, no," drop the hook, and so part company.

And a few lines on in the paragraph, I read:—"Every man almost at the beginning of the season is nervous, and I will ask the oldest salmon fisher if he does not then lose many a fish by his precipitation in striking?"

All these obstacles, in my opinion, sink into insignificance by striking from the winch; and on the contrary we should hook *more* fish in the spring of the year, comparatively speaking, because they are so much more eager and determined. But then you see "Ephemera" was talking when the old-fashioned reels were used and the line held, and under those considerations which presumably prompted him he was charmingly correct.

Next comes the most beautiful part of the short discourse, which long, laborious days by the river could have alone suggested.

"I frequently strike at and hook fish without, as far as I can conceive, any premeditation or calculation, but almost by instinct. Something—I cannot tell what—tells me that a fish is 'at' me, and consequently I am promptly at him in the sly way he has come at me."

How successfully was this put—what incontrovertible sense. In any debate, I fancy the greatest truths are wronged if not linked in the chain of reasoning with words which flow on like those—not wrapped up for any selfish enjoyment, but trimmed to win their own way, and arrayed in a style to defy misconception. Indeed, it is a pleasure for any angler to endeavour to write what he feels—not for the sake of emulation, for he may think well, ever so sincerely may he have the desire; nay, more, he may have the soul, and endow some of his readers with the spirit and capacity to collect and appreciate his sentiments; but how difficult to follow impulse with taste, and render honest intent to the pensive public so truthfully, as to stifle simulation, invite sympathy, and yet dispel all possible idea of sophistry!

## ACHILL BRIDGE OR VIADUCT (OFF WEST COAST OF IRELAND).

It is proposed to connect the large and important island of Achill, Co. Mayo, with the mainland of Ireland, by a swivel bridge across the Sound.

A meeting of gentlemen was held on Saturday, 29th ult., in room 111, at the Royal Courts of Justice, kindly lent by Mr. P. H. Smith, Master in Queen's Bench, to receive a deputation from Achill—Mr. Sheridan and Mr. Salt—and to take this scheme, which is already in an advanced state of development, into consideration.

The island contains 6,000 inhabitants, and is separated from the mainland by an arm of the sea only 310ft. wide at the point where the bridge is to be made.

The cost will be £6,000, of which £3,550 has been raised, leaving a balance of £2,450 required.

Well-known friends of Ireland have given their sanction and subscriptions to the proposed bridge. Among them may be mentioned the Duke of Bedford, the Earl of Cavan, Mr. W. H. Smith, M.P., Mr. Sydney Buxton, M.P., Mr. Buszard, M.P., Mr. W. Rathbone, M.P., Major Blake, M.P., Mr. F. W. Gibbs, C.B., Mr. Tuke, Mr. T. F. Brady, Fishery Inspector, Mr. J. G. V. Porter, J.P., &c.

When this great undertaking is completed, it will add more than 35,000 acres to Ireland. It will raise 6,000 people from poverty by the development of their fisheries and other resources; and it will encourage tourists to visit this romantic island, with its marine cliffs, its grand mountains, and its many other rare attractions.

Accounts have been opened at the Bank of Ireland, in Dublin, and Castlebar, for the receipt of subscriptions, which should be paid to the credit of Mr. J. G. V. Porter, J.P., of Belle-isle. Mr. O'Connor Power, M.P., 5, King's Bench Walk, Temple, and Mr. Sydney Buxton, M.P., 15, Eaton-place, Eaton-square, will also kindly receive subscriptions. Communications may be addressed to the Deputation at Lay's Hotel, Surrey-street, Strand.

The aid of all friends of Ireland is earnestly solicited.

## FISH CULTURE.

The following details furnish a striking example of how much may be done by artificial stocking on a very moderate scale, even in a wild upland loch, at an elevation of between 2,000 and 3,000ft. above the level of the sea, where the feeding in the loch is abundant and suitable for nourishing trout:—

Nine years ago, there were no trout on Loch Toll-an-Lochain, in Ross-shire. Ten small trout, taken from Loch Bhravin, were then put into it, and on the 2nd and 3rd of September last it was fished by two rods, there being a good fishing breeze on both days and a cloudy sky. The total number of trout caught was 17, and the total weight was 30lb. 13oz. The thirteen largest trout weighed 29lb., or an average of nearly 2¼lb. each. The largest trout of the lot weighed 5lb. 13oz., and was 23in. in length and 12⅝in. in girth; while the second largest was 5lb. 5oz. in weight, and measured 22in. in length and 12½in. in girth. The fish were carefully examined after being caught, and beetles, flies, freshwater shrimps, and various insects were found in their stomachs. Jelly-fish, shrimps, shell-fish (like winkles), and snails are said to be found in this loch, which must evidently be a splendid feeding ground for trout.—*Scotsman.*

## CHERTSEY BRIDGE HOTEL.

It will be seen from our advertising columns there has been a change in the proprietorship of this conveniently-situated hostelry, and that anglers and rowing men will be specially studied by moderate charges on a revised tariff. Mr. G. F. Spencer is an old Thames angler and President of the Larkhall Angling Society, which he worked with the greatest success. He is determined in his new venture to enlist the sympathy and support of the anglers, and to make the hotel generally attractive to all classes.

On Thursday evening in last week he inaugurated the formation of an "Albion Social Club," and from the large attendance there is every prospect of its being a conspicuous success. Mr. G. F. Spencer presided on the occasion, and an enjoyable evening was spent as a Smoking Concert with some first-rate metropolitan and local talent. In the course of the evening Mr. W. H. Brougham, speaking from many years' acquaintance with Mr. Spencer, assured those present they would find him "the right man in the right place"; and whilst studying, as he would do, their comfort and convenience, he sincerely hoped they would assist in making the Chertsey Bridge Hotel a very great success.

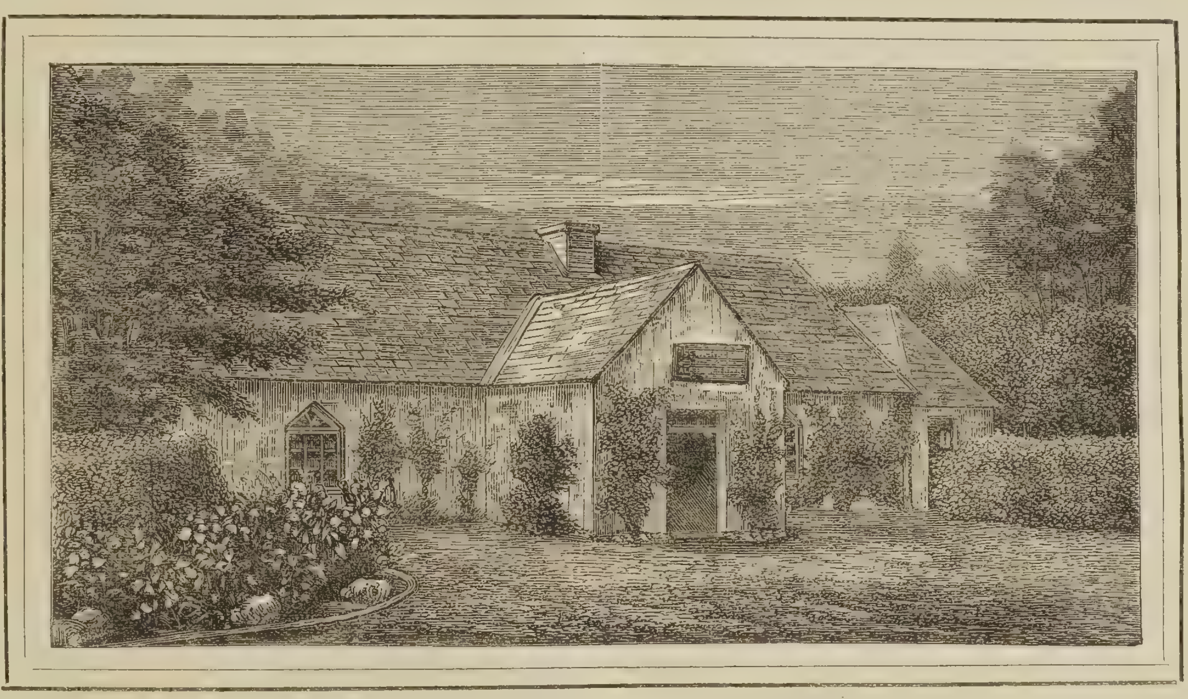
How a Wild Duck Saved Her Young.—Our river is so shallow that in some parts reeds grow in it, where wild ducks are very fond of building their nests. Once, shepherds who were with the cattle near that river, saw a wild duck with eighteen little ones swimming about, and as the little ducks were so small, they thought it would be very easy to catch them. So accordingly they got into the water, and were trying to catch the young ones, when they perceived that the old duck, instead of flying away as they expected she would do, was turning over in the water as if she were hurt. The shepherds seeing this, thought it would be well to catch her first, as it seemed a very easy thing to do, so they went over to where she was. Meanwhile the little ducks got safely hidden in the rushes, and the old one seeing that her children were out of their enemies' reach, flew into the air and left the shepherds standing with nothing.—From *Little Folks Magazine* for December.

## BRAITHWAITE'S ANGLING REMINISCENCES.*

Mr. Braithwaite's friends did well in recommending him to republish in book form these reminiscences, which originally appeared in the *Westmoreland Gazette.* Since Mr. Henderson's "My Life as an Angler," we have read no angling gossip with more interest than the little work under notice ; indeed, the books are very similar in style and nature, and both treat of those border counties which, from their natural beauties and romantic history, must ever possess the deepest interest to English and Scottish readers.

It would, indeed, be surprising if these reminiscences extending over sixty years of the life of an accomplished north country angler were not pleasant reading ; in addition to this, the author's remarks on the Salmonidæ of Westmoreland give it special value. We have marked a great many passages for quotation, but must content ourselves with a brief reference to some of them.

Some years ago, when fishing the Eden and Eamont, it was our intention to make an excursion to Ullswater, but we gave up the idea on learning from a local angler that the fishing was very poor. Mr. Braithwaite gives an excellent reason for this deterioration in the fish supply of what was formerly a noted water for numerous and fine trout. "The trout in the lower portion of Ullswater descended the Eamont in order to run up the Dacre and Lowther, two capital breeding streams. Some twenty years ago a weir was placed across the Eamont above its junction with the Lowther, for the purpose of supplying the town of Penrith with water. A fish-pass was appended thereto, but being accessible in the ascent to salmon only, the trout which go down are unable to return as formerly: a consequence of that is that the number of trout in Ullswater has rapidly decreased." We agree with our author in thinking that this is the main cause of the decrease ; because although, as he points out, poaching and the refuse of mines are doubtless answerable for much of the decrease, they were just as rife when the fish were plentiful. Doubtless a great deal of poaching still goes on. For instance, on the first two or three days we fished the lower part of the Eamont, the water was full of trout, and it was an easy matter to get a good basket. Revisiting the water a few days later, hardly a fish was to be seen, and the marks of nets round the edges of the pools told their own tale. What a pity it is the shallows are not staked and some old cart-wheels well tenter-hooked put in the deeper pools.



THE COTTAGE, ST. MARY'S LOCH.

In his remarks on salmon-spearing by torchlight, once so prevalent, Mr. Braithwaite mentions a

### CURIOUS CURE FOR CONSUMPTION.

"A well-known shepherd and poet, who combined with the above (poaching) qualifications the pastime of angler, was taken ill and gradually became worse ; at last he was confined to the house — the doctor was afraid of rapid consumption setting in. It was about Christmas time ; a slight fall of snow had whitened the hard ground ; a neighbour looked in, and, after usual inquiries, said—'Why, your brother is going after salmon!' 'Where is he going to?' 'Why, to such a place,' naming the locality. 'Well,' said the sick man, 'I have been in the house six weeks, and am no better. It's only half a mile. I'll put on my shoes and top coat and see what they are after.' He reached the riverside and watched them. By-and-by he thought they were making such a bungle of it he could stand it no longer, and into the water he went up to his knees for nearly half-an-hour, got the salmon, and on arriving at home his trowsers were frozen. His wife thought he had killed himself, but he mended rapidly from that time, and years after I had many pleasant fishing excursions with him."

As a contrast to this picture we may mention the case of a friend and valued contributor to this paper, who, already suffering from cough, waded in the icy cold water of the Eden one March and died from the effects the same spring.

### FISH CULTURE AND PROTECTION.

Our author's remarks on the Salmonidæ are the more valuable as being chiefly from personal observation and, as is generally the case when we get the opinion of one entitled from experience to give it, he is not dogmatic on questions of identity or difference in species. He writes most strongly in favour of the improvement of our inland fisheries by protection of the wild fish on the spawning beds, combined action on the part of fisheries proprietors, and artificial cultivation. He gives striking instances of the good that has already resulted from the proper observance of close times and the artificial breeding of fish. We are very glad indeed to see he states that char are increasing in consequence of the protection they have received. Fish culture judiciously carried out must succeed ; we say judiciously because much disappointment has arisen from cases like the following, which our author relates in referring to

### THE ENEMIES OF FISH OVA.

" . . . . . One gentleman caught a large trout on the spawning beds with 600 salmon ova in its stomach. . . . . . The larvæ of the stone fly and dragon fly are great devourers of the eggs. To give an instance: 70,000 ova were deposited in a beautifully clear stream well suited to the purpose, and when the time for hatching came not one fish turned out—every egg was eaten by the larvæ of the dragon fly."

### ANGLING VALUE OF THE ENGLISH LAKES MIGHT BE VASTLY IMPROVED.

Mr. Braithwaite makes some most valuable suggestions for the improvement of the fishing in our English lakes, and instances the splendid results which have followed judicious fish culture and careful protection in Loch Leven. A few years back that lake was, like the majority of our English lakes, fished and poached until it was not worth the angler's attention. Now it affords perhaps the best lake fishing in the British Isles ; certainly the best which is accessible to the public by payment.

### FISHING WATERS REFERRED TO BY OUR AUTHOR.

The following rivers and lakes are referred to at more or less length by Mr. Braithwaite :—The Lune, the Rothay, Windermere, Ullswater, Derwentwater, St. Mary's Loch, Loch Ericht, Laggan, Earnhead, Katrine, Lomond, Awe, and Tulla, &c.

### A "BROTHER" ANGLER.

"Joe Winn was an adept up the Mint in catching fish. All the 'smittal' places were well known to him, and it was said if he thought a brother angler was following him he stoned the special pools after having fished them."

### REMARKABLE EFFECT OF THE SONG OF A THRUSH.

"During our walk back to Howgill, my friend, William Best, related the following :—'When I was a young man I lived at Mealbank, and was always fond of fishing. Rain had fallen during the night, and on Sunday morning there was a splendid water, and the fish were rising. I could not resist the temptation, so went for my rod and started at the end of the old mill. I got first one and then another, and thought my pannier would soon be full, when suddenly I heard a thrush singing in a neighbouring tree. I always liked to hear the song of birds, but there was something queer about the song of this thrush. I listened, and to my astonishment heard it say, 'What, fishing! What, fishing! On a Sunday! On a Sunday! Go to hell! Go to hell!' I 'lapped' up my line, took my rod home, and never attempted to fish on Sunday again."

### SIZE OF LUNE TROUT.

We remember once, when chating with Mr. R. B. Lee, of Kendal, asking what size the fish ran, and he replied, "Small, the river is not a good feeder." This statement is borne out by Mr. Braithwaite, who says that during the forty-eight years he fished it he never got a trout over 1lb. in weight with the artificial fly, though, curiously enough, happening to lend a friend (no angler) his rod one day, the novice caught one of a pound and a half in the stream just below Chapel Beck Foot.

### ST. MARY'S LOCH.

Mr. Braithwaite, like all anglers who have visited it, is greatly in love with the "calmly beautiful" St. Mary's Loch, and devotes many pages to it. The loch takes it name from the ancient chapel of St. Mary, an offshoot from Melrose, and, like the latter, now a picturesque ruin.

"Many are the ballads and traditions extant respecting this interesting chapel, but I will content myself with quoting one stanza—

'St. Mary's Loch lies shimmering still,
But St. Mary's Kirk bell's lang dune ringing;
There's naething now but the grave stane hill
To tell o' a' their loud Psalm singing.'"

### ST. MARY'S COTTAGE (TIBBIE'S).

Through the courtesy of author and publishers we are able to give our readers the picture of St. Mary's Cottage, which forms the frontispiece to the work. The cottage, which is at the head of the loch, must ever be of interest to anglers as the place where James Hogg, the "Ettrick Shepherd," and "Christopher North" (Professor Wilson), and other congenial spirits of the "Noctes Ambrosianæ," passed many an angling holiday.

Scene 2 of "Noctes" 36.—North, Tickler, and Shepherd meet, after a fishing and shooting expedition at Tibbie's. Shepherd : "A cosy bield, sirs, this o' Tibbie's ; just like a bit wren's nest." Then follows an amusing discussion as to whether it is more like a wren's nest or an anthill. Mr. Braithwaite gives a very interesting account of Tibbie Shiels, the worthy hostess of St. Mary's Cottage, who, infirm with age, was still alive when he visited the place in 1873. She was then in her 93rd year.

### A TERRIBLE STORM.

Our author, after referring to several terrible storms, quotes the Ettrick Shepherd's description of one he witnessed in 1794, and thus describes :—"Between Crawford Muir and the Border no storm can be compared to that of January 24, 1794. Within the bounds described seventeen shepherds perished, and upwards of thirty were carried home insensible, who afterwards recovered ; but the number of sheep lost baffled calculation. 'I myself,' Hogg says, 'witnessed twelve score of excellent ewes all lying dead with their heads one way, as if a flock of sheep had dropped dead going from the washing.' In the Solway Firth there is a place called the Beds of Esk, where the tide throws out and leaves whatever is carried down by the rivers. When the flood after the storm had subsided, there lay on those and the adjacent banks 1,840 sheep, 9 black cattle, 3 horses, 2 men, 1 woman, 45 dogs, and 180 hares, besides smaller animals."

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* The Salmonidæ of Westmoreland : Angling Reminiscences and Leaves from an Angler's Note-book. By George Foster Braithwaite. Kendal : Atkinson and Pollett. London : Hamilton, Adams, and Co.

What splendid materials this romantic district would afford the pen of the author of "Lorna Doone."

But we have outrun our space, and must conclude our notice of this most entertaining little book by heartily recommending it to our readers. It is full of that genial, gossipy kind of reading which is always interesting if well done, and Mr. Braithwaite may be congratulated on having made a worthy addition to the wide domain of "angling literature."

## ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Metz.—It is the same book ; there is no difference.

# CORRESPONDENCE.

[*We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.*]

### THE ROWLAND HILL BENEVOLENT FUND.

Sir,—I desire, with your kind permission, to make a very special and earnest appeal to the public on behalf of the Rowland Hill Benevolent Fund, of which I am a trustee, and which has for its object the relief and assistance of Post-Office employés distressed from poverty, age, or infirmity, and of their widows and orphans throughout the United Kingdom. When it is remembered that the number of persons employed in the Post-Office is over 53,000, and that cases of distress are very frequent and pressing, the absolute need of some such organisation as this becomes apparent.

I venture to think that owing to the peculiar conditions incident to the daily work of most of the servants of the Post-Office, their exposure to inclement weather and consequent tendency to contract dangerous ailments, they have a special claim upon the sympathy of the public. Again, the very fact of employment in postal work betokens that the employés are persons of exceptionally high character and honesty, and fit to be intrusted with the delivery of those important communications so indispensable to the conduct of trade and commerce throughout the country, and to the requirements of family and public life.

The Rowland Hill Benevolent Fund has hitherto been so modestly conducted that perhaps its very existence, and, certainly, its needs and merits have not come prominently before the charitable public. Its annual income is only about £570, and the donations last year amounted to £100. From these sources temporary help was rendered to 74 applicants during the last 12 months, but the small amount at the disposal of the trustees unfortunately precluded them from dealing adequately with many distressing cases brought to their knowledge.

It is almost impossible to discuss any question bearing on the Post-Office Department, especially in reference to the welfare of its officers, without recurring to the great loss recently sustained by that department by the death of the late lamented Postmaster-General. The trustees of the Rowland Hill Fund have, therefore, resolved to associate his honoured memory with its object by setting apart a limited portion of it—to be called "The Fawcett Memorial Fund"—for the benefit of those employés or their widows or orphans who may be afflicted with blindness.

In all these circumstances, I have thought it right to open a special fund at the Mansion House, to enable the public to contribute to this very deserving charity ; and I earnestly commend it to the attention and sympathy of the country.—I am, &c., George S. Nottage, Lord Mayor.

The Mansion House, London, Dec. 3.

### A LIVELY SALMON.

Sir,—I inclose you copy of a letter from a friend with whom I spent two pleasant days this month on the Tweed and Ettrick. I think it might interest some of your readers, and if you think it worth a place in your columns I shall be pleased.—I am, &c.,

Liverpool. John Kinna.

Copy of Letter.

"Dear Kinna,—I had no time to call on Saturday last when in Liverpool. Well, the day after you went I fished the same water by myself. It commenced to rain heavy, so I expected a flood, and I decided to fish that pool first where you killed the two on Tuesday, so put on my fishing stockings, and my shoes in the basket, and laid it on the bank, and made a start, and after a few casts had a rise and hooked a fish which coolly surveyed all that deep water close to the bank, and very slowly too, for about 15 minutes. I then tried to weigh him so as to pull him up the bank as usual, but with no avail ; then he took a run right across to the other side, and ran up into the strongest of the stream, there he sulked for other 15 minutes. I then thought he was off, and my line caught on a rock ; however, he commenced to move after I had telephoned to him by rapping a big stone on the butt of the rod. He then ran right down stream ; keeping at the far side of the river. When he came to the head of the first rapid water, he went in earnest ! I had to run helter-skelter all I could, and let out line as well. He kept on—now slower, now faster—until I reached Brown's cottage, over two miles from where he started. Mrs. Brown came out and kindly held my rod until I got my wind, so I killed him in that pool where we saw the one landed, and to my great disappointment it was a salmon of only 20lb. I thought he towed me down the river towards the German Ocean with the strength of one 40lb., after a run of two miles, and expending 2h. 20m. in killing him. I need not tell you how hard I held him ; only once I let out line. I had to throw my rod past the rocks, and hang on by my hands, as I felt no bottom. The natives cannot understand however I got past two difficult places, as I cannot swim—nevertheless, I did. I was in over the top of waders often enough. Well, I had to go back for my basket, and when there thought I would have another cast, and about the middle of the pool got into another fish. It turned out to be a bull trout, 10lb., which I landed in the usual time, 4½ minutes. But that salmon I shall never forget. It was the strongest fish ever I had anything to do with. On Thursday I went to Selkirk, and was going to do a big stroke about two miles up, and had only started when I fell over a cobble stone, over head and ears, so had to make tracks for the train as fast as wading-stockings full of water would allow me. A hard frost set in, and I was soon a pillar of ice. Talk of whiskey being a bad thing, and that anglers should not take it ! All I can say is, this one would have been rubbed out that day if I had not got a drop on my way home. On arriving there I found two wires to be in London on Saturday morning, so rested on Friday and started at night. And now, my friend, farewell for a season to the banks of the famous Tweed, Ettrick, and Teviot. I shall long to again feel the breeze on Ettrick's banks.

"London. "W. H. P."

### THE DORSET WOBBLE.

Sir,—As regards spinning for pike, I should like to offer a few remarks, first stating I do not enter the lists as a rival of such experts as Mr. Jardine and other champions of the art, either in the Nottingham or Thames styles. Still all, I think, lay great stress on the advantage of an "accurate spin." I am "Thames raised"—not far from Wargrave, and in days long past was a pupil of old Woodly, and Vaughan, of Henley ; the last, I think, is still to the fore. A few years ago I settled in a south-western county, and enjoy the privilege of fishing in a well-preserved lake alive with fish of all kinds. My first day, the keeper did not seem impressed with my "Pennell flights," and proposed my using some tackle of his own—a simple triangle on a short length of gimp, passed with a needle from the vent, out at the mouth, with a somewhat smaller triangle on a loop just slipped over, and hanging below the mouth. A trace, with the usual lead and swivels, completed the arrangement. I objected that such a bait must "wobble." "In course it will," quoth the keeper, "and that's what I wants. The pike thinks he's hurted, and comes for him at once." I had a very good day, and have had many such since with the same tackle always using a small roach. Well, last winter a London friend came to me for a few days' sport, and brought a kettle of nice Thames dace. The next morning we went down, and my friend was soon at work with a Thames dace on a Pennell flight, and before I was baited *our* fashion he had a run and killed his pike, a little over 10½lb. I then began, and in the course of the day ran eight fish, killing five ; while my friend never had another run till late in the afternoon, when he changed his flight and dace for a roach on the "wobble tackle," as he called it, and killed one more fish. He maintained our style would never do for the Thames, and much wondered what the Hones, or Clarke, or Kemp would say to it. That I am not prepared to answer ; but that the "Dorset wobble" kills down here I think I have clearly shown.—I am, &c.,

Sherborne. Pike.

[Mr. Pennell's spinning flight is one of the best, if not the best we know—the S-shaped hook gives such a firm hold for the side twist of the tail. If a natural bait is used a wobble is often as attractive to pike as a clean spin ; but we prefer the latter, especially for artificial baits. The old dead gorge slides about in all directions when you let it go down after the draw ; it is very deadly, although it does not spin at all. Mr. Manley recommends a wobbling bait, if we are not mistaken, in his "Notes on Fish and Fishing."—Ed.]

### AN ADVENTURE WITH A STURGEON.

Sir,—In your number of November 22nd you inserted a paragraph from the *Court Journal* of the capture of a sturgeon by a Mr. Baly, of London. A friend of mine, who knows Mr. Baly well, told me he believed it was a genuine catch, and gave me that gentleman's address. I wrote a polite note congratulating him on his luck in hooking such a fish, and skill in landing same. I further invited Mr. Baly to visit the Piscatorial Society at Ashley's Hotel any Monday evening, where all anglers and their friends are welcome, and favour us with the particulars of this angling feat. I received the following "rather angry reply" :—

"Dear Sir,—In answer to yours, I beg to say that I have never caught a sturgeon. I always thought that they would not be caught with a bait, except foul-hooked. The paragraph in the paper *(C. J.)* is evidently a hoax, put in without my knowledge. I thought it too absurd to notice, and am surprised to find anyone having a knowledge of fishing could have been taken in with the report. I shall find out the writer and insist on a retraction.—Yours faithfully,

"Charles Baly."

My impression was supposing the report authentic, that an artificial spinning-bait might have foul-hooked the sucker of the sturgeon, and as the time of nearly five hours was given before the fish was landed, the tide would have receded and left the royal fish flopping on the mud, and then easily captured. We know that large barbel are frequently foul-hooked that way ; then why not a sturgeon ?—I am, &c.,

T. R. Sachs.

[We saw nothing impossible in the story. Given plenty of sea-room and strong tackle, a skilful angler would kill a shark in time ; but a sturgeon would not take a spinning-bait, and we therefore suggested it was foully-hooked.—Ed.]

### *RE* BRANDY AND PIKE BAITS.

Sir,—It is not my intention to prolong this discusion, save by a few remarks on "Mark Antony's" letter in your last issue, if you can afford me space for them in your columns.

He characterises what I said as "very good *banter*, but as foreign to the argument." Now, sir, I can assure you and him that I wrote in no *bantering* spirit whatever. I abhor cruelty in any shape or form ; indeed, so thin-skinned am I on the subject, that I have often been constrained to give up live-bait fishing on that account. I, therefore, wrote with the honest intention of advocating the use of any means likely to reduce the cruelty, unavoidably used (to some extent) in our sport. What *banter* is in that, sir ? If a bait, dosed with brandy, is *intoxicated* ("Mark Antony's" *argument*, as I understood it), then, I say, its sensibility to pain and fear is, in all probability, lessened ; and it is my firm conviction that a drugged and drunken fish would suffer less than one from which brandy had been withheld.

"M. A.'s" remarks appear to me to resolve themselves principally into a tirade into the evil of intoxicating a fish, as though *drunkenness* constituted the *cruelty ;* and as *such*, they form *no* argument, in my opinon, against the use of brandy. But, sir, there is another side of the question which undoubtedly *has* great weight.

If Mr. Bankart's assertions as to the *scalding* effect of the spirit are correct, then very great cruelty must attach to its use, and it behoves us to thoroughly investigate this matter before so treating our baits, as I trust no one, for the sake of a little extra sport, would wantonly inflict such agony on a bait. But again, sir, there is another side *yet* to this question. "M. A.," in his P.S., says, "If 'A Coggeshall Volunteer' thinks I am wrong, and the increased action of the fish does *not* arise from drunkenness, will he kindly inform me what it *does* arise from ? Because if it does not arise from drunkenness, I am convinced the agony must be most intense, and makes the matter all the worse." Now, can we not find a reason for the increased activity of a "brandied" bait without resorting to the two extremes of "drunkenness," or "intense agony" ? I thought so, sir, and under that impression I wrote as I did. There are frequent instances in which a moderate amount of spirit produces in its recipient the following results : Increased activity, extra power to sustain such activity, endurance under pain, courage to meet impending danger.

I have no doubt, sir, that, like myself, you have at times experienced such effects from a glass of brandy ; but to what did you attribute these effects ? Surely not to "drunkenness" or to "intense pain." May it, therefore, not be possible that the "increased activity," of a bait so treated may be due simply to the *stimulating* effect of the brandy ? And if it also produces partial indifference to fear and pain, I say it *is* "doing the fish a kindness."

"M. A." says that he is "simply surprised that any humane being should show his sympathy for the dumb creation in a manner so peculiar." I trust I can claim to be a *humane* as well as a human being, and all I wrote was done in the interests of humanity, and not as *banter*. If Mr. Bankart is right, then this practice is wrong and should be condemned ; but if "Mark Antony" is right, and the fish are simply *drunk*, and *not scalded*, or *cauterised*, I still contend that it *is* a *kindness.* I have not yet tried brandy on a bait, so if I have erred, it has been only in *sentiment*, not in *practice.* I only wish the pike about here were "on" to the extent of taking a "dead-bait on live-bait tackle," as they appear to be in "M. A's." neighbourhood ; but they are too "'cute" for that here, and the river is too narrow and weedy to admit of successful spinning, hence we resort to live-baiting as our only chance for a pike. Trusting that these expressions may not be regarded as *banter*, but that if I have exhibited great ignorance in making them, that you will further enlighten me on the subject,—I am, &c., A Coggeshall Volunteer.

---

Sir,—I have perused with much interest the various letters that have appeared in your paper lately from correspondents on the subject of my recent experiment in administering brandy to dying fish. The letter from Mr. Isaac fully establishes the views that I hold in relation to the effect noticed by him ; but some latitude must be given to the lively descriptive strain of this gentleman's letter. I disagree *in toto* with the sweeping assertions made by some of your correspondents as to the cruelty of the experiment in torturing the fish and inciting intoxication. One of your correspondents suggests that the brandy actually scorches or cauterises the delicate fibres of the fish, which, to my mind, is as fallacious as the preceding statement. I entirely agree that to advocate cruelty would be most reprehensible; but the administration of a small quantity of brandy, such as that employed in my experiment, could not possibly be the means of promoting inebriation or instigating cruelty. On the contrary, the experiment is perfectly harmless and of the greatest service to fish culture; and for the information of your readers, perhaps you will allow me to explain the nature of respiration amongst fishes, which will furnish an idea of the effect produced by the administration of spirits.

For the due performance of respiration in fishes it is essential that the circulation of blood should be carried on with sufficient velocity to allow of the interchange of gases to take place. This is effected by means of the muscles in connection with the pharyngeal passages driving the aërated water through the branchiæ. Owing to the position of the heart, the blood is propelled through the respiratory apparatus before it proceeds to the system at large. The physiology of respiration in fishes is not dissimilar to other vertebrata; since there must be nerve force to govern the respiratory movements, and control the supply of oxygen to the system, so also must there be a nerve centre, which is situated in the medulla oblongata, or that portion of the encephalon forming the junction between the brain and the spinal cord. When a fish is removed from the water death ensues from asphyxia, caused by carbonic acid poisoning due to the drying up of the membrane covering the gills. Therefore, the administration of brandy to a fish in this condition serves as a means of preserving vital energy and maintaining the action of the heart for a certain period, but does not re-establish respiration directly, as its action would be of little avail, the branchiæ being in the state already alluded to. If the fish be afterwards restored to water, the value of brandy as an *aqua vitæ* is at once apparent. The dormant energy becomes immediately awakened, the stimulant operates on the nerve centre, the water moistens the gill covers, the muscles are brought into play once more, and the organism which before was almost at the point of extinction manifests vital energy which we call "life."—I am, &c., W. OLDHAM CHAMBERS.

National Fish Culture Association, South Kensington, December 3rd.

[Mr. R. Cooper, secretary of the Prince of Hesse Angling Society, writes:—"Whilst fishing at Staines on Nov. 25, I caught a chub 1½lb. It was placed in a bag and hung against a wall for five hours; then taken out and put in another bag with other fish, when I packed up to go home. On arriving there, I sent it to a friend, who noticed a slight movement of the tail. I requested him to return it, and I would try the brandy experiment. I did so, and the fish almost immediately recovered and swam about, and is still alive and well." We think the chief value of the use of brandy will be in saving valuable fish which, after a long journey, often arrive in a dying state.—ED.]

## BRANDY AND PIKE BAITS.—FISHING LINES.

SIR,—With regard to the question of fish and brandy, it strikes me that some of your correspondents are arguing with the same fallacies that afflict rabid members of the Blue Ribbon persuasion. These latter having once got hold of the word "alcohol," can never afterwards get rid of it. They learn the result of the brutal experiments of foreign physiologists, who torture unfortunate animals by injecting alcohol and absinthe and such things into their veins, and from the effect of this make ridiculous and erroneous statements as to that of a wholesome glass of beer on the human subject. I hope and trust, in the first place, that fish have very little at all of what we call sensation. It is quite certain that, as we descend in the animal scale, that sensibility to pain diminishes very rapidly. Probably pure brandy placed on the gills of a fish would cause more or less pain; but I presume that nobody proposes to do this. Brandy is often a very useful medicine, even to young infants; but no medical man would think of giving it pure, any more than would any person ever think of drinking alcohol; and I suppose those who wish to administer this stimulant to fish by the mouth would dilute it with water. If given in this way, it should not, in the first place, pass over the gills, and even if it did, when we consider that brandy, diluted with only six parts of water, is a perfectly painless and pleasant application as an eyewash to the human eyeball, we may conclude, I think, that it would produce no pain to the fish.

### LINES.

There seems to be considerable difference of opinion with regard to the material of these. Major Traherne, in his penultimate paragraph, p. 257, says he finds a solid, flat, undressed silk line last *much longer* than the dressed line. You, Mr. Editor, in the present "F. G.," p. 265, say the silk and hair *rot so soon*. Have you the same opinion of the plaited silk undressed? I must say I think that any one who never dries his line can hardly expect any material to last. Major Traherne recommends 40 yards of line, tapered *at both ends*, to be attached to a back line. Is not this mechanically wrong, having this weak part between the two stronger portions of the line? "The strength of the whole is that of its weakest part," and I should also have imagined that the line would not cast so well.

There were some very nice-looking wading boots brought out, I believe, by Cording at the time of the Fishery Exhibition. A brown leather foot was attached to the ordinary wading stocking, instead of the heavy brogue which has to be put on over a thick sock. Will any of your readers who may have tried these kindly report on them? Do they last, and are they easily dried?—I am, &c.,

F. R. C. S.

[The undressed plain silk line does not rot like the hair in a mixed silk and hair line; we have had them to last for years. In the salmon line the strength of the back line is equal to all that is wanted of it, and the casting line is made stout to aid in casting. Some anglers say that when you cast from the taper you can get out a better line; but it is not often you want to pull off so much line as to use both tapered parts. The best leather boot we have ever seen for pulling over fishing stockings is the invention of our friend Mr. G. Yarde. He fishes nearly all the year, and the other night showed us a pair, still quite good, which he has used for *three years*. They are made to his order by T. Muller, 69, Lamb's Conduit-street, W.C. The screws in the sole were all intact—of course, a little worn; but the feature is the stiff tongue, which is not sewn to the upper, but a continuation of it, and never slips down. Mr. Yarde finds these boots protect the feet of his waders, so that they last three times as long as with any other brogues or boots he has tried.—ED.]

## THE POLLUTION OF WINDERMERE.

SIR,—The pollution of Lake Windermere has attracted much attention lately, owing to Lieut.-Col. Sandys, the chairman of the Westmoreland Conservators' Association, having declared that the lake was fast becoming "a gigantic cesspool." This has given some annoyance to the lakeists; but the colonel, not to be beaten, had the water carefully analysed, and the result is that Mr. W. H. Watson, F.C.S., F.G.S., declares it "unfit for drinking or household purposes." The colonel wishes to know if that be so, what it is fit for?—not for fish, he thinks.

All action in these matters is sure to provoke vested interests, whose policy is, "Give us peace in our time."

It is, therefore, all the more needful for public-spirited men to be courageous. In this case good is likely to ensue from the publicity given to the real state of affairs. The bad condition of the water does not cover the whole mischief, for "estimating the resident population of Windermere at 1,269, the analyst calculates that it contributes no less than 515 tons of matter—more or less polluting—to the lake per annum; and placing the summer population at 5,000, he estimates that there would be over 2,036 tons of excreta, or 127 tons of sewage solids, passed chiefly, if not entirely, into the lake each year from Windermere alone."

"The probable cost of efficient purification would," Mr. Watson adds, "be exceedingly small." The Local Boards concerned will, therefore, best consult their own credit and the welfare and reputation of the district by taking prompt and well-concerted measures to prevent the further pollution of the lake. At the outfall of the sewage of Ambleside there is a disgusting condition of affairs offensive to eye and nose. The river Rothay, which is the principal feeder of the lake, near Rothay Bridge, is covered with putrescent slime and all manner of refuse, which is partly washed and partly carted to the spot.

This is the sister river to the Brathay, which join their waters close by, and the streams up which trout and char used formerly to go in large numbers. Now the streams are gradually becoming more and more unfit for fish.

It is high time this stupid policy of *laissiz faire* in dealing with the fisheries (salt and fresh water alike) was knocked on the head, and a more enlightened method pursued; otherwise, what is the use of all our education and civilisation?

A society has been formed in London for the purpose of enforcing the Acts for the prevention of pollutions of rivers, lakes, streams, &c. Lieut.-Col. Sandys is one of the executive committee.

At Berwick-on-Tweed there is plenty of work of that kind wants doing; the local authorities are too lethargic to take action in most instances. At present the Tweed is being fouled in a shamefully stupid manner, but this I must leave for the present.—I am, &c., JOSEPH JOHN HILLS.

Berwick-on-Tweed.

[If owners of property in the neighbourhood of Windermere are wise, they will look into this matter.—ED.]

## ENORMOUS SALMON.

SIR,—Do you recollect, in "Land and Water," some years since, the rule given for finding the weight of fish from the dimensions?

It was: "Four-thirds of the length, multiplied by the square of the girth, divided by one thousand," giving the weight in pounds and decimals. I frequently tested this with the large salmon which from time to time were mentioned in "Land and Water," and generally found that it proved very correct.—I am, &c.,

Edgbaston. H. W. CROMPTON.

## SEA FISHING.

SIR,—I am much interested in the articles by "E. G." on sea fly-fishing, and will be glad to hear, with your correspondent, "Castleconnel," of the best places for that branch of the sport. I enjoyed some capital white bass fishing whilst staying at Westward Ho during the autumn of 1881. I used to arrange the previous evening with one of the fishermen of Appledore to meet me in time to embark just before the finish of the "ebb," so as to reach our operating grounds (just inside Barnstaple Bar, or opposite Braunton) before the flow commenced. The rod I used was a stiffish 11ft. hickory, about 40 yards of jack line on a strong click reel, about a couple of yards of treble or double twisted gut as "collar," to which two ordinary bass flies (white wings and red body) were attached as droppers, the extremity of the "collar" terminating in a "pearl," a fished-shaped piece of that material armed with a grilse hook (a "baby-spinner" would have no doubt been better). However, I frequently had each lure engaged at a single cast, but once only, as far as I can recollect, caught three fish at a time.

My "gillie" was well content with sharing "pot-luck" with me, and a square drink on coming ashore, to the health of ourselves and the finny tribe, as remuneration for his day's work.

I offer the above, Mr. Editor (although I am quite a comparative youngster at the "craft"), hoping it may meet the eyes of some to whom such facts may be useful.—I am, &c., RAY.

## MR. PENNELL'S THREE FLIES.

SIR,—The passage under the above heading, quoted by your correspondent, "Trout," is perfectly correct; but not by any means the editorial glossary appended to it. The quotation simply states, that as I find the lithographers colour my flies wrongly, and the tackle-makers make them wrongly, fly-fishers wishing to try them must learn to make them for themselves.

I fail to perceive in this simple statement of fact any "equivalent to throwing up my brief"; or in my admitting that the tackle shops sell one thing which is useless, an admission that another thing which they do *not* sell is so also.

To convince you that in my quoted strictures I do not speak without good warrant, I inclose nine different specimens of the flies purchased as my patterns, yesterday and to-day, at three different West-end London tackle shops.* You can judge for yourself, by the most superficial comparison with the "description" in my books, how far they correspond with the three flies recommended by me. In every single point they are as unlike as possible. The colours are wrong (and vary considerably); the hooks are wrong, only three out of the nine being even an apology for my bend; and the hackles are wrong also *in every case*, and owing to their being left entire at the bend instead of the stem being cut off to form the whisk, they nearly double the proper length of the flies, and make them more like miniature dragon flies than any insect which a decently brought up trout or grayling is accustomed to look at.

Under such circumstances it is not to be wondered at that I decline to be held responsible for these nondescript abortions, of which, as I truly said my prefatory note quoted, "99 out of 100 would probably be quite useless in fine waters, and very indifferent performers anywhere."

As, therefore, the professional tackle makers either cannot or will not tie the flies, I can only repeat that in case anyone wishes to give them a trial he must perforce learn to tie them for himself (they are tied on a radically different principle to ordinary flies), and for that purpose I would refer him to the complete instructions contained in my published writings—e.g., "The Modern Practical Angler," 4th edition, p. 87—93.—I am, &c., H. CHOLMONDELEY PENNELL.

P.S.—As I am frequently being applied to for patterns or samples of my flies, pike tackle, &c., which the calls upon my time have obliged me systematically to refuse, I am glad to take this opportunity of explaining the cause of my apparent discourtesy. The same reason obliges me to decline private correspondence, however interesting, in regard to these and other matters connected with fish and fishing.

[Mr. Pennell is certainly right in saying that there is not much resemblance between the various samples he sends us. What we meant was that if such firms, for instance, as Farlow, Bowness, Little, James Ogden, Williams and Co., and others who employ the best professional fly-makers in the kingdom, cannot, or will not, make these flies properly, from the extremely simple instructions Mr. Pennell gives, we do not see much hope for the amateur. If Mr. Pennell will kindly send us one sample of each of the three flies made properly we shall be happy to lend them to any professional or amateur who desires to give Mr. Pennell's system a really fair trial.—ED.]

## A NOTE FROM NOTTINGHAM.

SIR,—The severe weather the past week has kept many of the anglers at home; those that have been out have only met with moderate sport. A gentleman, fishing at King's Mills, on Thursday, caught a pike 12lb., and several more were caught in the Black Pool at Weston. On Saturday a Derby angler got two nice fish out of the same pool, one 10lb., another 4lb. Another angler, in the Shardlow water, one day got 14lb. of chub. Great numbers of salmon are to be seen trying to leap the Weir at King's Mills. The Trent is still running very low. We had a heavy snowstorm yesterday, which, I hope, will bring the long-desired fresh. Fishing for the next few days will be out of the question.—I am, &c., A. W.

Dec. 1.

P.S.—I see a correspondent would like a few hints on salmon fishing with worm. If he will send his address I will tell him all I know about it.

---

* The names are attached to each, but not for publication.

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# RIVER REPORTS.

## TIME OF HIGH WATER IN THE THAMES.

To find the time of high water in the Thames at any of the following places, to the time of high water at London Bridge (given below).

Add
30 minutes for Chelsea.
40 „ Putney.
45 „ Hammersmith.
50 „ Barnes.
55 „ Kew.
75 „ Richmond.
80 „ Twickenham.
85 „ Teddington.

Example :—If it is high water at 2 o'clock at London Bridge, it will be high water at Teddington about 3.25, or eighty-five minutes later ; but it must be remembered that a strong wind accelerates or retards the tide very much.

For Times of High Water at London Bridge.

| | | | Morning. | Afternoon. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Saturday, | December | 6 | 4.5 | 4.29 |
| Sunday, | „ | 7 | 4.54 | 5.19 |
| Monday, | „ | 8 | 5.44 | 6.12 |
| Tuesday, | „ | 9 | 6.37 | 7.5 |
| Wednesday, | „ | 10 | 7.33 | 8.3 |
| Thursday, | „ | 11 | 8.35 | 9.11 |
| Friday, | „ | 12 | 9.47 | 10.23 |

## THE LOWER THAMES.

### General Remarks.

The committee of the T.A.P.S. have succeeded in obtaining the co-operation of the police in respect to receiving information in regard to any attempt to net any portion of the river, the Commissioner of Police having issued instructions to all the river-side police stations to that effect, and the committee have issued a placard offering a reward of two guineas for any case where a conviction is obtained. At the committee meeting on Tuesday last, three new subscribers were enrolled as members, and Mr. J. C. Chubb, of Teddington and Queen Victoria-street, and Mr. John Lodge, of Hampton Court and Noble-street, have been elected members of the committee. The Teddington fishermen have done very little amongst the Lamperns at present, and it is not expected they will get any number until there has been a good push of water. A chub was picked up dead on Sunday last by one of the fishermen at Twickenham ; it weighed 6½lb., and its death is attributed to natural causes. In the present low and bright condition of the water good sized jack continue to be taken, and if the unsettled weather should end in a good fall of rain, those fish will be caught in goodly numbers, as there is abundant evidence as to their existence in large quantities in the river. Very fine roach continue to be taken in the tidal waters. The attendance of anglers has been diminished, but the angling has been far from unsatisfactory.

### Angling Results.

**Richmond.**—Christopher Brown, in one day with Mr. Beagle and friend, several roach weighing 28lb., and in two other half-days, 12lb. of roach. F. Brown in two days and one half-day, 65lb. of roach and dace, and one barbel. Henry Wheeler, in three days, 40lb. ; and Henry Mansell, in one day ten dozen of dace.

**Twickenham.**—Samuel Cole, in one day, four and a half dozen of good roach. Richard Coxen, in one day, eight dozen of roach and dace. F. Wiggins, in the same time, seven dozen. Edward Finch, in a couple of days, 30½lb. Henry Spiers, in one half-day, four and a half dozen. Charles Lee, in one day, six and a half dozen of good roach. John Spong, in two days, 28lb. of roach. George Coxen, in the same time, six dozen of good roach and dace ; and J. Dibbin, in one day, seven dozen.

**Teddington.**—Joseph Baldwin, in three days, thirteen dozen of roach and dace and a couple of barbel. Charles Baldwin, in one day, 25lb. and two barbel. J. Stevens, in one day, fifteen dozen. Benjamin Stevens, in four days, forty dozen ; and William Messenger, in one day, 27lb.

**Kingston.**—John Johnson, sen., writes :—"I have only been out twice this week in the tideway. I got ten dozen of dace one day and five dozen the other. I tried the perch yesterday at Kingston, but I only got one fish about a pound. My son has had one day in the tideway, and got about ten dozen of dace." It is reported the bank anglers at Kingston and Surbiton have had fair sport amongst the roach, dace, gudgeon, perch, and chub, some of the latter 3lb. each.

**Thames Ditton.**—Mr. J. Peters, in one day's chub fishing, got five fish, the largest weighing 2½lb. The bank anglers have been getting some chub in addition to roach, dace and gudgeon.

**Hampton Court.**—There is only one report, that of John Smith, getting three jack, the largest weighing 8lb. At Tagg's Island Fishery the anglers have been showing in at the hostelry some good roach and dace.

**Sunbury.**—Edward Clarke, jun., in one day, nine brace of perch. The bank anglers here during the week have done well amongst the perch, gudgeon, roach, dace, and chub.

**Walton.**—Mr. Mackrill, in two days, with George Hone, has taken fourteen brace of nice perch, the largest fish weighing 1½lb. ; and Mr. Hickley, another day, with the same fisherman, in a couple of hours, got one jack of 7lb., and another of 5lb. The bank anglers have been doing well in all-round fishing, and one of them got a nice brace of jack.

**Weybridge.**—Mr. Edward Street, in one day, caught three barbel, one brace of perch, and a chub of 2½lb.

**Chertsey.**—John Poulter, in one day, one brace of jack. This well-known fisherman is now attached to the Chertsey Bridge Hotel, at which address he will always be found.

**Staines.**—John Keene, jun., in a couple of days, two brace of jack.

## UPPER THAMES.

Since my last week's communication almost continuous rain has fallen all up the valley of the Thames, but as yet the river does in the least seem influenced by the downpour. The fact is, the land is too thirsty and the wells too dry to allow any moisture to find its way to Father Thames. The time will come, however, but not on this side of Christmas, to my thinking ; but every little fall is bound to do some good, however infinitesimal, for the benefit of winter anglers. Little has been attempted during the past week, but the braves who have ventured out have been rewarded with jack and perch, the two classes of fish which should be now specially sought for. At Marlow, I hear of 20lb. of jack by a London purveyor of sirloins ; and at Bourne End a piscator has a jack of 13½lb. At Hurley, Messrs. Gough and Corneby have had roach, perch, and gudgeon ; and Mr. Hockley, on one occasion, nine dozen perch, eighteen of which were only retainable. Thursday evening.—Water rising rapidly, and colouring. Sport on December 7th and ensuing week should be up to the last winter sort.—Marlow Buzz.

### Thames (Datchet).

Quite a change came over the scene since I wrote last, but not having had a turn at the fish this week, I am not able to say anything about them. With J. L. Meyer, Esq., on the 29th, chub fishing, caught three—largest about 4lb. Had a few more bites, and it was very cold. Richard Gray, with a patron, on the 30th, three jack—largest 6lb. James Gray, near Surly Hall, on the 1st, one of 11lb., with a 2lb. barbel in him. Want of bait has been quite a blessing to the jack, or no doubt there would have been more caught these cold days. The Windsor and Eton Preservation Society has turned in some more trout this week—80 good-sized fish, averaging a foot each. Water rising ; good prospect for coming week.—G. Lumsden.

The water is getting in better order. Not been out since Monday ; then took six chub, the largest 4lb. Now the weather is changed, I think there might be some barbel taken. Roach not on feed at present.—James Hoare.

### Thames (Goring).

We have got now a good water for all-round fishing. Jack and perch coming on better. My best day four dozen of perch and two jack.—J. Rush.

### Sonning.

There have not been many parties out lately, as the water is so bright and low. The rain we are having is making the water a nice colour for roach fishing. Mr. Huggett has been out chubbing, and got over twenty fish, and, by what I hear, there were some very large ones. If it keeps on raining for a few days, I hope to send you a report of some good takes shortly.—W. Hull.

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### Ancholme District.

The river is now too full of snow broth for angling pursuits. When milder weather obtains the pike fishing should be very good, particularly in the upper reaches, where the fishing is only conducted on a moderate scale. Both trout and fontinalis are finding their way in increasing numbers to the main stream from the Manor Fishery, Caistor. I have heard of several being caught recently by anglers when bottom-fishing ; but I cannot learn that any of them were safely returned. The experience in catching these fish in the Ancholme is a new one, and the anglers are generally so enamoured of the speckled sides of these pretty fish that they go into the pannier double quick, despite their being now out of season. At the time of sending off this report, the snow is disappearing fast, accompanied by a steady downfall of rain, which will do something towards replenishing the dwindled springs in this neighbourhood. The fish-ponds at Barnetby junction were never so low, and I understand the natives are gathering up the perch in bucketsful. Weeds are now fairly gone, both at the river-head and on the Ancholme proper. So far as the river-head is concerned, it has been a bad season, the water being very moderately patronised.—Thomas Ford, Caistor.

### Chichester.

At the close of last week, winter paid us a passing visit. The frost on Saturday night being very sharp, pike fishers were on the *qui vive* ; Mr. Young, the following morning, taking three good pike from the canal, the largest a handsome fish of 5lb. Mr. Hammond has also secured a 5lb. fish. The rain of the past few days has benefitted the water, but kept many rodsters from the canal side. A couple of good pike were taken on the Ouse, above Isfield, the largest 6½lb. No news from the Rother; the change in the weather being so fleeting, our anglers did not risk the journey. Rain is still falling as I write. May we have plenty of it; it is badly wanted. Water in the neighbourhood is costing ½d., and, in some instances, 1d. the bucket.—George F. Salter.

### The Dove.

We have had very winterly weather all this week, and comparatively little has been done in the way of angling. On Sunday morning snow commenced falling heavily, and continued until the ground was covered to a depth of 4in. On Tuesday rain set in, which quickly made a great impression on the snow, and the river soon became charged with a vast quantity of snow-broth. It will be gathered, therefore, that angling has been, comparatively speaking, a dead letter. The weather, as I write, seems to be improving; but it will be several days before the snow-broth clears completely out of the water. Until then, rodsters must wait patiently.—The Splodger.

### Exe and Canal (Exeter).

Some roach have been taken in the Canal and the river with paste and bread for bait; also a few perch with worm and minnows. Beyond this nothing has come under my notice.—J. A. Kelley.

### Ilfracombe.

Sea fishing. The weather has been very boisterous here the greater part of the week, nevertheless, there have been some fine fish taken, our amateurs coming in for a share of the large fish. On Saturday, Mr. Slocombe, fishing from the jetty, caught a cod 16½lb., Mr. German, from Hele Stone, caught a large pollock, some whiting, and a conger 17lb., and on Monday, from the jetty, caught twenty whiting and a pollock 4½lb. The boats fishing with ground lines have had some good catches of cod, conger, pollock, whiting, &c. Herring fishing getting very slack, the largest haul for the week at one tide 3¼ maize. Thursday, blowing a gale from W. N.W., with a heavy sea.—E. Comer.

### Leicester.

Angling has been greatly interfered with by the weather the last few days; the cold, biting winds of Friday and Saturday were succeeded by a heavy fall of snow on Sunday. The weather, however, broke up again, and a thaw set in on Monday evening. Rain fell persistently throughout Tuesday, so that there was but little snow left by the following day. As may be expected, very few anglers found their way to the river side. The snow-broth in the water kept the fish from biting. On Thursday the prospects were a little brighter, and a fair number were fishing at the Leicester Society's preserves. With the exception of a few pike but few fish were caught. Rain fell heavily during Thursday evening; this will, doubtless, do an immense deal of good.—Alert.

### Lugg and Arrow (Leominster).

These streams have greatly improved since the downfall of snow on Sunday, which made but little alteration in the colour of the water, which still remains in capital angling order, having rose a little since last week. On Friday and Saturday the fish were sporting well at the maggot and red worm, and some good fish have been taken with the grasshopper. Near to Stanton, on Friday, a good dish of grayling was landed with the red worm. In the Lugg, near Ford's Bridge, a gentleman took a capital lot of fish with the maggot. A gentleman fished the Arrow, near Eardisland, and landed a capital dish of fine grayling with the grasshopper. On Saturday some good grayling were taken from the Lugg in the Aymestry district. Good sport was had in the Arrow the same day with the red worm. Fishing quiet in the Ivington waters. No fishing was had on Monday and Tuesday, the weather being very bad, the snow melting, and accompanied by a nasty cold mist which did not clear till dinner time on Tuesday. The Pinsley is in good fishing order, but fishing in it very quiet at present.—Gwynne.

### Ouse and Ivel (Blunham).

This week's rain has much improved the state of the above rivers, which are now in good fishing condition.—T. E.

### The Ouse (Huntingdon).

The recent rain has improved the condition of the water, which has made it more fishable; but nothing of importance has been done. I cannot hear of anyone being out except one day, when eight jack were taken weighing 24lb. I have only been out a few hours and took one 6½lb. The water being in better condition than it has been for a long time, there is every prospect of good sport, weather permitting.—H. Rout.

### Pickering.

Very little fishing being done around here during the last fortnight. Grayling have scarcely risen at all, and been very shy of looking at a worm, or, in fact, any bait. One of the best baskets we have heard of was taken in private water, and contained several fish of 2lb. or above, taken with red worm. The best pike we hear of were two killed in private water, 11lb. and 13lb.: the latter was a pattern fish, as handsome as one could wish to see. At present rain is falling, and there is a 2ft. fresh in Pickering Beck. Will some kind naturalist reader of the Gazette be good enough to enlighten us as to the food of the Grebes, greater and lesser? Do they catch and eat small fish to any extent or not? We have seen them very busy on trout-spawning beds on several occasions.—North-East.

### South Level Cut (Littleport).

Since my last report to Fishng Gazette some weeks back we have had a most glorious time among the roach, with an occasional good turn, "for this water," among the pike, and although the weather has been something of the coarsest for the last few days, the roach have still been feeding more or less, as the following will show. Nov. 26th. Messrs. T. Clark, senr., his son-in-law, and T. Clark, junr., Newmarket, 23lb. good roach in three hours. Nov. 27th. Mr. A. Pace, Newmarket, 17lb. roach; Mr. J. Rae, Newmarket, 18lb.; Mr. W. S. Fowler, Cambridge, 11lb. in four hours; Mr. E. W. Swann, Cambridge, 11lb. in four hours; Messrs. W. Purchas and R. Hills, Cambridge, 18lb. in three hours; Mr. S. O. Beeman, Littleport, 11lb. roach. Nov. 28th. Messrs. G. N. Latham and A. W. Whatton, 8lb. good roach in three hours. Snowing heavily. Nov. 29th. Mr. S. O. Beeman, Littleport, pike 8lb. Nov. 30th. Several London anglers down, and all took roach. Mr. J. Hutt, Cambridge, having half an hour to spare, after a disappointing turn for pike, devoted it to roaching, with the result of 4lb. good ones. Dec. 2nd. Mr. Hailstone, 7lb. splendid roach under the hour. Dec. 3rd. Mr. Hailstone, 21lb. roach in three hours; Mr. F. Ely, 14lb in a hour and a half. These two lots were a picture.—Charlie South.

### Teme (Tenbury).

A heavy downfall of snow visited this district on Sunday last, stopping the angling for a short time; but it has made scarcely any difference to the colour of the water, which still keeps clear, but has slightly risen, and is now in capital angling order. At the end of last week the fish were sporting well at the maggot and red worm, and some nice fish were landed. A few were taken with the grasshopper. The water near Little Hereford was tried on Friday, and a good lot of grayling were landed with the red worm, averaging 12oz. each. A good dish of fish were taken in the water near Corn Brook with the maggot, the same day. On Saturday a gentleman from Worcester visited the water, and, with the maggot, took a capital lot of grayling, weighing 5lb. the lot. A few very good fish were taken in the Berrington Court district, with the grasshopper. The snow began to melt on Monday, and was disappearing quite fast; but on Tuesday there was a nasty mist till midday, when it cleared up and became bright. The Kyre, Rea, and Ledwyche have greatly improved since the snow, and are in good fishing order; but none been had this week.—Worcester.

### Teme (Ludlow).

The melting of the snow which fell heavily last Sunday has brought very little water into the rivers, being absorbed in the ground, which was very dry. The streams have been abandoned since Sunday's snowfall; but on the previous Friday and Saturday good fish were caught. Mr. Carter caught above Burway Meadows, in the Teme, on Saturday, with the maggot, three brace and a half of good grayling and some perch and roach; the grayling turned the scale at 3½lb. the lot. Some few fish were caught below the Paper Mills with the red worm, which is an excellent bait at present. The salmon are lying pretty thick, I am told, in the Teme, in the deep waters below the weir at Ashford, having as yet had no opportunity of crossing the weir owing to the scarcity of water. There has been some better fishing at the end of the week at Clun, which is now in good condition. Mr. Hartshorn, from Ferny Hall, caught a pike of 7½lb., but full of spawn, at Oaker Mill, Aston-on-Clun. Some fine grayling were taken in that quarter on Saturday. The red worm and maggot appear to be the most favourite bait, and some good fish have been landed, both from the Corve above Elms Lodge and the Ony.—S. Ludlow.

### Trent (Swarkestone and Shardlow District).

A quantity of rain has fallen during the last two days, and if it will continue a little longer we shall have the much-needed rise, when anglers may expect to have a chance of obtaining some sport. A few pike have been taken at Weston, Messrs. Clemson and Smith securing one each, weighing 7½lb. and 3lb. respectively. Mr. D. Silvers got two pike from the Black Pool at Weston, which scaled 9lb. and 4lb. Mr. Martin, of London-road, Derby, also caught one weighing 7½lb. at the same place with his new harness tackle. I understand that large quantities of salmon are lying at the water meetings near to Twyford Ferry, and it is to be hoped that the water bailiffs and keepers will keep their eyes upon them.—Spinning Bait.

### Trent (Newark).

The sharp frosts of last week were succeeded last Sunday by a very heavy fall of snow; the wind then veered round to the south and a rapid thaw set in, to be followed by a heavy rain; so by Wednesday morning not a vestige of snow was left lying on the ground. This combination of circumstances will have the effect of bringing down the river the much-desired fresh of water. To-night (Thursday) there is 3ft. of extra water in the main river, not unmixed with snow broth I reckon, and it is still rising; so angling matters will not be very brisk until the water clears down again. I have no items of importance to communicate this week, except a chub of nearly 4lb. that was weighed in on the 30th ult. at one of our clubs. To-day (Thursday) the weather is very stormy.—The Trent Otter.

Since my last there is nothing in the way of sport to report. Frost set in on Friday night, and on Sunday night we had a heavy fall of snow, which has now nearly disappeared, causing a rise in the water; but, until the snow broth has quite gone, I fear it is of little use anyone going out.—F. T. L.

### Trent (Nottingham).

There is scarcely any angling news to communicate from this district since my last report. The weather, almost daily, has been boisterous and cold; added to which we have experienced a heavy downfall of snow. This has run into the river and checked sport for the time being. But anglers generally will be delighted to learn that the river is running at a greater height than has been the case for the last six or seven months. Immediately the snow-broth disappears sport should improve amongst roach (so far a most indifferent season), dace, chub, perch (yearly growing less in the Trent), and bream.—The Man at the Clubs.

### Torcross Ley.

The water is rising very fast, and the weather favourable. Pike are on the feed. Mr. J. Clarke landed 23 pike during the last three days, the largest scaling 12lb. 10oz. —Devon.

### The Wharfe (Yorkshire).

On the 30th ult. we had our first instalment of snow this season, and it came down so steadily all day that at night there was quite a deep covering. Since then, however, the weather has completely changed, and, as I write (Wednesday), not a vestige remains, so that for some days there will be little chance of grayling fishing, owing to the snow broth, with which the streams will certainly be filled.—Francis M. Walbran.

### Wye and Derwent.

We had a beautiful woodland water come down the Derwent last Saturday, which was the cause of many of the local anglers in this district turning out bottom fishing, and I am pleased to say that some good dishes of grayling, roach, dace, and a few chub were killed between Darley Bridge and Ambergate with both maggots and cockspur worms. Since then nothing has been done on either the Wye or Derwent with the rod, for on Sunday we had a very heavy downfall of snow, which quite put a stop to fishing altogether. On Tuesday we had a very great quantity of rain, which took away all the snow, and has caused both rivers to have high waters on them; in fact, we have had a great deal of rain daily since Tuesday, so that both rivers have been on one continual boil. To-night (Thursday) it is raining in torrents, with every appearance of floods on both rivers before long. Angling prospects looking bad for next week. Weather very unsettled.—George James Eaton.

### The Yare (Norwich).

The past fortnight nothing of any note has oocurred in the angling "line" on this river; the weather has been very unpropitious, changing from the depth of winter of last Saturday, Sunday, and Monday to the mild, humid atmosphere of yesterday, and ending to-day (Thursday) with a terrific storm of wind from the N.W., accompanied with heavy driving showers of hail, sleet, and rain; even one of our oldest veterans would, I fancy, make tracks if he were on a Norfolk broad to-day. Several catches of jack from private waters have been made; in one instance, on water connected with the Bure, as many as ten fair-sized fish were caught; the best, however, was one landed on Monday last, which scaled upwards of 14lb. I trust the weather may settle down, and then, as the weeds are dying fast, we may hope for some records of good catches as of yore; there is all the best time coming. Prospects nothing to boast about, there being another difficulty besides bad weather, that is, the trouble to obtain bait; no doubt this will cause surprise, but I can, from experience, testify to its being the fact, having been twice disappointed; this is unaccounted for by the catchers.—Robert Moll.

### Yore (Hawes).

Trout spawning has made most favourable progress. The fish are up the runners in scores. I "viewed over" four runners on the 30th ult., and they were literally swarmed with spawning fish. Grayling are still off the feed, but should improve now, as the weather appears to be more settled, and some little frost prevails during the night. I do not hear of anything being done worth reporting. There will be plenty of fishing next week, as the water is out to-day.—Corry.

Good Potatoes.—We confess to having quite an Irish liking for a good potato, whether baked, fried, or boiled. Messrs. J. H. Kenny and Co., of 4, Portugal-street, Lincoln's Inn, W.C., sent us a bag of their Magnum Bonums the other day, and we can truly say it is a long time since we tasted potatoes of such excellent quality. They cost only one halfpenny per pound if bought by the bag of 112lb., as will be seen from Messrs. Kenny's advertisement in our columns. We find we can get a far better potato at half the ordinary price by obtaining them from Messrs. Kenny, who are large growers.

# CLUB REPORTS.

## ACTON PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The ordinary weekly meeting of this society was held at their clubhouse, the George and Dragon Hotel, High-street, on Thursday evening last. The minutes of the previous meeting having been read by the secretary (Mr. Williams) they were confirmed. There being no business of importance to report, the chairman (Mr. W. Eydmann) read over the takes of fish, when those caught by Mr. West, viz., five roach, weighing 6lb. 15oz., were much admired, one of them going 1lb. 14oz. The members resolved, on the motion of Mr. Brooks, seconded by Mr. Cook, that the whole five of them be set up in one case at the expense of the club, and they have been sent to Mr. J. Baker, of Ealing, for that purpose. At nine o'clock the members and their friends adjourned to the large room of the hotel and held another very successful smoking concert, Mr. F. Eydmann in the chair; Mr. F. E. Blake, who is now a member of this club, presided at the piano. Several excellent songs were rendered by Messrs. H. C. Walker, W. Howell, J. Pike, W. Cook, F. E. Blake, J. Howell, and his two brothers. The members are requested to attend the meeting next Tuesday, at 8.30 sharp, so that the business of the club may be finished by nine o'clock, as the club is desirous of continuing these concerts every Tuesday evening during the winter.—W. E.

## AMICABLE BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

On 30th ult. Mr. Taylor saved the club from a blank by weighing in roach. On Monday, Dec. 1st, the thirty-second annual supper took place, Mr. Say in the chair, Mr. Squires in the vice chair; pianist, Mr. Knidd. Thirty-one members and friends sat down to a most substantial repast, and after the supper harmony reigned supreme. Mr. Field commenced by singing "The Thorn," followed by Mr. Bygrave, who gave a topical song, the greater part of it touching up the crack members of the club, which was received with great humour on their part—encore song; Mr. Harding, "Twenty Years Ago"; Mr. Chevalier, "Mr. Right and Mrs. Wrong"; Mr. Murray, the president of the Central Association, sang "The Bell Ringer" in a masterly style; the chairman, "Another Kind Love"; Mr. Dacey, "Pat Molloy." The chairman proposed the toast, "Success to the Amicable Brothers." Dr. Johnson sang "The Admiral"; the chairman, toast, "The Health of Mr. Murray, and Prosperity to the Central Association," which was responded to by the president, who stated that it was simply a work of time, and that not very far distant, when it would be at the top of the list, a hope that was shared by all present. "The Health of Mr. Crumplen" was next proposed, including "The Press"; Mr. Crumplen responded with a very humorous remark respecting Dr. Johnson, who differed so much from the Dr. Johnson of years long ago, who defined the angler as one who held a rod and line, with a worm at one end and a fool at the other. Mr. Medcalf proposed "The Health of the Hostess and her Little Ones," and also thanking her for the able manner in which the supper was placed on the table, which was warmly responded to by all present. Mr. Tommy Feetchum gave his "Tombstones"; Mr. Baldock his "Dutchman" song; Mr. Brady, "My Sweetheart, When a Boy," encore, "Wee, Wee"; Mr. Bell, song and encore; Mr. Bygrave, "Good Time Come"; Mr. Badcock, "What John Bull Said," encore, "Broken-down Masher"; Mr. Field, "Dear Friends of Old"; Mr. Richardson, "With Her Big Boss Eye"; Mr. Chevalier, "Blue-eyed Mary Ann"; pianist, a solo; Mr. G. O. Smith, "The Anchor's Weighed"; Mr. Field, the last song of the morning, "Down by the River Side." The chairman returned thanks to the members of the Carlyle Club, who attended in great force, and they, in answer, promised to do the same in future. Two o'clock was the extension of time, and all left highly pleased, with a promise to return on next Monday, December 8th, when the distribution of prizes will take place.—J. Worledge, sec.

## ANGLERS' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

Since my last report I beg to acknowledge, with thanks, the receipt of £1 1s. donation from the committee of the Foresters' Hall, Clerkenwell-road, and 5s. from W. H. Brougham, secretary Thames Angling Preservation Society. The Angling Tournament.—There are many tickets yet unsettled for. Secretaries and friends will oblige by sending in their remittances for tickets they have disposed of as early as possible. The next meeting of the committee will take place on Friday, Dec. 12th, at 9 p.m.—R. Ghurney, sec.

## THE CAVENDISH ANGLING SOCIETY.

The seventh annual supper of the above society will be held at the Duke of York Tavern, Wenlock-street, New North-road, N., on Thursday, the 11th inst., supper on table at 8.30 sharp. At the general meeting on Nov. 27th, it was resolved to employ a pianist, to be in attendance every Thursday, when a concert will follow the business of the society.—E. O.

## THE CLAPTON.

The usual weekly meeting was held on Monday last at the Swan Hotel, Upper Clapton; Mr. C. B. Parry in the chair. The minutes of the preceding meeting were read, approved, and signed. The secretary read the circular which he proposed to send to all members (on reply post card) giving the full particulars, lines of trains, &c., for the competition at St. Margaret's on Saturday next. This was approved. The secretary reported the regret of himself and many members that, on account of its being the weekly meeting night, we were unable to be present at the concert in aid of the Anglers' Benevolent Fund, which was to be held at the Foresters' Hall this evening. Mr. Howse suggested that a liberal contribution to the "collecting box," then on the table, for the fund would be a *practical* way of evincing sorrow. The idea was most cheerfully carried out, and every member present readily contributed. We hope to have a good outing on Saturday. Shall return to headquarters at the Swan, Upper Clapton, between nine and ten, when we should be pleased to see any anglers and friends, anticipating good sport. A cordial vote of thanks to the chairman closed the proceedings.—Henry Howse, hon. sec.

## COBDEN ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of the above will fish a match on the 7th inst., at Taplow. There are six prizes to be contested for.—C. Reeves, sec.

## GOLDEN BARBEL.

On the 30th, in spite of the cold winds and snow, several of the members succeeded in getting fish. Mr. J. Roach had nice lot of his namesakes from the Thames. He remarked to a friend, "If there was more water in the river we should be able to get a heap of fish where those come from; but till there is we must be thankful for what we can get." On the 9th a concert and a draw for two cases of fish will take place for the benefit of our old friend and member, Tom Adams. Members and friends who can make it convenient to attend will receive the thanks of "Old Tom," who has been out of work some time.—Pixie.

## GOOD INTENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

There were not many fish brought to the club on Nov. 30th. Messrs. Snook and W. Solomon had some nice roach. On December 2nd there was a fair attendance of members, and all the details were settled for our Christmas prizes. There will be a long list; all members competing must go by the 8.45 train from Liverpool-street. I anticipate a good muster. The prizes will be fished for at Broxbourne on the 14th inst.; all members are allowed to compete, including honorary members.—R. Murphy.

## GLOBE ANGLING SOCIETY.

Only a few of our members ventured out on the 30th ult., consequently our show of fish was very small, Messrs. L. Harrington, F. Lawrence, H. Lake, and S. Howell being the only four to weigh in, which consisted of roach, dace, and chub. The 7th Dec. being the last of our year, there will be several prizes fished for, and I hope to be able to make a good report for the wind-up. Our distribution of prizes will take place on the 15th inst. Members will oblige by attending in full force at the next meeting to make all necessary arrangements for the annual supper, and several other matters of importance.—J. J. Holmes, sec.

## GRANGE ANGLING SOCIETY.

The annual fortnightly meeting was held on the 27th ult., Mr. Hunt occupying the chair. After the usual business was concluded the chairman presented to Messrs. Jones, Raffey, and Tagg, the prizes they won at the match held on the 21st October at Egham. The chairman also announced that the committee had arranged for a two days' match to take place in December for five prizes, presented by Messrs. Hockley, Brook, Farrow, and Ryder. Last Saturday Mr. I. H. Rich captured two pike, weighing 18lb., the largest scaled 12½lb.—W. K.

## GREAT YARMOUTH PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

Although the weather was so very unfavourable on Monday last for anything appertaining to angling pursuits, I am very pleased to record the fact that the closing jack competition of 1884, of this society came off on Barton Broad on that day, and I am proud to say that it only tends to show that the members now comprising this society are made of good true metal that will not be daunted in anything they may undertake, more especially when their best prize of the season (a handsome cup, presented by Councillor Bayfield) was won in a masterly style by Mr. Harrison—the artist well known by his numerous paintings of scenes of our broads and landscapes—by catching two fish in such a mode as clearly shows that he has also made the fish in the broads and rivers a study as well as the scenery surrounding them. And, as the President (Mr. Bayfield) remarked at Tuesday's meeting, when presenting him with his prize, the only hope of the society and friends was that he might long live to enjoy many a contest with the Yarmouth Piscatorials, to which Mr. Harrison suitably responded. The President proposed the health and prosperity of Mr. and Mrs. Lark, regretting much that circumstances had called him away just when his company was required most, adding that all were greatly indebted to Mr. Lark, whose labours in the anglers' cause seemed never too heavy or weary when good could be got out of them, and wishing he was in Yarmouth instead of London on that occasion. Mrs. Lark, on entering the room, returned thanks to the gentlemen present for the kind feelings expressed regarding herself and husband's health, and therefore wishing one and all health and prosperity, and success to the society. The health of the chairman (D. S. Bayfield), and the vice-chairman (C. K. Lamb), and the members present followed, and it need scarce be added were most enthusiastically drunk, which brought a most harmonious meeting to a close.—J. E. Pretty.

## GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

The ordinary weekly meeting of the above society was held on Tuesday evening at the Mason's Hall Tavern, Mason's-avenue, Basinghall-street, Mr. Field in the chair. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. In the absence of any particular business, Mr. Crumplen obtained leave to read a paper on "Mermaids," which he stated had been written by the office boy of the *Anglers' Journal.* Judging from the paper in question, the sooner this office boy is got rid of the better; the paper bristled with puns to an extent which suggested that a goodly portion of the writer's income had gone for reserve seats in the gallery of some theatre where the sacred lamp of burlesque was kept constantly burning, and when it is added that the paper shone with several words, the pronunciation of which was just a little too much for a veteran paper-reader like Mr. Crumplen, a very fair notion of the youth's precociousness may be formed. He is evidently a bad boy, or a boy who looks on the bad side of things in general, and mermaids in particular, for after giving various accounts of the appearances of mermaids at different times and places, he arrives at the conclusion that if they put him in mind of anything it is of a half monkey and half fish badly joined. As was pointed out by one of the members, such a sweeping condemnation was hardly just. Mermaids, like all other beings real or imaginary, have their good points, in proof of which he cited the instance of the "Merman," who, having politely tapped at the side of a vessel and requested the pleasure of an interview with the captain, informed that official that he was greatly inconvenienced by the presence of the ship's anchor at his front door, as it prevented his family going to church. From mermaids to shirts is a long leap, perhaps; but some angler's shirts, made of "flannelette," were next introduced to the meeting, which, if everything said of them be true, are all that an angler can desire, almost to the ensuring of a good catch of fish to be shown at his next society's meeting. A vote of thanks to the chairman concluded a very pleasant evening. The entertainment to take place next Tuesday is a series of dissolving views, illustrative of the Upper Thames. A good selection of songs has also been arranged for.

## HAMMERSMITH UNITED ANGLING SOCIETY.

On Thursday, Nov. 27, there was a nice show of dace taken by Mr. Smith, at Tedddington, with old Joe Baldwin. Most of them were of exceptionally large size, but none quite up to our specimen weight of 7oz. Those of our members who had patience, and remained late at the club, were rewarded by seeing a fine take of chub sent up by Mr. Geen, from Oxfordshire. There were four trays of fish, weighing 42½lb. This is the correct weight of these fish, and the reason for emphasising it is that on Saturday last, at Twickenham, this take was spoken of as weighing 120lb. I correct this error on behalf of my friend P. G., who is a stickler for correct weights, and recommended Master Dick Coxen to bring a notebook and pencil next time he pays us a visit, and not trust to his memory, which, on occasions when all are so ready to welcome him, is liable to become somewhat defective towards the small hours. Mr. Hobden tried the roach at Twickenham on Saturday with Dick Coxen, but it was too cold, and his bag did not exceed 5lb. in weight. The 30th was a similar day, when Mr. Penny and another of our members fished with G. Coxen, and with similar result.—H.

## HOXTON BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

Very few members out on the 30th ult. W. Norman had four handsome jack weighing 24lb. 2½oz.; H. Steadman, chub, 2lb. 5½oz. The outing for the Christmas prizes (which, I am pleased to state, are very numerous) will take place on December 14th. The water not yet decided upon.—R. Ghurney, sec.

## THE LINCOLN ANGLING SOCIETY.

Our members went out on the 30th ult. to fish for three prizes, but only one prize was taken. Mr. Ulph brought in some fine roach, weighing in all 2lb. 7½oz., from Windsor; Mr. Bingle, being the successful winner of the prize, brought in a splendid show of roach, dace, and perch from Temple. The other members only met with indifferent sport.—H. Bingle, sec.

## MESSRS. SUTTON'S ANGLING SOCIETY.

The angling association in connection with the Royal Seed Firm, of Reading, held their annual meeting in the Abbey Hall on Thursday, Nov. 27, for the distribution of prizes competed for during the past summer. In the unavoidable absence of members of the firm, Mr. J. Adey was chosen to fill the chair. After reviewing the association in its progress during the past five years, he congratulated the members on the successful termination of another season. The prizes (value £10 10s.) were then presented to the successful members by Mr. T. Caudwell, and, as usual, the awards were for specimen fish. Hearty thanks were accorded to the Messrs. Sutton for the interest manifested by them in the pastime of their employés, and also for their liberality in providing the valuable prizes each season. A cordial vote of thanks to the secretary for his exertions on behalf of the association, and to the chairman, terminated the meeting.—F. Squire, hon. sec.

## LIVERPOOL ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

At the meeting on the 20th ult. Mr. R. Wilson weighed in a very nice pike of 9lb. 10oz., taken out of the lake at Knowsley on an ordinary perch hook, with gut trace and minnow for bait. Our sixth annual dinner took place on the 27th ult. at our new quarters, the Canton Hotel, 14, Victoria-street. The weather turned out unfavourable; but notwithstanding this drawback, and the absence of several members through illness who would otherwise have been present, 40 sat down to and thoroughly enjoyed the excellent *dejeuner* provided for them by that able caterer, Mr. W. Vines. After fully satisfying the requirements of material nature—no mean task as it turned out—the company adjourned to their club room, there to pass the remainder of the evening in the social enjoyment of pipe and glass, music and song. On entering the room the first thing that met the eye was the handsome and valuable bookcase made and presented to the association by Mr. A. Harrison, assisted by Mr. J. Evans. Can an association go wrong with members in it like these? No, surely not! In the unavoidable absence of the president, Mr. Sergencson, through sickness, Mr. Pratchett occupied the chair, with Mr. W. Pearson opposite. The toast list consisted of "The Queen and Royal Family"; "The Army, Navy, and Volunteers" (ably responded to by Mr. Thos. Bloomfield, a survivor of "The Gallant Six Hundred" immortalised by the Poet Laureate in the "Charge of the Light Brigade"); "The Liverpool Angling Association," "The Officers of the Association," "The Donors of Prizes," "The Winners of Prizes," "The Chairman," "The Vice-Chairman," "The Treasurer," "The Hon. Secretary," and "The Visitors." In responding for the association and himself, the chairman said that, as a man of few words, he must simply thank them for their kind reception of the toast, and assure every one that he was ready and willing to at all times do all he could to further the interests of angling and the association. The vice-chairman, in acknowledging the toast in his name, travelled over similar ground as the chairman, and there cannot be a doubt that in these two officers the association have steadfast and tried supporters. Mr. W. Jones, treasurer, in reply to the toast of the officers, with which his name was coupled, treated the company to one of his eloquent speeches, which are always listened to with delighted attention. Mr. Jones has the happy knack of saying good things in the most appropriate language, and in him also the association has a staunch supporter. In the absence of Mr. J. E. Martin, who should have responded to the toast of the donors of prizes proposed by Mr. A. Gregory, Mr. Boulding took up the strain in a neat and telling speech. This gentleman is also a good speaker, and invariably commands the interest and attention of his hearers. He is, too, a firm and consistent adherent of the association, and can be relied on at all times. Mr. E. Chandler (who is just recovering from a severe sickness), on rising to respond to the winners of prizes, proposed by Mr. Leaman, who most feelingly coupled his name with the toast, was greeted with a perfect storm of cheers and applause. He said he felt very deeply the great sympathy shown him by the reception his name had met with, and it made him feel that angling is a pastime which is not only delightful in itself, but brings its votaries closer together in the bonds of a lasting brotherhood. He thanked everyone most heartily, and hoped to be spared to be amongst them for many years, and added that all the time he was laid-up his mind had been with the members in their outings and competitions, and so vividly did his imagination fill up the picture that at times he felt as if taking part in the fray. The hon. sec., in replying to the toast of his health, kindly and pointedly proposed by Mr. Boulding, had little to say, as deeds spoke louder than words, he remarked, and they all knew that he had grudged neither time nor trouble during the last four years to make the society a success, efforts which he should not relax in the future if continued in his position, and only asked the members to back him up, when failure would be out of the question. Mr. R. Roberts, in proposing the visitors, made what may be called his maiden speech, and a little gem it turned out, to the point in every way, pleasantly alluding to the presence of visitors, not only on this occasion, but at our various outings, and carried the meeting with him when he said visitors always had been, and would be, welcome. The little speech was greatly appreciated, and it is hoped we shall hear Mr. Roberts oftener. Mr. Neale briefly but ably replied for the visitors, saying he had enjoyed the evening very much indeed, and that as he always tried to make friends he felt sure he had made some that evening. The singing was throughout of a high class, there being some excellent vocalists amongst the company. Mr. Rawsthorne opened the ball with "Did you ever feel that way," and subsequently "The Midshipmite," singing both as only he can. Mr. Humphreys gave "A Life on the Rolling Sea" and "Sailing," and rendered them both in really first-class style. Mr. J. Evans was in good voice with "Beer, Beer," rolling it out in his usual cheery and jaunty manner. Mr. Robinson, with "Take it, Bob," and another or two, sang well and tunefully, and is a pleasant and attractive vocalist of no mean order. Mr. Chandler favoured the company with a comic song, and, considering his state of health, was very good. Mr. W. Jones ably and truly rendered his "Hunting Song," rattling this difficult song off with great *eclat*. Mr. Leaman gave "Rhine Wine" as it should be given. Mr. Neale, with "Simon the Cellarer," achieved a great success, and is evidently a singer of considerable merit. Mr. W. Davies warbled out "Brogue and Blarney" as if to the manner born, and had kissed the famous "stone." Last, but far from least, comes Mr. Hudson, who sang "I Fear no Foe" perfectly, and "brought down the house." This gentleman (a visitor) presided at the piano, and played the various accompaniments very well indeed. He had, and well deserved, the warmest thanks of those present for his voluntary and successful efforts in adding to the general harmony and enjoyment of the evening. Unfortunately, twelve o'clock arrived all too soon, and put an end to the scene; but each and all separated with the friendliest feelings, looking forward hopefully to the next reunion as only generous souls have a right to do.—R. WOOLFALL, hon. sec.

## NORTH-EASTERN ANGLING SOCIETY.

The Clout Testimonial.—A special meeting will be held at the club-house, Mr. Haylock's Shepherd and Flock, Great Swan-alley, Moorgate-street, on Wednesday evening, the 17th December, at 9 o'clock prompt, to consider the best means of carrying out the above. Secretaries and delegates of societies and friends are respectfully invited to attend.—G. T. FLETCHER, sec.

## NORTH-WESTERN ANGLING SOCIETY.

The 35th half-yearly supper and distribution of prizes took place on Thursday evening, the 27th November, at the club-house, Lord Southampton, Maitland-park, N.W., Mr. Lealand in the chair, faced by Mr. Aldis. After the good things provided by the worthy host, Mr. Wetenhall, had been properly cared for, and the cloth removed, the Chairman proposed the loyal toast, and the business of the evening was got through very satisfactorily. The Chairman proposed the toast of the evening: "Success to the North-Western Angling Society," with which he proposed the health of its secretary, Mr. Hillier, which was heartily received. The secretary, when able to get a hearing, thanked the members and visitors present for their kind feelings towards him, and hoped it might be his lot to receive many such. He stated that the funds of the society was still in a satisfactory condition; was pleased that the members had verified his statement at the last supper, that this would be a prosperous season, and that the aggregate weight of fish weighed in that season (the whole year) would be far exceeded this. This they had done, for they in the first half-year had exceeded the whole of last season. Some first-rate songs were rendered by Messrs. Underwood, Lealand, Aldis, Marshall, Greenwood, Lancaster, Packman, Hayes, and Wynn. Jack prizes were taken by Messrs. W. Plumpton, senr., W. Plumpton, junr., Hayes, J. Shackel, and Culpitt; bream, R. Marshall and W. Plumpton, senr.; roach prizes by Mr. G. Weaver and F. Hill; perch, E. Cross. All fish by Messrs. Aldis, Underwood, and Hillier. The following members also took prizes for excursion: Messrs. Hill, G. Weaver, W. Weaver, C. Billings and Underwood. A good list of prizes was presented for this half-year. Mr. Wynn proposed, "The health of the Treasurer," Mr. Wetenhall, saying that he was a jolly good fellow, and when he replied, it was soon seen that Mr. Wynn had made no mistake. Several other toasts, amongst which was "The Chairman and Vice-Chairman."—W. HILLIER, sec.

## PECKHAM BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of the above club will fish for seven prizes on the 7th inst. at Kingston (drain barred). Train leaves Vauxhall at 7.35, the match to terminate at 4.30. I hope the members will turn up in large numbers; likewise the fish.—GADFLY.

## THE PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The ordinary weekly meeting of this society took place on Monday evening last at Ashley's Hotel, Covent-garden, and was well attended. There was a splendid show of fish on the tables. Amongst the members present were Messrs. Gillatt, Pattisson, Huggett, Fennings, H. B. Brown, Gray, Sachs, Goodger, Blamey, Harden, Foreman, Perelli Rocco, Jesse, Robinson, Meyer, Inderwick, Wheatstone, Hall, H. H. Brown, Walker, Booker, Butler, Watson, Blundell, Adlington, C. C. Blundell, Dr. Brunton, J. Lander (hon. sec.), &c., &c., and amongst the visitors were Messrs. S. Kosterlitz and J. W. Atkinson. Mr. Gillatt was unanimously voted to the chair. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. Mr. Foreman's show of pike was 12lb. 10oz., from public waters, and arrived too late for last week's report. The ballot took place for the proposed new member—Mr. Neish, of Watling-street, proposed by Mr. Harden, seconded by Mr. H. B. Brown. In the result the Chairman announced that Mr. Neish had been unanimously elected a member of the society. The Chairman thereupon proposed the "Health of the New Member," which was responded to with enthusiasm. The smoking concert, as previously announced, takes place on the 15th inst., Mr. Foreman in the chair, and Messrs. Goodger and Norman Harrison as vice-chairmen. Mr. Fennings, referring to the Piscatorial Society's ball, announced that three of the committee had taken sixty tickets. Application must be made as early as possible by those wishing to attend the ball, as the number will be limited. Coote and Tinney's band. The dancing will commence punctually at 9 o'clock. Dr. Brunton, in some well-chosen remarks, referred to the death of our late member, Dr. Llewellyn Thomas. As a personal friend he could speak as to the estimable qualities of that gentleman. He had not been so much amongst us lately, but he was a keen fisherman, especially for trout, and his heart was thoroughly with us. Unfortunately, the society had lost a good member, and he, Dr. Brunton, a kind friend. He proposed a letter of condolence be written to Dr. Thomas's relatives, in which all present heartily concurred. The chairman announced the weights of the fish on table. Mr. Huggett showed 32lb. 4oz. of chub, the three largest 9½lb., from the Lodden; Mr. Meyer showed two chub, the largest 4lb., from Datchet; Mr. Robinson showed 47lb. 11oz. of pike, the largest 15lb., from Avon public waters. The chairman proposed the health of the successful anglers in the order they had weighed in their fish—viz., Mr. Huggett, Mr. Meyer, and Mr. Robinson. Mr. Huggett pointed out the advisability of weighing in early, so as to have the advantage of being the first named amongst the successful anglers, and being called upon first to reply. He thanked the members for their kindness. There was nothing unusual connected with the show of chub on the table; they were caught in the usual Nottingham fashion, and his experience was that so soon as you hooked a large chub, he generally ran straight towards you, at times nearly under the punt, thus all control was lost for a second or two, with the result that Mr. Chub often got under boughs or in weeds; he lost two nice large fish on the present occasion in this manner. Mr. Meyer said he was fishing with Lumsden; they tried the boughs and usual haunts of the chub without success. At last they tried the open water, and took the two fine fish he showed on the table; they saw large numbers of barbel; the weather was fearfully cold. Mr. Robinson caught his fine show of pike with snap. His experience was that of his friend Huggett—viz., that they would not take spinning bait. The weather was fearfully cold, and his fisherman managed a couple of gallons of ale during the day. He found less difficulty in getting the large fish than the smaller ones. Dr. Brunton introduced what he considered an improvement in a pike paternoster, by the insertion of a swivel, and exhibited same to the members present. Mr. Wheatstone was of opinion the swivel was of little or no use. Mr. Pattison was also of that opinion, the swivel being in the wrong place. Mr. Robinson introduced for inspection one of his gut pike paternosters, which, he claimed, beat the Doctor's into fits. A little good-humoured banter followed, and the chairman proposed "The Continued Success of the Glorious Old Piscatorial Society." He was proud to be chairman with such a fine show of fish on the tables. The toast was "The Piscatorial Society—Long may it Flourish," drunk with enthusiasm. Mr. Godfrey proposed the health of the chairman, who was a staunch supporter of the society. This gentleman briefly replied, and the business terminated.—T. H.

## RODNEY PISCATORIALS.

On the 30th ult., Mr. G. Dodd exhibited some nice roach from the Thames, with which he succeeded in winning the first gross-weight prize for November, given by Mr. T. Hughes. Mr. C. A. Grant won the second prize given by Mr. G. Dodd. The first prize, given by Mr. R. Chantry for the Windsor competition of this date, fell to Mr. Flower, who managed to get among some dace. Messrs. C. Grant, R. Chantry, R. Smith, C. A. Grant managed to find some fish, but they were small. The snow coming down soon put an end to their sport. At the meeting held at headquarters on the 3rd, Mr. Flower was elected chairman for the ensuing quarter, and a hearty vote of thanks was tendered to Mr. R. Smith for the able manner in which he had fulfilled that office during the past two quarters. Members that were not present on this evening are informed that in future Rule 6 will read—"No member allowed to fish with more than two rods. For special competitions, the where and how to be decided at the meeting held previous to the outing. Open competitions, members can fish from punt or bank." Rule 12: "All fish weigh according to Thames rules, bar perch, trout, and bream; when from any other river shall be 7in., 9in., and 9in. Members weighing in live fish must submit to have such fish marked in such a manner as to be recognised should they be brought to be weighed on a future occasion." The following has been added to Rule 4: "Any member misusing a privilege ticket, granted to him to travel by any of the railway companies that grant the privilege to travel on their lines at the reduced fares granted to anglers, shall be expelled and forfeit all prizes he might be entitled from this society." Mr. A Liversage's prize will be given for the gross weight takes during December. For the December special, Messrs. Diggins, C. A. Grant, and Hotham will contribute, to be decided according to rules.—PIXIE.

## ROYAL GEORGE ANGLING SOCIETY.

The 30th ult. proved itself anything but a good day for angling; at any rate, eight of our members had pluck enough to face it. Messrs. Hewell and Parsons visited the lower Thames, and were well rewarded for their trouble—a more splendid show of roach has not appeared on our trays this season than were placed there by the two above-named gentlemen, many of the roach going 15½oz., besides a nice barbel. Messrs. Rider, Palmer, Wood, Holden, Carter, and Forey went to Henley, to fish for a prize given by Mr. Scomer, but only one of the above-named gentlemen were successful in getting fish—namely, Mr. Holden—but not sufficient to win the prize offered. We expect a large number at Waterloo Station on the 7th inst., ready for the first train, in order to compete for the Christmas sweepstakes; if not, I know one member who will feel disappointed, that is—W. H. RIDER.

## STAINES ANGLING CLUB.

In spite of the weather on November 30th, the members of the above club turned out to fish for the prize in continuation of the previous competition on the 23rd ult.; but only one, Mr. James Drake, succeeded in taking a fine jack, but not sufficient in weight to take the prize.—F. SYKES.

### WELLINGTON.

On Monday, Mr. Charles Newbury weighed in 11lb. 14oz. of chub, the two heaviest being 5lb. 2oz. and 3lb. 1oz. We had a large attendance at the half-yearly meeting on Wednesday, when the balance-sheet was passed showing a very satisfactory state of affairs. Mr. Heaton was balloted for and duly elected a member. Mr. Palmer weighed in tench and carp. The distribution of annual prizes will take place on the 17th inst. at 9 o'clock, preceded by a supper at 7.30, for which I shall be glad to take members' names as early as possible.—W. W. Alexander, sec.

### WEST GREEN ANGLING SOCIETY.

Mr. Wilsher's monthly prize was won by Mr. Hay, Mr. Firkins being second after a very close race. Mr. Coleman's prize for the largest jack not being taken, it will be fished for this month with Messrs. Elders and Haddon's monthly. Members are requested to attend on Wednesday next, at a special meeting, to elect a president and other special business.—J. Guyver, sec.

## THE ROMANCE OF ANGLING.

By "Streams-o'-the-North."

Most Englishmen, I may safely say, are sportsmen at heart, and further, I think that no country in the world can boast of such a number and variety of sports as the land of our birth. But of all the sports indulged in by us, none of them, in my judgment, possess the romantic element in so great a degree as the gentle sport of angling. In fact, to write a paper on the romance of shooting, or even hunting, as practised in England would be a task that even a highly-strung imagination would find a large amount of difficulty in doing. There seems to be scarcely room for romance and sentiment in dealing with the sternly practical elements of powder and shot, although no one likes a shot better than I do. I cannot but feel that these sports cannot be termed romantic or sentimental. In the days of old, "when knights were bold and barons held their sway," when the fierce boar and bounding deer ran wild and free in the ancient and mighty forests of old England, the chase in these times certainly possessed these elements in a large degree. Since the introduction of the rifle, however, the romance of the chase has to a great extent disappeared. The weapons of the present day are dreadfully deadly and certain, and rob the sport of much of the old enthusiasm and adventure it possessed. We must, besides, remember that the animals hunted now are very different. It is nowadays the timid hare and scared fox in place of the wild boar, wolf, or bounding roe of the bygone times.

"Away with sports of charge and noise,
And give me cheap and silent joys."

The ancient sport of angling, or, as old Izaak has termed it, the "contemplative man's recreation," has, however, unlike other sports, not suffered by new innovations or the flight of time—the fish are still "all there," but 'cuter, certainly, if they are not so numerous ; and in spite of the strides of the last thirty years in the manufacture of splendid tackle and novel baits, the task of getting a good basket of trout is more difficult now than in the old time when the poet sang :—

"'Tis delightful the trout to ensnare ;
To gaze on his tints, like the cheek of the fair,
And sigh when their brilliancy sinks in decay,
As bright as the rainbow, yet fleet as its ray."

Yes, everything about our beloved sport tends to throw around it an undying halo of romance and sentiment. Its associations are so numerous and diversified that it speaks to us in a multitude of voices, and brings almost every power in our nature into play. The scenes of the sport lead us far away from the toil-worn desk and busy town, from the hum of the Exchange and the friction of life. It is true that the mind is called into *active* employment, but then it is *recreative*. It affords an entire diversion of thought ; our contemplative faculties operate in another sphere ; our eyes gaze upon a complete change of object in the glorious expanse of nature by flood and field or heather-clad mountain.

The romantic element, however, surrounding our sport is more especially existing in the purest form of it—viz., "fly fishing." Speaking for myself, I must admit that ever and anon the resolution has well-nigh taken hold upon me "never to handle a worm again." I dare say that in this respect I may be in the position of many juniors and tyros in the art, *waiting* until they have grown into their "angling manhood" and become sufficiently proficient to discard the worm and stick to the fly only. Opinions may differ on this point, yet after all there is little to romance about (so far as the lure is concerned) in a "fine smellin' worm" or a "gud midden maggit," as we say in the North. Far be it from me, however, to decry the mode of fishing adopted (of necessity) by the poorer angling communities of our large towns. Their sport yields them true and infinite pleasure. How keen and eager they are, as they fish of an evening after a day of sweat and toil, in the crowded docks, in the muddy tidal waters, or slimy canals near our densely-populated cities. To such I say, "Go it ! my humble brethren ; although your baits are bred amidst rottenness, although to us, whose lot is cast in happier 'hunting-grounds,' such sport savours more of 'fish-killing' than angling-proper. Dire necessity is a hard master with you, and my best wish is that such opportunities as your richer and more fortunately placed brethren enjoy may one day be yours. I can fully believe that often you may dream of a Heaven that will provide a river whose waters are crystal clear, whose banks are *not* lined with mud, where tall chimneys will give place to waving trees, where fragrant air will replace sewer smells, golden trout slimy eels, and silver salmon grobbing gudgeon." Heaven grant that such an angling paradise may be the lot of our poorer brethren of the "maggot and paste."

Far be it still from me to inveigh against punt fishing, though to Northern anglers—mountain stream fishers—I freely confess it savours of 6ft. by 2ft. ! Nor will I revile canal and bank fishing, keeping to an allotted number of feet in case you incur the severe displeasure of your angling neighbour, who guards with jealous eye his baited ground. Opportunities for these modes of angling are rare with us in the North, and though such may possess philosophic and contemplative elements, yet they do not breathe of feeling and romance. The associations and surroundings are wanting. They lack the elements of *pursuit, difficulty, and adventure* (except when the unlucky angler gets occasionally "tipped in" by the rope of a passing barge). There is too much "sit me down at ease" in it. *Umbrella* and *tall hat!* And I regret I notice a growing tendency amongst anglers in many parts to desire great ease and comfort in their piscatorial excursions. Like the "battue" system in grouse shooting, where the sportsmen employ both men and dogs to drive the frightened birds to a given spot where sits my lord, with breechloaders ready for him, flunkeys, champagne, and sandwiches ; so in fishing there is a prevalent feeling (pardonable, of course, in old men) to get on heavily-stocked and carefully-preserved waters. *Get up late of a morning.* Drive up to the water side. *Doesn't wade, of course ; 'fraid of cold.* Not forgetting *cork soles* and an *air cushion* in case of a chill *behind.* Then catch in a few yards of water, in an hour or two, a large number of unsophisticated trout. Butler brings lunch, and dine at 6 p.m. with "my lud." All very well, I say, once of a time, and seldom the better. This is not the sort of thing to breathe energy, spirit, and poetry into our sport. Happy the anglers anywhere born amidst crystal streams ; and if you are sufficiently high-spirited, will you not prefer to be unfettered ? to wander where fairy fancy pleases—"o'er moor and mountain green," by "fell and fountain,"—to lead the mimic fly and catch your fish when you can and where your can ? The more wary the trout and the greater the difficulties of filling the creel, the greater the pleasure and purer the sport. Fly-fishing, more especially in mountain rivers, is most exciting. It requires greater skill and physical exertion, and brings all our faculties into play. I can bring to mind as I write fly-fishing holidays spent by the streams of our "canny borderland"—in the glens of Coquet, and the "wild, heaving wannies o' bonnie North Tyne" ; and they are to me red-letter days in an angler's history. Have we not, all of us, anglers of every county, such red-letter days, full of the most delightful memories ? And do they not form the romantic in our angling lives ? As we sit by the fire, "many's the time and oft," as the song says, pleasant are the recollections and pictures of the past as they cross our mental view. How they rise and grow ! Again in fancy we roam down the banks of our beloved stream ; again we wander o'er the heather-clad moor, and away where the grey boulders rise in some swirling pool, do we :—

"Cast the fly lightly where yellow fins gleam
And the bright-spangled beauties we wile frae the stream."

As we sit we fancy we hear again the rush of the waterfall, and the curlew and plover's cry on the fells. Thoughts and reveries like these lend romance to our sport ; and as the race for wealth—or more properly *bread*—grows fiercer, these times of sport and recreation are more keenly longed for, though hardly snatched, and in the midst of the "moil and toil" of active business life there come these pleasurable anticipations, and it often happens, in the poet's words, which I alter for the occasion, that

"On 'Change and the market the keen angler sees
The mountains ascending, and visions of trees ;
The *pen* becomes *rod*, in the ink salmon glide,
And the river rolls on by the chair at his side."

It is then that a romantic fever seizes the angler—work he cannot. He has a chum angler whom he knows is game for a day any time, and to him he communicates confidentially the "infection," informing him that he feels "*all overish, you know.*" "*Wants a breath of fresh air,*" &c., &c. On his return home that evening he astonishes the partner of his joys and sorrows by intimating that he is *not* going out to-night ! "Put the children to bed, my dear. I'm going to be busy, my dear"—which means a serious business. The fever is coming to a crisis. His wife, good soul that she is, knows the symptoms well. "*Going a-fishing to-morrow,* my dear !" Forth from its hiding-place comes the tangled tackle-book ; again does he with much deliberation prepare for the work of the morrow ; with skilful and eager hands does he make up his favourite "casts," and with the aid of the old March brown, woodcock, blue dun, and favourite hackles, like Walton's angler,

"He doth his many toils prepare,
And arm himself with every watery snare ;
His hooks, his lines, renew with careful eye,
Increase his tackle and his rods retie."

That night he rambles down the meadow, rod in hand, and at his favourite pool, again does he hook and play that *same old salmon.* He sees him pounding through the dark water, while the line plays merrily through the rings, till the click of the swift-running reel becomes a knocking at his door, and pebbles thrown at his window at 4.30 a.m. by his wakeful "comrade in arms" outside reminds him that

"The stream will not flow and the hills will not rise
Till the slumbers have all passed away from his eyes."

See now our anglers as they gaily tramp along. Need we ask whither they go ? Their way lies over the meadows. It is a bright morning in spring. Away through the forest they pass, where every tree seems bursting into new life. How beautiful the larch wood looks—as Mrs. Hemans beautifully says,

"The larch has hung all her tassels forth."

The dancing daffodil is everywhere in the valley. The catkins cover the green, bending willows. The mosses are bright. Primrose stars peep in thousands amidst the brown and faded leaves of the wood. The tender-eyed daisy is everywhere. The birds twitter their love notes on every branch. The clouds are silver-grey. Just the day for sport—

"A day without too bright a beam,
A warm, but not a scorching sun,
A southern gale to curl the stream,
And, master, half the work is done."

How sweet is the morning air, fresh from the rain-moistened hills ! How exhilarating it is ! They expand, for the first time properly for weeks, their City-cramped lungs. But, good Heavens ! what on earth is up with them ? The elder of the two especially, whose locks are silver-tinted, seems the worst. They are actually leaping stiles like lads of ten years ! How they joke, and smoke, and chaff, and talk. Hear them roaring with laughter. Surely, they have discovered the "Elixir of Life" ! What a change from the men of yesterday ; the lines of thought worn on their face in the busy mart and exchange have all disappeared. What a marvellous change ! The romance of the sport is working its spell upon them. We need scarcely describe the angler at his day's sport. He seems a kind of amphibious animal, in and out of the water all day. See how his eye, his brain, his arm nerve themselves for the work. How neatly does he cast his fly, and irresistibly, too, for as the hours speed pleasantly and too swiftly by, he lures many spreckled beauties from their rocky haunts, and as the day wears on his heart grows lighter as his creel grows heavier. If it is summer instead of spring, what sights and sounds greet his eyes and ears, for the soul of no true angler can be indifferent to Nature's charms. How the swallows and martins dart and wheel in mazy circles round his head in friendly recognition. He sees the dipper nodding its beautiful little head as he jumps from stone to stone. Down by the streamy shallows he sees the wagtail tripping lightly over the sands. He knows these birds and a host of others. The angler's eyes are keen, and he sees and notices all. He has many acquaintances in his piscatorial excursions. He knows the trees by their leaves and bark—knows the difference between the watercress and marshwort when he comes across it. The familiar sights of fishes, birds, plants, and trees of every description all minister to his pleasure as he rambles by the stream, and with the music of nature in his ears and everything so wondrous fair, the angler feels, in the words of the poet, that—

> " While by some gilding river he sits down,
> His mind's a kingdom, and content his crown."

And now, as the day is departing and his hours of pleasure draw swiftly to a close, the glow of the sunset leaves a dark red in the clouds, the trout rise with quick splashes ; the "gloaming" steals over the scene ; the winds rock themselves to sleep in the cradle of the mountain glens ; the bats come forth from their hiding-place and circle round his rod and line ; the silver mist begins to rise ; the birds cease their singing ; the heather bleater pipes his last note ; the cry of the curlew is sad ; the peace of the departing day is only disturbed by the rustle of the leaves, the dash of the stream, or the splash of the last trout he has just creeled.

These descriptions may be old and hackneyed, perhaps, but they will never fade. They speak to us with an eternal freshness, and are full of deep feeling. Shall we not say that a day's angling with these romantic associations I have named sends a man home and to the toil and wear of life a better man, physically, mentally, morally, and intellectually ?

The sport of angling, further, from its romantic nature, often develops and strengthens other characteristics. How very often do we find the keenest anglers possessing some feature of pre-eminence over their fellows ?—*a keen* angler and a *good* artist combined, for instance. And why so ? Because the nature of the sport tends to cultivate and develop artistic ability by the sights of nature.

> " In field and forest, flood and hill,
> Tower and abbey, church and mill."

As a rule, anglers (country-bred anglers especially) possess "a bit of the naturalist" about them. They know the difference between a common water-rat and a vole when they see it ; they can tell an otter's track ; know every bird by its flight ; find a nest as easily as a schoolboy ; and discourse for hours on plants, birds, bees, fishes, and animals.

*Angling* and *poetry* are inseparable ; a treatise on angling would be incomplete and wanting in freshness without its poetry, and in our days some of the best of Nature's poets are first-rate anglers. Poetry breathes through every association of the sport.

*Angling is philosophic.* If any man wants to be a true thinking man and a philosopher let him become an angler, and he will find the " recreation of the contemplative man" to be the most philosophic sport going. One of the best works on natural philosophy in the abstract is old Walton's work. It contains the purest philosophy drawn from the purest of sources—viz., *Nature* herself.

*Angling is, further, scientific and technical.* It is a pure art, and affords any amount of room for scientific research. The feathers of almost every bird are called into requisition to aid us in our mystic art.

> " Each gaudy bird some slender tribute brings."

In no sport has such patient, thoughtful, scientific, and technic al ability been displayed as in the beautiful and ingenious inventions of tackle and devices of all kinds during the last thirty years. In short, the *poetry* of the sport, the *philosophy* of the sport, and the *science* of the sport clothe it with the beautiful and the romantic.

In spite of all that has been said, however, some less enthusiastic souls will yet say they don't see it—don't see any romance about the thing ! How the d—l can we be romantic when we lost that fish, and well hooked, too—that *fish* which was *the fish* of our dreams ? How can we be philosophic when he broke away and we parted company ? Even then, friend, the muse comes to our aid, and in the words of the poet we can say :

> " The last links are broken which bound us to thee,
> The last words are spoken which rendered thee free."

The " last links " being poetically " cutgut " ; the last words being poetically ——well, as Francis says, they didn't rhyme with Shem or Japhet !

There are other occasions, also, when only philosophy can assist us, when after a hot summer's day we decide to have a " cast " at sundown, and on reaching our favourite pool find that we have been anticipated, and the gnats are there before us. They evidently know we are " naturalists." How affectionate ! How they peep into our eyes, nestle lovingly in our ears, kiss our hands, and—Lord ! how they tingle ! We smoke them ; they like it. We whiskey them ; they like that, too. We breathe inward short prayers ; still on they come down our wristbands and collars. Talk of Zulus ! We quit the pool in desperation, and we philosophise as we see the skimming swallows in wheeling circles feeding on these plaguey imps. The philosophy is, " What is our curse is another's blessing !" These incidents and unpleasant occasions of many sorts will happen, and though the romantic flies away on the wings of the morning, then does a little good-tempered, genial philosophy come to our aid, the philosophy of a " blast of baccy and a wee drappie." Anglers as a class are genial, and it is astonishing the effect of a drink and a smoke in restoring their disturbed equilibrium.

The following lines portray the romance of the sport by an enthusiastic angler unknown to fame :—

> " Britannia ! Hail ! fair land of flood and field,
> Whose ancient hills their crystal fountains yield ;
> Hail to each angler true, and hail the sport
> Which to our latest hours we still shall court.
> Come o'er the hills and roam afar with me,
> Where some clear river wanders to the sea,
> Where silver streams pour down the grassy vale,
> While o'er the heather blows the healthful gale ;
> When 'vernal spring' comes tripping on the scene,
> And blushing Nature dons her robe of green ;
> When snow wreaths quit the hills, and rains descend—
> Then by the stream the pliant rod we bend,
> And o'er each finny haunt we cast the fly
> With cautious hand and ever-watchful eye.
> Down by yon pool, some speckled monarch's home,
> Whose dark grey boulders fret amidst the foam ;
> Where mosses cling and cascades pour their streams—
> These are the spots that haunt the angler's dreams,
> And there we love to stand, where oft before
> We've lured the 'spangled beauties' to the shore.
> Hail to the sport which smooths the path of life,
> Which threads of pleasure weaves, 'midst cares and strife.
> Hail to the sport, within whose gentle arms
> No warlike sounds disturb, nor fierce alarms ;
> The music of the stream bids such depart,
> And purest pleasure lends the angler's heart.
> Such sport our choice while life's fleet hours remain—
> Peace is her watchword, calm content her reign."

## THAMES TROUT.

The present season has been very favourable for the spawning of these fish. The following letter from William Milbourne, an old and thoroughly practical fisherman, will be read with interest :—" In the back water at Hampton Court no less than six brace of Thames trout have spawned, and from the size of the beds they must have been very large fish. I never saw so many trout spawn in that piece of water before. The beds are eighteen inches below the water, and if it keeps for another week, the fish will be fully hatched out. It must show how largely the stock of trout in the Thames is increasing for so many fish to spawn in so small a piece of water." This interesting report was confirmed at the Committee Meeting of the T.A.P.S., on Tuesday last, by some of the members who had been taken by Milbourne to see them. This account will be considered as specially good news to the Thames trout anglers, and in addition to what has been done in the tidal waters by the Richmond Piscatorial Society in turning in twenty-five brace of trout of ten inches in length, and what Mr. H. Dickinson intends doing at Kingston, by putting in fifty brace of similar fish. B.

[Trout eggs take months to " hatch out."—Ed.]

## THAMES FLOUNDERS.

In connection with the movement of introducing these fish above the locks and of recently putting in seven thousand at Hampton Court, the following letter which I have received from that neighbourhood is very satisfactory :—" Charles Davis has caught a Thames flounder whilst fishing for perch, and which must have been one of those recently turned into the river. The water is so low and bright that when the sun is out some of the flounders may be seen lying on the bed of the river. They look very healthy, and are doing well." B.

## THE CLOSING OF THE SEASON ON TWEED AND TEVIOT.

The salmon angling on these rivers has now closed, and it has, on the whole, been a very good one. Saturday was the last available day for wielding the rod and line, but the unfavourable state of the weather precluded the possibility of large captures being made. However, the takes got on both rivers since our last have been satisfactory, as will be seen from the following results :—November 26th—On the Hendersyde water, Mr. R. Waldie-Griffith had seven salmon, the heaviest being 31½lb.; on the Sprouston water, Mr. Wood, London, got three, 33lb., 18lb., and 10lb. ; on the Carham water, Mr. Hay Gordon had one of 25lb. ; on the Floors lower water in the forenoon, Mr. Croall killed one salmon of 20lb. and a grilse, and Mr. Forrest had one salmon of 25lb. and two grilse. In the afternoon on the same water Mr. A. Steel, Kelso, killed one salmon of 20lb., and Dr. Mackenzie, Kelso, had one of lesser weight. November 27th.—On the Floors upper water, Mr. A. F. and Lieut. Thistlethwayte, had four—14lb., 15lb., 16lb., and 21lb. ; on Floors lower water, Mr. Walker, Scarborough, had seven fish—all good weights. On Sprouston Dub, Mr. Wood had three—18lb., 25lb., and 28lb. ; on Sprouston water, Mr. W. A. Sommerville one of 16lb. ; on the Ednam House upper water, Mr. James Gibson one of 13lb. ; on the lower water Mr. Young had two—22lb. and 17lb., and Mr. Gibson two—22lb. and 18lb. On the Teviot, Mr. A. Hope had one of 23lb. ; Mr. P. Jack, one of 11lb. ; and Mr. Johnston, Kirkaldy, one of 7lb. November 23rd—On Floors upper water, Mr. Thistlethwayte had three—10lb., 17lb., and 19lb.; on the Ednam House upper water, Mr. Drummond one of 15lb. ; on the Carham water, Mr. Hay Gordon had eight—27lb., 18lb., 18lb., 12lb., 11lb., 9lb., 8lb., and one of lesser weight. November 29th.—The frost to-day was very intense, and made angling very unsatisfactory. On Sprouston Dub, Mr. A. Somerville had three—18lb., 20lb., and 23lb. Mr. Hay Gordon, on Carham water, had one of 18lb. ; Mr. Thistlethwayte, on Floors water, had one of 18lb. ; on the Ednam House lower water, Mr. Houston Boswall got one of 17lb. ; on the upper water, Mr. Drummond one of 15lb.—Melrose District.—November 24th.—On the Pavilion water, General Henry had one salmon, as had also Colonel George Henry. November 25th.—Captain Erskine, on the Pavilion water, had one fish ; General Henry one of 28lb. ; Colonel George Henry one salmon. November 26th.—Colonel George Henry, on the Pavilion water, had splendid sport, killing some grand fish ; his take numbered six salmon, the total weight being 107lb., giving an average of nearly 18lb. each. November 27th.—Colonel Henry got one fish.—November 28th.—On the same water Captain Erskine had one of 28½lb. ; General Henry two fish, and Colonel G. Henry one. November 29.—On the Pavilion water, Mr. Bain had four salmon—5lb., 9lb., 16lb., and 18lb. ; while one of 26lb. fell to the rod of Colonel George Henry.—Coldstream District.—November 29th.—On the Tweed, Mr. J. W. Campbell, Sunderland, got two fish—19lb. and 21lb. ; and Mrs. J. W. Campbell, one of 8lb. weight. Maxwheel, Kelso, Dec. 4.

The Leigh Shrimp Fishery.—The whole population, about 1,700, is chiefly engaged in shrimping, and their prosperity varies with the season and the weather. Fishing is chiefly carried on with small trawls, and besides shrimps, which are sometimes taken in immense quantities, dabs, plaice, and even soles are caught. The " take " of shrimps varies within wide limits, a boat sometimes taking a hundred gallons in a single day or night ; but forty gallons is considered a good haul, and, of course, very often the work is not even remunerative. But the market price of shrimps at Billingsgate is, if possible, of more importance to the Leigh fishermen than the amount of the take, and this will be believed when we add that it fluctuates between four shillings as a maximum and one shilling as a minimum price per gallon. The shrimps are boiled on board boat and then picked over, the brown fetching a much higher price than the red. They are sent up to London at night by goods trains, and sometimes the freight amounts to as much as 2,000 gallons. The Leigh shrimping fleet now consists of about a hundred boats, which are mostly small.—From *Cassell's Family Magazine* for December.

Catching the Train.—Hurry to or from trains should in all cases be avoided. It is dangerous to the healthy habitual traveller as well as the invalid. Many a one has suffered permanent dilatation of the heart in hurrying to catch a train ; many a one has dropped down dead from the same cause. Hurry in catching trains tends to weakness of the nervous system, to indigestion, and to heart disease, to say nothing of the risk of catching cold from sitting down in the carriage heated, in cases where the person has to walk quickly instead of riding.—" *A Family Doctor" in Cassell's Family Magazine* for December.

A serial issue of Dr. Geikie's " Life and Words of Christ " is about to be published in sevenpenny monthly parts by Messrs. Cassell and Company. This edition will have the advantage of a series of full-page frontispieces, and with Part 1 will be issued a large map in colours of Palestine in the time of our Lord.

Ceylon Tea.—The Ceylon Tea and Coffee Agency, whose " Ceylon Bungalow " at the Healtheries was daily thronged with an appreciative crowd, have sent us some samples of their teas. Ceylon Teas are rapidly gaining favour in Europe, and especially in England, and we have tasted none that we like better than those supplied by this agency. A blend of Ceylon and China tea is a most excellent arrangement.

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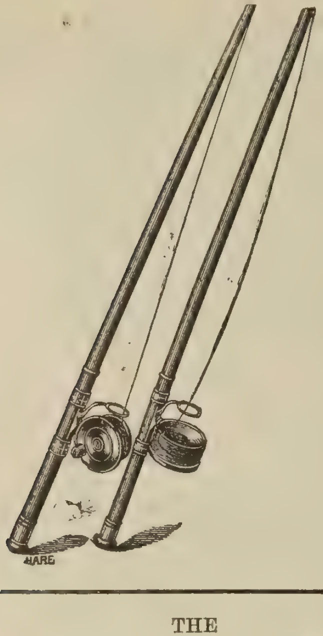

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See also notices in the Fishing Gazette for Dec. 17, 1881; June 28th, 1882; July 1, 1882; and March 8th, 1884.

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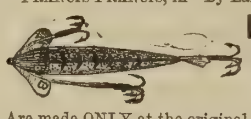

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The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1884.

## "BIGGER LEEARS."

IN the very interesting report of the Appletreewick and Burnsall Angling Club which we publish this week, we notice the Chairman, Mr. J. V. Burrows, in referring to the fish in the club waters, said he "often heard of bigger fish elsewhere"; but it reminded him of what an old Scotch keeper said, when asked what *he* thought of some bigger fish than his own which were reported: "Aye, aye! they're nae bigger fish; they're just bigger *leears!*"

## PROFESSOR COSSAR EWART'S VISIT TO AMERICA.

IT is reasonable to anticipate that the promised report of Professor Cossar Ewart to the Fishery Board for Scotland regarding his recent visit to America will be a publication possessing a considerable amount of interest. The embassy was undertaken with the view of gleaning all available particulars respecting the latest working aspects of fish culture.

Keeping in view the store of valuable information supplied by the able delegates sent by the United States Government to the International Fisheries Exhibition of 1883, it is unlikely that Professor Ewart will be in a position to add to the knowledge held by English culturists much that is new in direct relation to the work that is now going on in America. At the same time the professor is singularly well qualified to point out to what extent, and in what manner, the example of America may be followed in this country so as to develop the wealth of its seas and rivers. In addition to his great scientific capabilities, Professor Ewart has a wide knowledge of all matters affecting British fisheries, and more especially of the operations connected with the immense fishing industry on the Scottish coast. Only recently, too, the professor was engaged in an eminently practical inquiry conducted upon the fishing grounds of our northern seas.

A forecast of the American report has already been published. Its contents are largely devoted to the methods adopted in hatching the ova of sea fishes, but it may be assumed that when the full document appears some attention will be given to a description of American fresh-water fish propagation.

Naturally, Professor Ewart is greatly impressed by the aid which is directly given by the United States Government towards the encouragement of such operations. Drawing comparisons between the value of American and British fisheries, he states significantly that during the ten years from 1872 to 1882 about £400,000 was granted to the commission for carrying on its investigations; and that during the year 1883 the sum given for the same purpose amounted to £70,000.

Assuming that the fisheries of the United States and of Canada have a value representing, say, £12,000,000, it is shown that in 1883 in all a sum of £100,000 was set aside in these countries for hatching experiments and other efforts for developing the productiveness of coast and inland waters. On this point Professor Ewart says, "Although the value of British fisheries in 1883 is estimated at £25,000,000, as far as I am aware only £300 was provided for kindred work."

And further it must be borne in mind that the United States Government places other very important facilities at the disposal of their fishery commissioners. All the public departments with which they may have come into contact have instructions to lend every assistance; while for sea investigations several excellently-equipped vessels are provided, notably the *Albatross*, a twin screw steamer specially fitted up for the purpose.

Professor Ewart visited all the chief fish-hatching establishments in the States, and appears everywhere to have met with courteous and obliging attention. He speaks hopefully about the introduction of the fresh-water herring and the white fish into British lakes, and more particularly of the land-locked salmon. With regard to the Californian salmon, it appears that 2,000,000 fry were placed in the Sacramento river in 1878, since which, by a continued annual introduction of a like quantity, the increase in the catch has risen from 5,000,000lb. to 10,000,000lb., which is now the average.

Referring to carp ponds, the professor says that since the introduction from Germany in 1875 of that fish they have been carefully propagated in the national carp ponds and in the arsenal ponds. "The result is that the carp has greatly improved, and is now sought for, not only by the American States, but by Europe as well. For inland districts the carp is especially useful. It prefers warm, sluggish water, and is easily and cheaply fed."

Of course, Professor Ewart's report will, as we have said, be largely occupied by details regarding sea fisheries, the collecting of which was the ostensible object of his visit to the States as the representative of the Fishery Board for Scotland. But from the particulars we have touched upon it will be seen that the professor's journey must have an important and highly-interesting bearing upon all the aspects of fish culture, as well as the preservation of the fisheries of the United Kingdom.

## SHORE FISHING.—No. VI.

### BY E. G.

I AM reminded by a friend that I have as yet said nothing about bait fishing for grey mullet. I, however, hope to get to that further on. My object now is to talk about rock fishing. Nearly every kind of fish may be caught from the rocks, but the wrasses, curners, raths, gwrachans, &c.—for they rejoice in many an alias—are the staple game of the rock fishist, and very good fun it is to catch them. It is true that when caught they are of little use, except as bait for lobsters, &c.; but true anglers do not fish for the pot—if they did, Wells, the Nottingham wormist, would soon find his occupation gone, for who would waste time and money on bream and barbel?

There are ten or more different kinds of wrasse found on our coasts, but the principal kinds caught from the shore are the Ballan wrasse (*Labrus maculatus*), the largest kind running sometimes up to 8lb., 3lb. or 4lb. being a very common size; the cork wing (*Crenilabrus melops*), which is much smaller than the former; and the rock cook (*Crenilabrus microstoma*) still less. There is no fish, as far as I know, which varies so much in colour as the Ballan wrasse; from the same hole in the rocks you may catch them of a dozen different colours, from brilliant red to dirty brown. The smaller species do not vary quite so much, though the cork wing is often of different colours. Occasionally, where the water runs deep, the cook or blue wrasse (*Labrus coquus*), the most brilliantly-coloured of the tribe, or the three-spotted (*Labrus trimaculatus*) may be taken.

Wherever there are rocks and weed in the open sea and inside harbours and the sides of piers, where there are piles or large stones, there will wrasse be found. They are, as a rule, a bold biting fish, but in very clear water are sometimes remarkably shy, and not to be got with the gear ordinarily used for them. I had a good illustration of this a few summers back. The water at Aberffraw was unusually bright; the local wrasse fishers had given up in despair, and said there were none about. Mr. R. Williams and I guessed that the coarse lines were at the bottom of the matter, and so went to Llangwyfan Point one afternoon. We used single gut, and soon had over fifty fine wrasse, and on the throw-out line, which we baited with half a wrasse, two splendid congers some 30lb. each. Having as much as we could carry, we gave up fishing, leaving the fish well on the feed. Of course, all the wrasse fishers were out the next day, but caught nothing—a pretty good proof of the superiority of fine gear.

To find a place to fish, go at, or just before, low water to the shore, and take notice if there are any gullies running up through the rocks—the wider the better—and try and find a deep one where there is a clear place between the weeds with a gravel or sandy bottom. These are the best places, as if there is not much swell you can keep your line between the two ranks of weeds, and have one hook on the bottom, which gives a chance at flat fish, which are very fond of such places on the flowing tide, as also are pollack, bass, and the smaller-sized coal fish. The fish, too, do not see you so well as they can when you have to fish on the top of the weeds.

If, however, you cannot find any such place, pick out the deepest channel you can, or in default of either, you may be able to find a pool in the rocks where the water runs from 8 to 12ft. Some of these places are full of fish, but never of any size. However, I will suppose it is low water when you have found your place and are ready to start, having the same rod, line, and float as recommended for fishing at a river's mouth. If you have found a place with a clear space between the weeds, use the gimp upper tackle and a yard of single gut below with three small but strong hooks on it; if there is not much depth of water, and so not much chance of heavy fish, ordinary perch hooks will do. Set your float so that the bottom hook will drag on the ground, and bait it with a lug, mud, or white sand worm; the latter is in most places the best, though for some unknown reason professional fishermen do not generally think anything of it. The second hook may have the same bait, the top one a live or dead shrimp or prawn. When you have a bite, if it is a wrasse he will bob the float two or three times, and then take it under. Strike quickly, and keep him well under the rod, as he will always try to rush back into the weed and so break you.

Have a large shrimp net with a long handle to dip him up, and when unhooking take great care of your fingers, for the spines on the dorsal fin can give dangerous wounds. If there is no clear space in the gully, but a good depth of water over the weeds, keep on the float and use a gut paternoster with the first hook a foot or more up the gut; the lead then can be just on or a little in the weed, and the hook clear of it. The wrasse then that are in the weed at the side of the gully will be able to see your bait. If you stay long in a place take note at what rate the tide rises, and keep altering the depth every few minutes. Also, if in a strange place take great care that you are not cut off from the shore. And so, gradually working back, you may in some places keep on fishing until high water. If you can find a deep gully running up into the cliff or a projecting rock or point where there is deep water close in, you may fish at any time of tide; but you may take it as a general rule that the flood tide is best for all rock fishing. When fishing in water above 10ft. deep, always use the sliding float, and remember to fish as near the bottom as you can, and also use stronger hooks, as the very large wrasse keep to such places, and do not often go where it dries a low water. Lobsters, too, are not unfrequently taken from such deep places. I once assisted a lady to land a monster weighing 8½lb., and have caught many up to 2lb.

It is well to take a good stout whiting line; attach to it a piece of line somewhat less in size and 4ft. long, at the end of which put a conger hook. You can buy them at Brooks's prepared for use, or get some fisherman to show you how to "gauge" it, as the process is technically called. Then just above the junction of the two lines tie a stone about 2lb. weight, using for this some common weak string that will carry away if the stone gets foul in the rocks. Bait with a small wrasse, scaled, and with the backbone taken out; or what is better, a mackerel, herring, pilchard, or squid.

Throw out as far as yon can into the deepest water—never mind the weeds; in the daytime the congers are lurking in the ore-weed, and will not be able to see you. Make the line fast round any projecting rock, and haul it in every ten minutes or so to see whether the crabs have taken the bait. If you get a conger run away with him as far from the water as you can before trying to unhook him; he will slide along easily enough on the wet sea-weed. If, however, you are fishing from a place where you have to haul him up a bare dry rock, a gaff is advisable, though not absolutely necessary. Before trying to unhook a conger, give him three or four good blows on the vent with a heavy stick or stone; this has what a friend calls "a soothing effect." Nearly all the baits mentioned before for shore fishing will do for wrasse; but the best are lug, mud, and sand worms, shrimps and prawns, alive or boiled, soft crab, small live crabs, mussels, tails of whelks, and in some places pieces of figs. I think it most likely they take this latter bait for spawn of some kind.

Wrasse always feed best in the daytime. I have never caught them after dark; in fact, I think they go early to their holes and keep quiet till daylight, for I have never caught them in trammells when both set and hauled in the dark. Pollack, coal-fish, and conger will feed well after sun down, so if you have found out a deep place with good standing room, you may continue fishing with every probability of success until late on in a summer or autumn night.

### Places Suitable for Fly-fishing from the Shore.

In reply to "Castleconnel" and others, it is difficult to lay down any hard and fast rule about this, as in many places the fish will come in-shore and play well on the top for a few seasons, and then, for some unaccountable reason, not show again for years. I have seen this in many places. Take, for instance, the mouth of the Otter at Budleigh Salterton. This used to be a good place, but not a fish has been seen or caught there this year (except mullet), although a great many people have been fishing all through the summer. The mouth of the Dysyni, at Towyn, Merionethshire, is considered to be very good for shore-fishing for bass; but one season when I was there they never came in. Mr. Wilcocks, too, reports that they stopped playing at Teignmouth Harbour for a long time, but were caught there in numbers when ground or drift-line fishing. I recommend, therefore, anyone going to the sea who does not wish to go afloat to take bottom fishing gear as before described, and then in the event of no fish showing at the top, they can try float-fishing. Barmouth, Merionethshire, is a good place, and so are Seaton, Exmouth, Weymouth, and the Portland Breakwater, and the backwater called the Fleet, between Portland and the mainland; and to get nearer London, I have been told of enormous bass being taken at Herne Bay from the Pier. In fact, it may be taken as a general rule that anywhere near the mouth of a harbour or estuary is good; also note that those places which have a fair depth of salt water in them at dead low water are the most likely, as the fish remain in and do not go off to sea as they do when the bed of the harbour is nearly dry, and what water there is in the channel and pools becomes brackish. All projecting points where there is a strong tide stream are very good places, and channels between islands and the shore. Holyhead Harbour, and the stream between the island and Anglesey called the river—it is near the Valley Station—abounds with bass and pollack; in fact, the coast of Anglesey is very good for all kinds of shore-fishing, as is also the west coast of Ireland. It is to be noted that by far the best sport with the fly is to be got from a boat, as when the fish are not showing you can row about and trail the flies until you see some break the water, and very large numbers are taken this way. I once caught sixty odd pollack when rowing about waiting for the bass to play up. I will supply more information as to the best places, and send it to the Gazette before the spring. Until then it will not be required, as the fish, after the late severe weather we have had the last week, have gone off into the deep water. I was, however, surprised to see large numbers of pollack playing within 20 yards of the shore on the afternoon of Saturday, November 30th last; and some years ago I saw a great many very fine ones playing near Aberffraw on Christmas Day. These are, however, exceptional instances. Bottom fishing, though, may be carried on in deep water from the shore all the winter.

## THE MAY-FLY WEEK.

Three of us—the Colonel, Tony, and myself—met by appointment on Monday, 9th June, for a week's fishing in Berks. We had a fine stretch of five miles of river open to us, and another couple of miles belonging to the Marquis was at our service. With everything in the shape of rods and tackle, high and low waders, tobacco enough for a month, and sundry luxuries, such as soups, curried prawns, sardines in tomatoes (which, by the bye, are a great comfort if a hasty meal is wanted), we arrived at the inn, where we had engaged rooms for the week. The keeper and three boys, all waiting for us, whipped our tackle off the carriage, while the landlord and his son carried our trunks up to our bedrooms. After lunch, our rods were put together, only waiting for the "men behind them" to begin the onslaught.

"Shall it be up or down, keeper?" said I. "Is the fly well up?" "How are the weeds?" This last question I asked in considerable trepidation, as I know so well what a lot of difference they make in the chance of sport. I hate to find whole reaches shaved as bare as a gravel path. "Oh," says keeper, "I haven't touched the weeds in such and such meadows, as I know you like plenty of 'em, so I left them until you had been down." "Good fellow," said I. "Well, master Tom," said he, "you know I like to have everything right for you when you come," and as far as his section of the water went everything *was* right. Such a lot of beautiful flowing weeds with the little white flower just showing above the water, little gullies of sharp water running between them, and *such* a lot of trout. I sent the Colonel to the bottom of the highest meadow, Tony down to the lowest part of the river, myself taking the middle. After about a couple of hours' fishing cut weeds came down to me and put an end to our fun, my friend higher up having experienced the same inconvenience an hour sooner.

Although Monday was very cold, there was a good sprinkle of May-fly, and the fish took it well. One can sometimes catch trout while floating weeds are about; but when they come down *en masse*, as they did then, one had better give over for a time, as it is impossible to get a fly into the water, and then the larvæ of every kind get rubbed off the weeds, and the fish can get a good dinner without coming to the surface. The weed had not passed us until after dark, and not a fish would stir. I ought to mention that these were not weeds cut in our water, but miles above, and the people on the upper water tried to get rid of them, expecting us on Tuesday.

Tuesday we walked up to the higher parts of the river, where the May-fly has not been seen for the last twenty-five years or more. There was a time when they had plenty of fly, but the wholesale cutting of weeds has sent the larvæ down lower and lower every year. I do not think there can be a doubt about this. The larvæ have no power of travelling far up stream, and unless we get a south-west gale there is no possibility of the mature fly being carried up far, and south-west is not the quarter from which the wind has been blowing of late years until much later in the year than June! English springs are altered nowadays. We plied the "alder" with very good effect, and late in the evening the "coachman."

Wednesday there was a grand rise of "the fly," and in the early part of the day the fish took our imitation well; but they soon got *very particular*, and after twelve o'clock they declined it altogether, and began rolling and tumbling about like tame fish just fed to repletion. There seems to be a kind of "dog in the manger" feeling amongst them. "I have had enough, and don't care for another blessed fly; but *you* shan't have one either—get away," and then you see a couple of huge waves rolling along, and two fish just simply "bunting" each other. I have seen it in my garden, where I had some fine fish. These got so tame that they would take worms, gentles, or anything else out of my hand, and when they couldn't eat another bit they "set-to" chiveying one another all round the pond. In the evening the "coachman" fetched them, and we ended the day with a lot of fish.

Thursday another great rise of fly, and the same game repeated after twelve o'clock. The water got very low and as clear as crystal—*then* the evil of ruthless weed-cutting tells. The fish have no hiding-places, and when the angler goes near enough to cast the following might be the kind of language used by the fish if they could speak:—"Here they come again." "I'm off." "Come along, Mary Ann." "Look sharp." "Tell all the other fellows." "Up you go to the big hole at the top." "Hooray!" "Now let them flog their arms off." "Mustn't they think us a lot of fools?" The Colonel counted sixty 2-pounders scuttling up like racehorses. I do not know whether he heard their remarks.

Friday was the hottest day of the week; the May-fly not nearly so numerous, but more of the grey drake than on previous days. Is this grey drake which dances so prettily by the sheltered side of the hedges, sometimes far away from the river, the female fly? The habits of the two are very different: while the yellow drake flutters straight away to leeward, and hardly seems able to steer a course, the grey drake seems better able to resist the current, and finds a suitable place to disport itself. You may see them in countless thousands dancing up and down with a graceful, regular swing, the downward flight showing the make of the fly to perfection, its three delicate abdominal filaments raised at an angle of 70 deg. No wonder the fish go crazy over these beautiful flies. The May-fly is by far the largest-bodied fly we have, and a week's feeding on it puts a lot of flesh on. In taking the hook from a trout's mouth, you will often hear him utter a sort of "Ga-a-a-w," and bring up a bunch of May-flies as big as an egg, and perhaps two or three minnows as well. We all caught some good fish in the evening, but had to work hard for them. One of our party raised some lovely blisters on his thumb and third finger. I am an older fisherman, and the first thing I do when I get a new rod is to scrape all the varnish off the part where the hand touches, and I have only a few places, as hard as horn, on my fingers. It would take a lot of fishing to blister my hands. The other is one of those handy men who can use his left hand just as freely as his right, and so he eases his hands immensely.

Saturday is our last day, and we must be in at 2.30 to luncheon and pack up our things. There was not a May-fly to be seen on the lower water, so I walked up a couple of miles and tried the "alder" and "coachman." "Coachman" in the early morning sounds strange, but I have used it all day on this river, and there are men who never use any other fly, even though the May-fly is on. I found one long stretch of water with a splendid ripple on it, and got some good fish. When we reckoned up our takes, we found that the total of fish killed was 80½ brace, over 1lb. and up to 2¼lb. This means a lot of fun altogether, as, of course, we got heaps of fish under the pound, which are not sizeable. We separated at five o'clock at the railway station after a most enjoyable week, and made up our minds that we would have that "big one" under the "hanger" next year.

T. A.

[Very rich, that "Ga-a-a-w."—Ed.]

## CHUBBING DAYS.

The chub is a fish I have always had a strong regard for: he is difficult to catch; fights strongly when hooked; and, on the light tackle, which is a *sine quâ non* in successful chub fishing, proves a by no means despicable opponent to the wily piscator. He is a regular gourmand in his way, his *cuisine* embracing a variety of items, from cheese to baby frogs, while occasionally a minnow or some other small fry does not come amiss.

A great deal of my time this summer was spent in endeavouring to inveigle some particularly large and wary old chub from their accustomed element—my temporary home being near a small tributary stream which held great numbers of the aforementioned fish. It was a changeful little river—at one point it would seem the very beau ideal of a trout stream, spreading out and rippling brightly over a gravelly shallow; at another gathering in its waters until it was so narrow one might almost jump across it, and seemed as though the only occupants it could possibly boast of must be minnows or the small fish commonly known in the country as "tiddlers." Again, at another point, it would form a deep, fishy-looking pool, shored up by old camp shedding on one side, with, on the other, trees and bushes stretching themselves across its depths. It was at these pools, as the sun went down and the evening drew on, one might hear that kind of gluttonous smack of the lips which seems such a characteristic of a chub's rise; or, if one crept cautiously to the edge of the camp shedding or in the intervals between the bushes, might perchance see a shoal of those fish, dwindling down from pompous-looking Gamaliels of three or four pounds weight to the very youngest member of their family. Here, towards the close of the day, I used to bring my rod, and, with the most cunningly-compounded baits do my very best to lure some of the larger fish from their haunts; but they proved very St. Anthonys to every temptation I could place before them, from cheese of a strong and ancient smell to lob-worms scoured up to the very pink of perfection. I used frequently to get some of their smaller brethren, up to a pound or a pound and a half, who, not having sufficient experience of their own, were, no doubt, too proud and headstrong to profit by the advice of their elderly relatives. One evening, however, when the ground was damp from recent rain, I came upon a crowd of juvenile frogs disporting themselves by the roadside; they were the very things I wanted, so a number were quickly introduced to an improvised bag to subsequently form an appetising dish for my friends of the stream. The next day, at the usual time, I wended my way thither, with all the necessary tackle for dapping with one of the hopping fraternity, and, on arriving at my destination, carefully put one of the frogs on the hook, treating him "as though I loved him." My next proceeding reminded me more of some of the scenes in Fennimore Cooper's Indian tales than anything else, for, creeping on hands and knees to the edge of the water, as though stalking some dusky Mingo, I thrust out the rod upon which the line was twisted until the baited hook was at the extreme point, then, judging my distance, commenced unwinding, until the bait alighted a few inches from the nose of one of the aldermanic chub. He did not make two bites at it, but in a moment had gulped poor froggy down and turned towards his haunt; then, when he felt the hook, I should have liked one of those persons who say that a chub is a dead-hearted fish to have seen him fight. He made some splendid rushes first to one side and then to the other, making the lissom fly-rod curve and bend like a willow wand, and, when he was at length fairly vanquished, still showed a dogged resolve to fight to the last, even when in the landing-net making a last fruitless effort to return to his native element. On being weighed he turned the scale at 4lb., and was one of the handsomest chub I had seen. I managed, before leaving that night, to secure four more fish, not one of which was under 3lb. They were the patriarchal members of the tribe of chub, who, I have no doubt, had had their homes for years in the worn-out submerged timbers of the old camp shedding. I was thoroughly satisfied that night with having at last managed to outwit my cunning adversaries, and, before turning in, gladdened the heart of an old dame, whose cottage I passed on the homeward route, with a present of a brace of the fish. I presume that she had some means of making them palatable, or else that fine sauce—hunger—had something to do with it, for she was always greatly pleased to receive the contents of my creel whenever they were of sufficient importance to be given away.

A few days after this, having some time on my hands, I determined to try for a hoary-headed old chevin I had often noticed in a little pool at one of the sharp curves of the stream. He had his haunt amongst the gnarled and twisted roots of an old tree which grew half in and half out of the water, and had often been hooked, but had invariably managed to get amongst the convenient old roots and "smash up" his would-be captor's tackle. However, I determined to try a fall with him; so, on this particular evening, I provided myself with a stout gut collar and two or three great, fat-bodied, grey-winged moths, and, with my trusty rod, started fully armed for the fray. By the time I reached the pool it was nearly dark, the moon, then near the full, throwing just enough light to enable me to see what I was about. It is a strange, quieting sensation, the sense of being alone in the night-time by the riverside; the silence, perhaps, only broken by the "plop" of some rising fish, or the rustle of a bat's wings as he swiftly sweeps by one. It always gives me a tendency to moralise; but there is a time for everything, and this was a time for fishing, not moralising; so, putting my rod together, I fixed one of the moths on a strong, sharply-pointed hook, and threw him in the direction of the old patriarch's retreat. No sooner had it reached the water than there was a splash, and, on striking, I found to my disgust that I had got hold of a chub about a pound weight instead of the one I was in search of. He was quickly brought to book, not, however, before he had made enough disturbance to frighten every fish within hearing for some time to come. After that the time was spent in quietly smoking and arranging my tackle, until I again heard the welcome gulping sound betokening chub on the rise again. The bait was then once more sent out in the direction of the old tree roots, and remained struggling on the water, until suddenly I felt a a strong jerk, and knew that I had hooked something good. Holding the rod in the left hand, I instantly commenced bombarding (with some flints I had provided) the haunt of my adversary, with the result of frightening him down stream, where he was conquered and brought to the landing-net in some shallows there. He proved to be the one I was in search of; but to my astonishment, when forced from the old *chevaux de frise* which had proved of such service to him, he caved in with a very poor fight for a fish scaling a little over five pounds. However, the fact of his being the largest chub I had caught compensated me in a great measure for his want of play, and I wended my way home thoroughly in the humour to appreciate the soothing pleasures of tobacco, after having accomplished what so many had previously failed in. That was the last night I was to spend in the friendly little village; but, as I sat over a tumbler of hot grog, and puffed forth clouds of smoke from my pipe in honour of my capture, it seemed to me that it was a very good ending to an exceedingly pleasant visit. Since then I have treasured up some very pleasing recollections of the time which is docketed in my memory as "Chubbing Days." H. D. B.

[We think our readers would like to have another yarn or two from "H. D. B." —ED.]

## WASP GRUBS AND MEAL WORMS.

ANGLERS frequently write to ask us where they can obtain wasp grubs, and we fear some may have been disappointed at our not replying. The fact is, the last time we wrote to a man who used to sell them, our letter came back with the words "Gone, no address," stamped on it. We are now able to give the address of Mr. C. Bradley, 62, Jacob-street, Bradford, Yorkshire, who informs us that he has got a large stock of well-cured wasp grubs and meal worms. Mr. Bradley has sent us samples of each, and certainly we have never seen better. The meal worms are big, lively fellows, and the wasp grubs are in the dry comb, and look as if they had only recently come from the nest; in fact, they remind us of many an exciting expedition to rob a nest for the sake of the splendid bait for all kinds of fish which the firm white grubs afford. The best way to take a nest is to mark it in the daytime by means of a small bough stuck in the ground directly over the entrance, and at dusk, when the wasps are all at home, make a squib by putting some rock powder in the palm of the hand, moistening it, and then with the blade of a knife working it into a paste and rolling it cigar shape. This squib is then stuck on a bit of stick, the point lighted, and then it is carefully introduced into the nest; a turf is clapped on the hole, and when you no longer hear the squib fizzing you dig out the nest, put the comb into a cloth, and carry it home to look over. We always used to reserve the best comb for the hook and use the grubs alive, and bake or boil the rest for ground-bait. Nests in the ground do not, as a rule, take long to capture, unless the wasps have chosen to make their home among the roots of a tree, in which case the smoke often escapes through fissures in the ground, and you find an angry army about you in no time. We shall not soon forget the first nest we robbed. It was in the river bank, and to get at it, two or three of us, country cousins in holiday time, stripped stark naked, carried straw across the water and in this state of nature set fire to it and took the nest. Of course, we all got stung, but that only added to the excitement and enhanced the value of our capture. On another occasion, many years later, from "information received" from a ploughboy, a party of us started after dark to take a very strong nest in an old willow stump. Large drops of rain fell as we marched down by the old mill and along the river to the *rendezvous*, and a tremendous storm of rain, thunder, and lightning broke as if by magic while we were in the middle of operations. Only a few pieces of broken comb were obtained; but they proved to be full of splendid unformed yellow grubs, and in the slightly-coloured water caused by the rain for the next two or three days we had grand sport with chub, trout, and eels.

Talking of chub reminds us that that handsome fish is now at its best; the colder the weather the more boldly he bites and fights, and very capital sport it is to let your float on fine Nottingham line work down under the boughs and round the eddies under the brown worn clay banks, then to see it disappear suddenly, pulled under by a good fish. For baits we prefer a white plump morsel in the shape of cheese paste on a triangle, or a bit of pith, or half-a-dozen gentles; but we doubt not as good a bait as could possibly be used would be two of Mr. Bradley's wasp grubs with a meal worm in between. Put one grub well up a round bend barbel hook, then put the hook through the middle of a meal worm, so that the ends can move about, then finish the bait with another wasp grub. If the fish are on they will accept this bill without hesitation.

GEORGE JAMES EATON, of Starkholmes, Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required, from gentlemen who can fish, to prove whether they may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—(ADVT.)

## ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

**G. ATTWELL.**—It is a difficult matter to recommend you, as the best places are all private. Write to Mr. H. Rout, 43, Gt. Northern-street, Huntingdon.

**CAPTAIN L.**—The best way (in fact, the only way, unless you use nets) to keep a good stock of trout in the stretch of river which runs through your land is to give them plenty of cover.

**JUVENILE ANGLER** (Aberdeen).—We don't know how the matter stands in Scotland, but fancy you are at perfect liberty to kill pike in any open water, or where you can get the owner's permission.

**T. J. A.**—Many thanks for the address of Mr. Gordon.

**LIVE SNAP.**—We have had quite enough "Brandy and Pike Baits" at present.

# CORRESPONDENCE.

[*We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.*]

## SALMON IN THE RIVER TEST.

SIR,—Happening to be in Romsey a few days ago, I walked round by the river to see if any salmon had worked up after the late rain. The water just above Broadlands was slightly discoloured, so that it was difficult to see. Proceeding as far as the mill (belonging, I believe, to a Mr. Zilwood) which prevents them from ascending any higher, I was fairly astonished at the hundreds of fish just below the wheel, all more or less trying to perform an impossible feat—viz., get up any higher. It was quite sad to see the way in which they jumped and knocked themselves against the brickwork (and two ugly stakes which might easily be removed). I counted as many as seventeen jump in the minute. The fish seemed to run from about 5lb. to 8lb., though I saw a few that would turn the scale at 20lb. The miller informed me that the "whoppers" would not be up for another week or two, when they would be worth looking at. I noticed that a great many had scars about the nose and back of head, caused no doubt by hitting themselves against the brickwork, or by a blow from a blade of the wheel. I also saw two fish lying dead a little way down the stream. It seems a pity that some contrivance, in the shape of a well-leaded net, could not be placed across the river to prevent the fish from injuring themselves.—I am, &c., HAMPSHIRE.

Dec. 9.

## ON STRIKING A SALMON.

SIR,—To fulfil my promise, I send you a few lines on this subject. I intended to reply to some of Mr. Kelson's letters that appeared in the GAZETTE; but seeing the able letter from Major Traherne, I gave up thought of it as his views and mine quite agree.

I have seen Mr. Kelson strike a salmon off the reel, and know exactly how he does it. Before I saw him do it, I told him it was a mistake, and say so still. I cannot see any advantages in striking, but see a great many disadvantages. The following are a few of them :—

You cannot strike with regularity the different lengths of casts; slow and quick running streams makes this impossible.

You could not wind in a fish, with a reel sufficiently stiff to strike a salmon at the end of a long line in a heavy, rapid stream. Striking without a fish would make a very stiff reel overrun.

The fly will often be snatched away before the fish has time to take it.

Fish new from the sea are so tender in the mouth, the hook is pulled through the flesh. If the hook took hold of a thin piece of skin sufficient to land a fish, it would be broken away.

Fishing with plain winged flies, the fish often takes hold of the wings only; the sudden jerk cuts the wings in two, and your fly is useless.

I could mention a good many more, but consider the above sufficient to prove striking a salmon off the reel is a mistake.

The plan I have adopted for years is to hold the line between finger and thumb, which can be done in addition to the rod; keep the point of the rod as near the surface of the water as possible. When a fish rises and misses it, continue working the fly towards the shore; it will often make another rush and take hold of the fly. The fish gives a pull from 1ft. to 3ft., the larger the fish the longer the pull will be. In quick running water he either makes down or across stream; if in quiet water he goes down, where he rose, head first. Raise the rod very quietly, keeping the line quite tight. The moment the fish feels the hook, he pulls the line from between the finger and thumb; this is all that is required to hook a fish.

If the fly is properly brought over the fish and this plan adopted, nine fish out of every ten will be hooked.

Fishing with hooks up to 1½in. long, with large spring flies, you cannot hold the line too tight. I always find a greater proportion of fish get away fishing with flies up to 3½in. long.

The following are some of the advantages of the slow, steady pull over striking off the reel :—

You can hook a fish with the same regularity any length of cast, in slow or quick running water. The fly cannot be snatched away, if the fish misses it; he has another chance of taking it. Should he only have the wings in his mouth when he gets time to turn, he runs a good chance of being hooked. If the hook only took hold of a thin piece of skin, if a steady strain was kept on it, it would be sure to be landed; but the chances are, after the fish turned, the hook would be sure to take a fresh hold. The same would apply to fish new from the sea. I have tried double-hooks and, after a good deal of experience, found out they did not rise so many fish. I lost more fish with them than we did with single hooks. I tried a double and single dressed exactly the same, harling out of a boat at the same time, for days, and always found the single took the greatest number of fish. The double hooks are losing favour every year.—I am, &c., P. D. MALLOCH.

Perth, Dec. 10.

[How the doctors will differ! Forrest, of Kelso, told us at the Fisheries Exhibition that Tweed salmon anglers use more double and less single hooks every year.—ED.]

## BREEDING RUSTY BLUE FOWLS.—BURBOT OR EEL-POUT CAUGHT WHILST LIVE BAIT FISHING.

SIR,—At the beginning of the present year I attempted to breed a few rusty-blue fowls, as the hackles were so difficult to obtain; so matched a pile game cockerel, bred from a black-red cock and pile hen, with four Andalusian pullets, the chicks from which hatched out some white, some grey, and some dun. Not having room myself to rear them, I got a cottager in the country to do it for me, where the fowls could get a good grass run, a really indispensable consideration if good healthy chicks are wanted, I paying a killing price—that is, the same as I could buy similar-sized fowls from a poulterer, when I wanted them. Of course some of the chicks grew to be white, with here and there dun or reddish feathers. These we have used for the table, and nicer or better for the purpose could not have been, as they proved plump, juicy and tender, one cockerel turning the scale at 5¼lb. Many of the other chickens have just turned out the correct colours desired; the cockerels have hackles blue up the centre with reddish edges. Some of the pullets have very nicely-marked honey dun hackles; that is, yellow at the edges and dun in the middle. It is my intention to match three of this kind and one white one with the best cockerel the next spring, then matching the chicken from this cross with another cockerel of this year's; thus I hope to make a strain that in time will breed true to colour and game character.

I had almost forgotten to say that one of the cockerels had one of the nicest gold hackles I ever saw; I inclose a few small ones for your acceptance. You will find them just the thing for detached-bodied spinners, or small palmers; the large hackles I presented to a salmon angler, who I knew would make good use of them.

Did you ever know a burbot—called here a barbowt—killed with a live-bait? I had one, weighing just over 2lb., brought me the other week that was taken by a live roach whilst the captor was pike fishing.—I am, &c., S. Howarth.

Burton-on-Trent.

[We wish Mr. Howarth success. The little red-gold hackles he sends are very nice. We have not heard of a burbot taking live-bait before.—Ed.]

### BARBEL AT CHELSEA.

Sir,—I was told the other day, on reliable authority, that some good-sized barbel had been taken in Chelsea Basin, near the railroad, above Cremorne, during the last autumn; and that a couple of smelts were got just below old Battersea Bridge.—I am, &c., Rusty Barb.

### WHY HAS THE "FISHING GAZETTE" PROSPERED?

Sir,—First, because it was a want in the sense of a means for more free and full intercommunication between anglers of every degree; secondly, because it has been edited from the first by a practical and ardent angler, who had favoured no particular tackle-maker over and above other manufacturers; thirdly, because chiefly through the Editor's influence, in combination with some of the leading London and other anglers, fish culture had been encouraged, and poaching, especially in the Thames, had been greatly discouraged and all but stamped out, and the "calling," moreover, of the professional fishermen elevated, and their reports of actual sport inserted week by week, and also the interesting club reports; fourthly, because the Gazette had opened its columns for the insertion of articles of great interest to all its readers; and finally, because the public and the "Trade," wholesale and retail, have enabled the proprietors to enlarge the columns, thereby giving more ample space for increasing advertisements, and the insertion of articles and of yet more correspondence from a vastly-increased number of buyers and readers of the paper. While admitting that the wheels of the little "machine" ran rather stiffly at first, it is all the more satisfactory that they had since been kept well greased by public appreciation and public patronage.—I am, &c., A Reader from the First.

[While we cannot but be gratified by the good opinion of one we know to be among our earliest subscribers, modesty compels us to remind our readers of the line in *italic* which heads our Correspondence columns!—Ed.]

### A NOTE FROM RINGWOOD.

Sir,—The late rains have improved the river much, and pike are taking freely. Last week some good takes of pike and perch by Mr. Winton, L.P.T. On the 7th inst. the inhabitants were much amused by a school of salmon, about 30 in number, from 7lb. to 30lb., trying to leap the mill dam, a sight never seen before, they making every effort to rush the stream, but failed in their endeavours, and many landed on the grass and were carefully put back in their natural element, which augurs an excellent season next year. Salmon fishing commences on February 2nd.—I am, &c.,

Ringwood. C. W.

### SHARK FISHING.

Sir,—In the Fishing Gazette of the 15th ult., "Colin" writes, "he has seen sharks feed without turning over at all." I imagine these must be ground sharks, because those caught in mid-ocean have the snout projecting so far beyond the mouth that it is almost impossible for them to do so, and quite impossible when taking a bait attached to a hook.

During nearly six years I have had at sea it has been my luck to catch a very great number, and I have never seen any, other than ground sharks, take a bait without turning on its side. During the famine in India, when taking coolies from Madras to Mauritius, we were becalmed on the Line for a month; a good many coolies dying and being thrown overboard caused a lot of sharks to collect round the ship. I had the pleasure of catching 21 in that passage alone. To take a bait without turning over on its side, a shark would have to be almost perpendicular in the water, for if swimming in a horizontal position, its snout would come against the chain of the hook and push the bait away. The mouth of a ground shark is like that in nearly all other fish, therefore it has no necessity to turn over. Has "Colin" ever seen sharks caught with a fly, a bamboo rod, and a winch holding several hundred yards of ¼in.-rope? The idea seems to me absurd. Say there are 400 yards of rope; that length coiled up on a winch would be more than one man would care to carry about, and it would be quite out of the question throwing a fly with such a line.

The sharks that "Colin" saw harpooned must have been very small or thin-skinned. I have stood on the poop rail 15ft. above the water with a harpoon, the staff of which had 6lb. of lead in the butt end, and struck a shark in the middle of the back; but the harpoon has jumped up again like an indiarubber ball. I have struck many of them, but never done more harm than take a piece of flesh away when it has happened to strike near the side.—I am, &c., George F. Rose.

### CARP FISHING.

Sir,—Your remarks on carp fishing in to-day's Gazette draw me on to tell you how I used to catch these artful ones 25 years ago, since when I have never fished for them. I was then resident at Frankfort-on-the-Main, in which river the carp, in the vicinity of the city, were plentiful. After trying many baits in vain, I bethought me of one I had seen used in Paris by the Lutetian cockneys, and found it successful. I got from the slaughterhouse—then situated in the Dom Platz—a tin canister full of blood—whether of sheep, oxen, or goats, or of all intermingled, I cannot say. With this coagulated gore I was able, after some practice, to bait my hook. The baiting was, of course, very frequent. The hook had to be let down very gently, and the bait would melt off after a few minutes' immersion. Every bite which did not result in a catch also necessitated rebaiting. But I caught a good many carp. I presume that in a river which flows pretty rapidly, as does the Main, these fish do not, as a rule, attain to such a size as those in ponds. With me they used to run from 1lb. to 4lb., but generally between 2lb. and 3lb., which seemed to be the average weight of those caught in nets in the same localities.

I daresay you have often seen anglers using blood as bait on the quays in Paris. I was a youngster when I fished with it, and do not think I should care to try it now. It is not pleasant to handle, and is apt, in summer, to become smelly on the least provocation. But in those days, wherever there was water I was bound to fish, and I shirked no nastiness short, perhaps, of holding in my mouth "worrums for bait."—I am, &c.,

London, 29th Nov. M. B.

["Blood will tell," no doubt; but we have never used it, and fear our correspondent's suggestion will not help us much. You must draw the line somewhere.—Ed.]

### UNDYED PIG'S WOOL WANTED.

Sir,—Can you or any of your readers kindly inform me where I can get undyed pig's wool? The old Irish pig, I believe, formerly grew it in profusion; but, then, he has been so much improved that, like the Red Indian at the hands of the Yankees, he has been improved off the face of creation! Wool, please note, is what I am in search of, and not hair. It may sound an anomaly talking of wool on a pig; but there is an old proverb in this country which shows the expression to be a recognised one. "Much cry and little wool," as Pat said when he was shearing his pig.—I am, &c., An Irish Correspondent.

### OBESITY IN ROACH.

Sir,—With reference to the case of above, mentioned by "Giant" as having occurred in my experience, I inclose a rough sketch, which will give you an idea of the nature and extent of the abnormal enlargement in the fish in question. I had been with a cast net fishing for bait, but only got a few over-sized roach, among which was this one. I had intended to forward it for your inspection, but by some inadvertence it was flung away when dead. I hardly think this deformity could have been caused by the rentention of ova in the fish. I had a stickleback in my globe, some time ago, with a similar enlargement of the throat, but not to the same extent.—I am, &c., A Coggeshall Volunteer.

[We should say it evidently was a tumour, and tumours arise from various causes. Only a microscopical examination would give the probable cause.—Ed.]

### LARGE GUDGEON AND GREAT SALMON.

Sir,—In your issue of the 29th, "Pixie" inquires for a suitable companion to his 4oz. 7½in. gudgeon. He will find, in "Little's Angler's Annual," 1882, the record of a specimen measuring from snout to tail 7½in., which was taken at Isleworth, 9th August, 1879.

It may interest Mr. P. D. Malloch to learn that his salmon (believed to be about 80lb., and certainly heavier than 70lb.) has been surpassed, as "Yarrell" states that in 1821, a salmon weighing 83lb. was shown at Groves', the fishmonger, in Bond-street; and in the *Field*, 12th April, 1868, mention is made of a salmon, caught in the Shannon and exhibited at Limerick, weighing 78lb.—I am, &c., Giant.

Peckham Rye.

### SEASONABLE DINNER TO THE RIVER KEEPERS.—AN APPEAL TO ALL ANGLERS.

Sir,—Will you allow me, through the columns of the Fishing Gazette, to appeal to the anglers of the Thames on behalf of these men whose efforts, there is every reason to believe, have stamped out the poaching system? The entertainment extends to the Thames Conservancy keepers and the lock keepers (who all hold deputations) also to those fishermen who have kindly assisted the keepers in their nightly duties. I am desirous of making this appeal *direct* to the anglers of *all* classes, even the bank fishers; and whether it is a sixpence, a shilling, or half-a-crown, it will evince their appreciation of the work, and I shall be able to show in The Fishing Gazette what they have done. They can either send it direct to me, and I shall be pleased to receive it, or they can give it to any of the river-keepers employed by the Thames Angling Preservation Society, and the sooner the better.—I am, &c.,

7, Ironmonger-lane, Cheapside, Dec. W. H. Brougham.

[We shall be happy to contribute to this fund, and trust many of our readers will see their way to assist in giving the men a jolly good dinner.—Ed.]

### A QUERY.

Sir,—In the article on "Dr. Hamilton's Flyfishing for Salmon, Trout, and Grayling," by "The Amateur Angler," is not the word "crush," in the expression, "The deep, mellow 'crush'" of the wood-pigeon's note a local term?—I am, &c.,

Mark Antony.

[The "Amateur Angler" kindly replies as follows.—Ed.]

"I am not aware of Dr. Hamilton's authority for the use of this word. Possibly he had in his mind the tremulous murmuring sound forced or *crushed*, as it were, through the rings of the bird's *trachea* and bronchial tube. If Dr. Hamilton sees this note he will doubtless give us his own explanation. The inquiry is an interesting one.—A. A."

### A NOTE FROM NORWAY ON FLIES, HOOKS, LANDING-NETS, &c.

Sir,—Perhaps you will not object to "northern lights" on certain fishing matters, and specially on some matters which have recently lent their interest to your columns.

1st. As to "Wickham's Fancy." I have found that during the whole season here, in the region between Trondhjem and the Swedish frontier, this admirable fly has held its own in lake and river. No "sunk fly" makes so brilliant a show as this; it is surprising in this respect when let down several feet into the deep, clear water of a Norwegian lake. The frailty of the body may be remedied without impairing the fly's killing properties by simply running fine orange silk carefully up over the hackle.

2nd. As to eyed-hooks. My experience here—a crucial one both as to weight and numbers of fish—has determined me to use the eyed-hooks of Messrs. Hall and Bankart exclusively in the forthcoming season, and to counsel my friends to do the same. I, too, have been "bitten" over theoretical hooks and typical flies, and am therefore grateful for hooks on which I can tie flies that are portable in a small space, grip readily, have never once in a whole season broken with me (though I have not used larger than No. 2), and, finally, that are unfailing killers. The eye seems to me to be helpful to a truthful representation of the natural insect. Anyway, the trout—and big trout, too—will take the flies tied on these hooks even in calm water.

In fact, the originators may congratulate themselves on a win "all along the line." The only apparent (and apparent only) weak point is the threading of the eye in cold, damp, windy weather by the water side. But is the objection a fair one? Is not any manipulation of our delicate tackle a positive trial at such a time, even knotting two pieces of gut together? There is, however, a very simple remedy. Let the fisherman carry in his book by the side of the penknife and scissors that very useful little instrument used by watchmakers in manipulating the minute objects of their trade—a kind of pointed nippers, working on the principle of sheapshears—cost: one shilling. The "unkind elements" may turn all your fingers to thumbs; but with these nippers you have perfect control of the finest gut. Considering how infinitely useful such a tool is to the fly-tier and tackle-maker, it is strange that it is not once recommended for use by any author on fishing matters.

3. One of your correspondents touched on a genuine nuisance. What is more provoking when trolling from a boat than to see your big fish kick just as he gets into the borders of your net, flip some of the many hooks of your minnow-tackle into the upper meshes, and then, with his hanging weight, rip half-a-dozen meshes before he reaches the bottom of the net—or boat—or lake! To meet this, I would suggest: (1.) That the net be less deep than usually is the case. (2.) That it be made rather broader immediately below the ring than at the ring itself (to give the weight of the fish a chance of an earlier support); and (3.) That the upper meshes be made much larger and of much coarser thread than the lower ones, so that if the hooks do catch the net the latter will be strong enough to resist tearing.

Whilst on this topic, can any of your readers give me a good dressing for landing-nets, to prevent the hook catching in the thread itself?

4. Some years ago, in the *Field* paper, a correspondent recommended to fishermen the use of lock-screws for boot-soles, as a safeguard when fishing rocky streams or lakes with bouldered shores, where it is often hard to get firm footing. After seven or eight years' experience of these I should like to record, in gratitude to that correspondent and as a hint to your readers who may not have tried them, what a boon they are. With a set and a half of such screws the soles will last out the boots. There are very few kinds of rock on which the wearer cannot safely walk or stand at, say, an angle of 45° (perhaps greater); and the screws themselves don't kick out, as hob-nails do, and let in water. They are those short, fat, hemispherically-headed, hard steel screws used in door-locks, and are not to be got easily in the country; but they are well worth ordering specially. They should be *screwed*, *not nailed* in, wide apart, and somewhat diagonally. Perhaps they suit best in four rows, thus—3, 4, 4, 3, with another 3 placed as a triangle in the heel. But the heel-

screws are not a *sine qua non.* Anyone can screw them in, giving them, of course, a little oil and a small hole to start in, and they will suit any ordinary thick sole.

To conclude a somewhat, I fear, prolix letter, some of your readers would possibly like to have the dressing of the best fly for rapid streams in Norway, and also an admirable lake and river fly in some Irish and Welsh streams. I got the pattern in Sligo, but it is a Redditch tie. Hook, any trout size; wings and tail, brown mallard; body, medium orange floss, with a pinch of claret; mohair at shoulder; silver wire ribbing, and black hackle. I don't know the name, but "Claret Cup" would be a justifiable one, considering the way the fish treat it.—I am, &c., A. H. Gribble.

Egersund, Norway, Dec. 3rd.

[Anglers will be much obliged to our correspondent for this practical letter.—Ed.]

## WOBBLE *VERSUS* SPIN.

Sir,—I was much interested in an account of the "Dorset Wobble" in your last issue, and I venture to give my opinion on the matter.

The more eccentric the orbit is that the bait gyrates in, the more likely are you, in well-fished waters (I am speaking of) to kill. The wobble, in fact, is what "draws"; as the keeper remarked in aforesaid article, "that's what I wants."

The regular spin of the Pennell flight and all artificial baits is nowhere in comparison with the more erratic in its revolutions; and for large pike in aforesaid places I have known an "otter" most effective in striking big fish—not landing, recollect. The spoon is the perfection of a pike bait, taken all in all, but you can't get it made proper shape in shops. As Pennell says, the shape makes all the difference; the Canadian one is also first-rate. Large pike are decidedly "canny," and if you want to catch them try something out of the ordinary mode of artificials. They soon "spot" the ordinary "accurate spinning," and won't thus be deluded. Not for Joe.—I am, &c,, Swivel.

[This is a very interesting question. As we have already said, although in some waters the wobble kills best, we much prefer the clean spin as a rule, and *especially with an artificial bait.* We should like to hear some other opinions on this subject, and for our own part intend to give the two systems a trial, one against the other.—Ed.]

## INFORMATION ABOUT THE ELWY WANTED.

Sir,—Would any of your readers who have fished the Elwy at Llanfair, Talhairn, or St. Asaph, kindly give their experience in your columns or otherwise? I saw the river at both places last July; but there was very little water at that time, and the trout appeared to run very small. I noticed the salmon ladder at Llanfair. I am, &c.,

Stalybridge. J. S.

[The *Angler's Diary* says: "the Clwyd and Elwy are well stocked with trout, and there are salmon occasionally. The Plough, a good hotel at St. Asaph, gives leave to fish. Excellent fly-tyers live near the hotel." Doubtless the trout are like those in most Welsh streams—of small size.—Ed.]

## DRESSING FOR HOOK WHIPPING WANTED.

Sir,—Will you kindly inform me if there is anything which will satisfactorily take the place of "cobbler's" wax to cover the whipping of hooks on gimp? I experience a difficulty in making the wax look neat.

A reply to this inquiry in your next issue will oblige,—Yours, &c.,

Cornhill, E.C. E. E. S.

[We know nothing so *reliable* as shoemaker's wax. "E. E. S." should use a little shellac as varnish over the wax, or dissolved sealing-wax is sometimes used. We always use shellac, as it wears best. But perhaps some reader can give "E. E. S." more information on this point. Our friend Mr. Yarde writes: "My plan is to take ¼oz. of *finest* red sealing-wax and digest it till dissolved in a little bottle containing 1oz. of best rectified spirit." The sealing-wax is only used *over* the *black wax.*—Ed.]

## SPINNING TACKLE FOR PIKE.

Sir,—I was rather interested by the letter headed "The Dorset Wobble," in your issue of Dec. 6th.

Having for over twenty years practised *spinning* for pike (in preference to any other mode of capture), I consider the "wobble" of a *natural* spinning-bait is very attractive to the pike, and gives the bait the enticing appearance of a wounded fish.

As regards the description of spinning-tackle, I heartily endorse the editorial footnote *re* Pennell's snap, the said "flight" being, in my humble opinion, by far the best of the many spinning flights yet introduced. The S-hook keeps the tail properly twisted, and the "flying" triangles hanging *free* from the bait are far more easily driven into the pike's hard jaws than the old style of triangle arrangement, the hooks of which are so firmly embedded in the bait that it requires heavy striking to move them.

Using Pennell's flight always, I very seldom lose a fish after once he takes the bait fairly.

Two strokes in quick succession I find the best mode of striking—in fact, a good imitation of the postman's double-knock. There can be no doubt that the majority of fish lost in spinning are missed by striking "gingerly," when the smarter stroke would have had the desired effect.

It is often argued that spinning cannot be practised on *weedy* waters. It is, however, quite possible to spin over a river or lake where the weeds are within *nine inches* of the surface. Of course a light bait is necessary in this case, and quick spinning is required to keep the bait from sinking into the weeds. Spinning has the following advantages over live-baiting:—

(1) That a large area of water can be fished thoroughly in a short time.

(2) There is no waiting for the fish to "gorge," or much possibility of his rejecting the bait after once seized.

(3) There is no encumbrance of live-baits, nor the trouble of getting them and keeping them *alive.*

(4) The small pike can be returned to the water, and wholesale "slaughter of the innocents" avoided.

(5) The exercise of spinning will keep the angler *warm*, even in the coldest weather.

Finally, there is no necessity to give your baits *brandy;* but the advocates of the Blue Ribbon need have no conscientious samples against the use of baits preserved in *spirits of wine* or "methylated" spirits.—I am, &c.,

Ilford, Dec. 8th. A. R. H.

[We quite agree with "A. R. H." (by the way, it's years since he sent us a line), and there are few things more enjoyable than spinning over a good stretch of fairly open, fairly stocked water. We would rather catch half a dozen pike by spinning than double the quantity in any other way.—Ed.]

## THE ROMANCE OF BOTTOM FISHING.

Sir,—We must all have read "Streams-o'-the-North's" pleasant article upon the "Romance of Angling" with pleasure, and thanked him for it. It is a subject of which anglers can never be tired.

To those of us who have thrown the fly over the mountain stream and hill-shadowed loch, it will recall happy memories and bright anticipations; nor will the charm be lost even by those whom fate has not so favoured, and whose lot is cast in less pleasant places. No, for we men of "maggot and paste" *can* appreciate and admire the beauties of nature, and although the heather-covered hills and sparkling streams may be little more than words to us, yet the very description of them, particularly by a brother of the craft, brings to us, like a picture, something of the fresh breeze and rushing burn.

We do love these scenes, and envy the author as we read of them, and we do admit the superiority of fly-fishing, and dream of the dashing trout; but we cannot allow that in our humbler sport there is no romance, and suffer it to be sneered at, and ourselves pitied.

Other pens may be taken up to vindicate the honour of our beloved craft of bottom-fishing. I hope so; but if not, it will not be because our case is too desperate for a defence. We men of the "maggot and paste" are a long-suffering race, and we will forgive "Streams-o'-the-North" for his cruel wit. He has fallen into a common error; and if he has not, as I expect, enjoyed a day's chub-fishing, we ought, perhaps, to pity rather than blame him.

I am happy to say that I have wielded the fly-rod on stream and loch, and very much have I enjoyed the sport, and long to be at it again. I have also patiently coaxed the wary roach with pill of paste, and I would not say for a moment that I have enjoyed that less. I agree with "Streams-o'-the-North" in this: that I, too, have resolved never again to handle worms *for trout*, nor should I care, I think, for fishing in a punt. I also agree with him that the difficulty of capture gives the sport its chief charm; is there, then, no difficulty in bottom-fishing? From my own experience, I should say that in this respect, it is very far superior to the other—too much so, indeed; and if "Streams-o'-the-North" should ever condescend to the "maggot and paste" business, he may perhaps find that there is less "fish-killing" about it than he expected. Anyhow, I know I often wish there was a little more.

And there is a romance about it, too. I confess the "slimy canal" does not sound nice; but it has its romance notwithstanding. How often has the slow-flowing, sedgy stream, with its willow-lined banks, furnished the artist with a subject? What angler has not been sometimes struck with the beauty and peacefulness of the scene—when the sun has just set a mass of golden-red, and the November afternoon is quickly becoming twilight. Yes, there is a beauty, a romance, a melancholy about the evening scene which is very fascinating, at any rate, to the angler as he pauses to hear the plaintiff cry of plover, or less melodious croak of partridge. It is time to pack up; there is no chance of even another bite. And see how carefully our angler puts away his tackle, and cases his rod, and with what pleasure he surveys the fish in his basket as he adds to them the last of their brethren lying on the grass. How pleasant seems the cheerful fire at home, how fragrant the pipe of tobacco, and how lovely look the fish—bream, roach, or chub—as he spreads them on the table and recounts their capture. Let us not forget that "Father Izaak" was a bottom-fisher: let us follow in his footsteps, and may we have his contented mind, and contemplations like his of the earth and its Creator.—I am, &c.,

J. H. W.

[We did not read "Streams-o'-the-North" as claiming that only fly-fishers can appreciate the beauties of nature; or, on behalf of other anglers, we should have resented the insinuation. Of course we prefer fly-fishing; but when that cannot be had, we feel just as enthusiastic about the next best kind of fishing which may be in season.—Ed.]

## A NOTE FROM NOTTINGHAM.

Sir,—The water being so discoloured, and the weather so stormy, there has been nothing doing this week. A friend of mine reports a few chub being caught in the Clifton Water. Mr. Smith and friend got a few nice roach over 1lb. each on Saturday in the Holme Pierpoint Water, but rain coming on they had to give it up. Several chub have been weighed in in our club, the largest 3lb. Some good sport would be had among the coarse fish if the weather would settle down a bit. Some very large pike have been caught near Mansfield. One of our local papers reports one of 25lb. weight.

P.S.—In your issue of the 29th ult. you give an account of a four-footed angler. Now I could a tale unfold of one; but I expect some of your readers would think I was cramming them. However, as I know it to be true, here goes:—Some forty years ago, when my father was a young man, he used to spend a deal of his time at a place not far from Nottingham called the Jolly Gardens. Some of you Nottingham readers will remember it well, and the many pleasant days they have passed there boating on the ornamental water. In the centre of the pond was an island, bordered round with a thick privet hedge, and many a time my father has caught roach with his hands through a hole in the hedge as they swam past. They used to keep a small terrier dog at the house, who would follow him about a good deal, and often sat watching him catch these fish. Well, one day the dog left him, but soon returned with a fish in its mouth and dropped it down by the side of him. He thought he would watch it to see where it got them from, and discovered it had found another hole in the hedge, and caught the fish until he had a hatful, and many a time after caught him fish whenever he took it upon the island. As the above is a fact, and my father well known, you may insert it in your paper if you think well.—I am, &c.,

Nottingham, Dec. 8th. A. West.

## TO PREPARE PITH AND BRAINS FOR WINTER CHUB FISHING.

A Worcestershire correspondent asks us how to prepare this bait, and we cannot do better than give the "Trent Otter's" instructions. On p. 51 of his capital work, "Float-Fishing and Spinning in the Nottingham Style,"* he says:—

"And now we will look for a few minutes at a bait that is used during the winter, and is, in my idea, the winter bait *par excellence* for chub: I allude to pith and brains. The pith is the spinal cord of a bullock; your butcher will draw you a piece out when you want to use it. The brains are used for ground-bait, and they must be washed perfectly clean and well scalded, or else boiled for a few minutes in a bag. They can then be cut up very small with a knife and thrown in. Don't, however, be extravagant in this matter; a very few pieces are quite sufficient. The pith itself when you first see it looks a very dirty and disagreeable affair; the pieces are about as thick as your forefinger, and I have had them a foot long. The skin must be slit from end to end with a pair of fine-pointed scissors, carefully pulled off, and thrown away, being useless. The pith must then be washed two or three times in clean water till it is perfectly clear from blood and all other impurities, and as white as card. Some anglers recommend that it should be scalded, boiled, &c.; but I say don't be deluded into doing anything of the sort, for I have tried it, and boiling ever so little makes it very soft, and it won't stop on the hook at all. I say do nothing more to it than I have recommended above. After it is washed and clean it is ready for use, and for this bait a No. 4 hook is the best. Cut off a piece of pith about the size of a hazel nut and put the hook through and through it several times till you have worked the pith up the shank; it will then stop on the hook very well. When you have a bite with this bait play your fish very carefully, for I have found that two out of three of the fish so caught have only been hooked by the skin at the side of the mouth. This is a clinking bait to use in the depth of winter, when the snow lies deep on the ground, and when the thermometer indicates a few degrees below freezing point. Indeed, I think it is useless to try it unless there is a little frost."

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* London: Sampson Low and Co., 188, Fleet-street. Price 2s.

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# RIVER REPORTS.

## TIME OF HIGH WATER IN THE THAMES.

To find the time of high water in the Thames at any of the following places, to the time of high water at London Bridge (given below).

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Add | 30 minutes for | Chelsea. |
| | 40 „ | Putney. |
| | 45 „ | Hammersmith. |
| | 50 „ | Barnes. |
| | 55 „ | Kew. |
| | 75 „ | Richmond. |
| | 80 „ | Twickenham. |
| | 85 „ | Teddington. |

Example :—If it is high water at 2 o'clock at London Bridge, it will be high water at Teddington about 3.25, or eighty-five minutes later ; but it must be remembered that a strong wind accelerates or retards the tide very much.

For Times of High Water at London Bridge.

| | Morning. | Afternoon. |
|---|---|---|
| Saturday, December 13 | 10.55 | 11.27 |
| Sunday, „ 14 | 11.54 | 12.0 |
| Monday, „ 15 | 12.19 | 12.42 |
| Tuesday, „ 16 | 1.4 | 1.25 |
| Wednesday, „ 17 | 1.45 | 2.4 |
| Thursday, „ 18 | 2.21 | 2.37 |
| Friday, „ 19 | 2.52 | 3.10 |

New Moon Dec. 17. Izaak Walton died Dec. 15, 1683.

☞ *River Reporters who want forms and envelopes should send a post card to the Publisher of the* Fishing Gazette, *12 and 13, Fetter-lane, London.*

## THE LOWER THAMES.

### General Remarks.

There is not much to say about the river this week, except that the roach anglers have been well in at Twickenham, and making some first-rate scores. The report of the condition of the tidal waters is as follows :—"The water is now rising and discoloured, which is raising the hopes of the lampern fishermen. There was quite a fair on the 7th in the deeps at Twickenham with the punts ; but the anglers did not do much through the water rising. On the same day there were 68 bank anglers between Richmond and Kingston Bridge, but they had also indifferent sport from the same cause." The report from Sunbury is—"Very few of the fishermen have been out ; but the water is getting a good colonr for fishing, and a little higher." From Chertsey, the report is "The water has been rising, and there is a little colour in it."

### Angling Results.

**Richmond.**—Henry Wheeler, one day, in a couple of hours got 22lb. weight of splendid roach, and during the week he has been getting some good fish. Christopher Brown, in one day, 16lb. Job Brain, in the same time, 12lb. Henry Mansell, in three days, 40lb. F. Brown, in similar time, 56lb.

**Twickenham.**—John Spong, in one day with Mr. Johnson, 40lb. weight of good roach, and in two other days with Mr. Hilton, 46lb. Edward Finch, in one day, 10lb. Samuel Cole, in the same time, seven dozen. Richard Coxen, in three days, twenty dozen. George Coxen, in one day with Mr. Peachey, twelve dozen of roach and dace, and W. Spong, in one day, six dozen.

**Teddington.**—Charles Baldwin, in five days, twenty-five dozen of roach and dace, and a couple of barbel. A. Kemp, in one day, three barbel weighing 16lb., and another day a barbel of 5½lb. Joseph Baldwin, in two days, nine dozen of fine roach and dace, and three barbel. J. Stevens, in one hour and a half, four dozen of roach and dace, and William Messenger, in one day, ten and a half dozen of good fish. It is refreshing to see the Teddington fishermen so well employed.

**Kingston.**—The only report is from John Johnson, sen., who says he has been out for three days in the tideway and got thirty dozen of dace. The bank anglers have not been doing very much amongst roach, dace, gudgeon, and perch.

**Long Ditton.**—H. Buttery has been out once and got a jack of 3lb.

**Hampton Court.**—John Smith has had one day's jack fishing, resulting in the capture of a jack of 2¾lb. Charles Davis, in one day, two dozen of roach. The anglers at "Tagg's Island Fishery" have been getting a nice few roach and dace and some perch. The present condition of the river should suit the fishing here, especially for roach.

**Sunbury.**—The fishermen here have not been out, but the bank fishers have, and in addition to a jack of 4lb. have taken a good number of roach and dace.

**Shepperton.**—James Haslett, in two days, has taken four jack of the respective weights of 9lb., 5¼lb., 4lb., and 2lb., and one and a half brace of perch.

**Staines.**—Charles Hone, in one day, four dozen of roach and one jack.

## UPPER THAMES.

Since my last notes, quite a nice little push of water in the Upper Thames has been brought about by the continuous, but not yet heavy, rain. A south-west wind, with an extra dash of west in it, has aided to drive away the rotting leaves and débris which for weeks had been accumulating in the various nooks and corners of Father Thames's elongated trunkosity. This will be of great service to piscators by sweetening the vitiated water and putting all classes of winter-feeding fishes in the humour to enjoy the all-round Christmas fare that wily rodsters are sure to offer on the off-chance of a little return for capital expended. The Henley waters, by which I mean Marsh Pool, Henley, and Hambledon, have been yielding up some fair samples of perch, but nothing of size specially deserving notice ; the best perch, going 1½lb., had from the deep below Hambledon Lock (this is a grand bit of deep eddy fishing, and should be ledgered with lob worm). In the Hartley district, several piscators from the banks have done fairly ; but Mr. Wainwright's take of some 7lb. of good roach in two hours, is the best. At Hurley Mill, in consequence of the little push of water, the worthy proprietor, Mr. Tom Street, has lately had some nice eels, four of which I saw going 7lb., and some half-dozen trout, which I did not see, up to 2lb. each, carefully returned under the piscatorial eye and *esprit de corps* of such a rare old angler as Tom Smith. Marlow, Bourne End, and Cookham correspondents have evidently lost their vocation ; but from Bray I hear of one gentleman, Mr. Johnson, getting 30 odd dozen of perch, only one of which scaled 1lb., and eight over ½lb. Thursday evening : Water a nice height, and very gradually rising, the colour being that mignonette tint so delightful to the connoisseur in roach pigments.—Marlow Buzz.

### Thames (Cookham).

Mr. Russell and friend, out with Jones, the new fisherman, at Cookham, on the 7th, three jack, one 5lb¼lb, one 4lb., one ¾lb. The jack are on the feed.—H. W.

### Thames (Datchet).

The past week's fishing has been of a very uncertain kind, owing to the weirs being drawn and put in again ; consequently, there has been a rise and fall of 2ft. or 3ft. daily, and the fish have been too much disturbed, but still the fishing has been better for the rain, and will improve. My best day was nine dozen of roach and dace with a patron ; another day, one barbel and one chub ;—mean having a good haul of them before I write again. Lob-worms are plentiful just now. J. Hone, on the 7th, took 9lb. of barbel, and it is reported one of them has possessed himself of rod, line, and all the lot (lucky barbel !). Hone has also had several good takes of roach up river. I hear the jack ran well on the 7th, one being taken at Monkey Island of 19lb., and some smaller ones.—G. Lumsden.

The water is in a first-rate condition for all-round fishing. Out with Mr. Smith on the 7th inst. : One barbel, 4lb. 9½oz ; roach, 1lb. 13½oz., ditto, 12½oz., ditto, 11½oz., ditto, 9oz. ; perch, 15½oz. Out three days this week—8lb. first day, 9lb. next, the third day 6lb. My son out Tuesday—12lb. of very good roach, the largest 1½lb., taken by the tail end of the lob.—James Hoare.

### Thames (Eynsham).

There has been no angling done in this neighbourhood all this week, owing to the heavy rains having made the water very thick, but with a few fine days it will soon be right again. Thursday, the 4th, Mr. Green, in the Windrush, took 21½lb. chub, although the wind all the time was blowing a perfect hurricane, making it very difficult to keep the bait in the water.—W. B. Howe.

### Thames (Oxford).

Fishing for the past two weeks has not been, in this district, worth the proverbial tinker's anathema off a common. The Cherwell is rolling down in pea-soupy volumes, and the Thames, in point of density and colour, is very little different. No one seems to care to go out on the chance of coming back wet through, and its concomitants, cold and rheumatism; for my own part, so bad has it been that I have not cared to go out. One benefit, however, of the heavy water will be the total disappearance of the leaves and decaying aquatic vegetation, which, like the juice from the hay grass whilst it is about, sickens the fish, and throws them off the feed, though I have a suspicion that much may be accounted for by the exhaustion produced by spawning. A well-known local angler has just brought me word that a fish weighing 15lb. was taken three weeks since at Duxford whirlpool on the Upper Thames. The gentleman in question, who is a great friend of my own, and on whose veracity I can place implicit reliance, avers it was a chub. I am sceptical as to its species, because I know big carp lay in these upper reaches, and this I opine it was. I once knew of a chub weighing 8lb., which was taken at Parson's Pleasure, and I have seen some monsters in the Evenlode at Handbro' Mill—some of them, I should say, over 37lb. Whatever this fish was, there is presumptive evidence it was netted, and the man who caught it says he gets the same frequently up to 10lb. Its measurement was exactly 36in., and it was exhibited in Oxford the next day and sold for 3s. 6d. Everyone who ate of it was ill. On Friday, Mr. S. Bowell had three jack from 1¼lb. to 1½lb., and to-day Mr. Watts had three jack, the largest 5lb., and the other two 2½lb. each.—Cherwell Otter.

### The Thames (Windsor.)

The much-desired change, a good push of water, has come at last, which will move those stubborn rushes, and other impedimenta to the spinner for jack. Roach, which have, in consequence of a bright low water, been very shy, are now feeding well, and those fond of this branch of angling will now obtain good sport. I visited Monkey Island to-day, and was assured by the enthusiastic Robert Plummer, junr., that excellent sport had been had, and every prospect of good roach fishing, water being now a trifle too thick for jack. Before the water coloured following is list of sport had in that quarter:—Plummer, junr., out with Mr. Page, of London, 7th inst., four jack of the following weights : 18lb., 4lb., 3lb., 2¾lb. A friend of mine witnessed the capture of the largest fish, which he put down at 20lb. 6th inst. Mr. Page and friend, with the same fisherman, seven jack, largest only 3½lb., the lot going 16lb. Mr. Beningfield, of London (1st inst.) with Robert, five jack, 19lb. ; and 9th inst., two jack, 7¾lb. Another day five dozen of good roach. At Datchet James Hoare piloted a patron, Mr. Smith, of London (7th inst.) to some fair roach swims, resulting in 8lb. of roach and a barbel of 4lb. 8th inst., Hoare had 9lb. of roach ; and 9th inst., in two hours, 8lb. In the Datchet waters to-day, Mr. Barwell, of the Friendly Anglers, out with Richard Gray, had 24lb, of barbel. Before this change in water a few nice jack were had nearer here, largest, which I weighed, going 11lb., taken by Mr. James Gray on the 4th inst. A friend of mine on the 3rd inst., one just 7lb. and Mr. Stinton, of Eton, on the 7th inst. had one of 4lb. Mr. Howard, of the Friendly Anglers, out with James Gray, on the 7th inst., had, in less than an hour, four jack, going about 15lb. Strange to say, after this, six other runs resulted in a blank. Several smaller have been had. Should rain cease, water will fine down, and excellent sport be had with jack, which are, undoubtedly, very plentiful, as many as thirteen fish being had lately on the Thames in one day to one rod. Till then roach and chub are well worth trying ; for the former, gentles, and latter, tail of lob worm or cheese.—B. R. BAINBRIDGE.

### Thames (Wraysbury).

The long-looked-for colour has come at last ; the water is in splendid fishing order, and wind is right. With these advantages there certainly ought to be grand takes just now. The "Old Fleet" ought to see some of the old frequenters sitting on the banks, for a better spot in the Thames there is not. Of course, the place, like all others, wants to be known. It was here Mr. Little took his 17lb. pike a few weeks since ; several smaller ones have been taken since. Roach are feeding in the deep holes under the bank, Lea style, a lump of groundbait covering the pellet of paste. The best inn for anglers is the Green Man. Anglers should write beforehand to insure accommodation.—ROACH.

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### Ancholme District.

The weather has been much milder, but few anglers have been out, and the sport has not been of a high-class colour. The waters remain very low ; the snow of last week has not made any sensible difference in the volume. A good flood is needed to stir up the fish, and put them on the feed.—THOMAS FORD, Caistor.

### Chichester.

"The rain it raineth every day," not excepting Sundays. Jupiter Pluvius has showered down blessings until the dry and parched earth is now in places assuming the quagmire state. I have not heard of any enthusiast braving the weather in this quarter, and from other districts reports are *nil*. When we get a change, Selham will well repay a visit. Willison tells me pike are numerous.—GEORGE F. SALTER.

### River Colne (Wraysbury).

Water in splendid condition for all-round fishing. Anglers will be glad to hear another piece of water in this village is now open to them upon payment of £2 2s. per annum ; 21s. paid at once will open the water to the subscriber up to end of present season. The water is known as "Walker's" or "Taylor's" ; it runs from Horton Bridge to Wraysbury Mill, and includes the mill race and pool at the latter place. I have seen three trout taken from the water this week and put back again ; one perch taken on the 7th over 2lb. This water is noted for large roach and chub. The gentleman who has the letting is very particular as to whom he grants a ticket. Pot-hunters had better not apply.—ROACH.

### The Dove.

The river is running in capital order ; but we have not had a great number of rods out since our last. The weather, though mild, has been of a cheerless character, add it is only the most ardent rods that have ventured to the river-side. Sport has not been of a very remunerative nature. Somehow grayling don't appear inclined to rise, no matter what flies are offered them. The absence of frost, no doubt, accounts for this. If the weather were more seasonable, in all probability matters would mend considerably. The best bait for coarse fish generally has been the worm, though several moderate dishes of chub have fallen victims to cow's brains. The maggot does not seem to operate in the present state of the water.—THE SPLODGER.

### Exe and Canal (Exeter).

We have had heavy downpours of rain since my last report. The river is flooded, and until it fines down we shall not be able to do anything worthy of mention. In the canal a few perch have been taken with the usual allurements, live minnows and worms.—J. A. KELLEY.

### Ilfracombe.

Sea fishing. The weather having been so stormy, many boats had washed up their nets, as they considered the herring fishing over; but on Monday, those that had kept in their nets, went out for a fresh trial, and were well rewarded, some bringing in from five to ten maize in a boat, which made all hands busy again, as they consider the fish to be more plentiful now than they have been for the season. Tuesday, the largest catch was by Mr. Williams, 11 maize. Wednesday, G. Rudd, 11 maize. Saturday, Mr. German, fishing from the jetty, caught a ling 14lb., and on Monday, Mr. Bear, a cod 12lb. Thursday, rain and wind.—E. COMER.

### Lea (Tottenham).

The water is now, and has been for the last few days, in capital condition for all-round fishing, and the jack and roach have been fairly on the feed. Mr. Beresford, on Friday, fishing his favourite place, the lower pool, got a couple of handsome little jack, the two weighing 9½lb. Mr. Bell, on Monday, killed a nice little fish of 3½lb., and Messrs. Dodd and Williams have been getting roach and dace, using gentles and paste for bait. The subscribers to the upper water (Ford's) have, since the run of fresh water, been having some capital sport with the jack.—HACKLES RED.

### Leicester.

The late heavy rains have in some measure put a check upon angling operations, as the river and brooks in this neighbourhood are now bank full and thick water rapidly comes down. A few of the more staunch followers of the piscatorial art, however, keep showing up day by day, but the results of their efforts, as may be imagined, have been but poor. A few chub were caught, Mr. Condor showing a brace between 3lb. and 4lb., an odd brace or two of pike have been landed, but with these exceptions little has been done. Angling will doubtless show a large improvement to what it has been lately when the waters get down again. The weather of Thursday was bright and fine, and exceptionally mild.—ALERT.

### Lugg and Arrow (Leominster).

Both these streams are now in good order for bottom fishing ; the melting of the snow, and the rain which has visited this part, have made both streams rise, and slightly coloured, but are now running clear very quickly, and by the end of the week will be in splendid fishing order. The anglers of this part have been using the red worm and maggot with good success this week, and some good lots of fish have been taken. In the Kingsland water, some very good grayling have been taken with the worm. The Arrow, near Ivington, was tried on Saturday, and a capital lot of fish were taken with the maggot. Good sport has been had near Aymestr with the worm. Fishing quiet near Stanton. The Pinsley is in good fishing order. Some good fish were taken on Monday with the worm.—GWYNNE.

### Medway (Tunbridge).

At last the river is in flood. It has been full and muddy all the week. This very cause prevented all angling ; but, no doubt, we shall feel the benefit of it when it fines down, which will not be for some days. The Local Society have determined to stock the ballast pit with trout. Five hundred yearlings are ordered, which will be paid for by private donations, and if the sum is sufficient the order will be extended to a thousand.—YE MEDWAY WATER RAT.

### The Ouse (Huntingdon).

During the very stormy weather nothing much could be done. Monday, the 8th, being a better time, I went out for a few hours. I had not been at work long before I had a run. Striking the fish, I found something hanging rather heavy, and with his twisting and rolling about for thirty-five minutes, I succeeded in landing a handsome fish a little over 20lb., measuring 3ft. 4in. in length, and 1ft. 7in. round the girth. After this was all over, I had another go for another run, which turned out to be on the reverse— one about ¾lb., which had the impudence to kill one of my best baits, so I put him back again to give him the chance of getting a twenty-pounder. I hear of a little being done among the smaller ones. The water is in splendid condition, and there is good prospect for good fishing. I was out on the 3rd, but my time was taken up by watching a strange bird, which I followed up, and succeeding in shooting, turning out to be a splendid bittern—a very rare bird about this locality.—H. ROUT.

### South Level Cut (Littleport).

Though the weather has been very unsettled since my last report, I do not think here cau be much fault with the following : Dec. 4th, Mr. Hailstone, 25lb. very fine roach in 2¾ hours ; Mr. Cannon, Newmarket, 13lb. in 2½ hours. Dec. 5th, Mr. W. L. Agger, Cambridge, 25lb. good roach in 4 hours ; Mr. F. Ely, 18lb. in 3 hours ; Mr. Cannon, Newmarket, 18½lb., and Mr. B. C. Norton, Cambridge, 17lb. in 3 hours. Dec. 6th, Messrs. J. M. Wright, and W. Knights, Ely, 11lb. roach in 1½ hours ; Mr. Hailstone, 25½lb., largest 1lb. 5oz. ; Mr. A. Pace, Newmarket, 18lb. good roach ; Mr. McAdam, Lynn, 8lb. in 1½ hours ; Dec. 7th, two Cambridge, and two London anglers out, and all did well. Dec. 8th, Mr. W. L. Agger, Cambridge, 23lb. roach ; Mr. C. Brown, Ely, 17lb. ; Mr. W. Buckle, Ely, 14lb. ; Mr. W. Grimsdale, Cambridge, 12lb., two largest 1lb. 5oz., and 15½oz. ; Mr. Marshall, Cambridge, 9½lb., largest, 1lb. 1oz. ; Mr. H. Lea, Cambridge, 15lb. ; Mr. A. T. Ellis, Cambridge, 17½lb. in 4 hours ; Mr. Hailstone, 8lb. ; Mr. S. O. Beeman, Littleport, 6lb.; Dec. 9th, Messrs. Duigan and Fowler, Cambridge, 15lb. roach ; Mr. Saville, Cambridge, 10lb. ; Mr. J. Hutt, Cambridge, 10lb. Dec. 10th, Mr. F. G. Tuck, New Barnes, Ely, 15lb. good roach in 3¼ hours ; Mr. Hailstone, 15lb ; Mr. G. Barker, Cambridge, 10lb. in 3¼ hours ; T. South, Littleport, two pike, 4¼lb., and 2¼lb. ; Sergt, Bryant, Ely, one pike, about 6lb.—CHARLIE SOUTH.

### Severn and Stour (Kidderminster).

Since my last report, the takes of fish have not been so good ; but I think the anglers have in a great measure themselves to blame. Short tackle is all very well when the water is in flood and the fish under the banks. Good takes of fish are generally the rule at such times ; but as the water recedes the fish recede also, and long tackle is indispensable to insure success. We have had a fall of snow lately, filling the river to the brim, but closing the mouths of the fish at the same time The Severn is bankful at the present time, so angling prospects are but poor. A few fishermen were out last week, but little has been done. J. Giles, of ours, and a friend succeeded in taking 15lb. of chub with brains for bait. Two or three others have only taken a few fish with the same, while another angler tried the cockspur worm, and took from 3 to 4lb. of roach and dace. We have had several good showers of rain since last Thursday, and although it serves to keep the river in flood, it will wash the snow broth out of the stream, so that by next week I hope I shall have some good catches to report. No reports from the Stour that I have heard of. No one visiting this stream, though there must be plenty of fish in the still deeps, or in the slow-running water between the weirs and the forges or mills as the case may be, which are located occasionally on the river. We shall wind up on the 22nd, a very successful year, both numerically and financially, and our prospects for the coming year seem as rosy as we could wish.—E. E.

### Teme (Ludlow).

The Teme and all the streams within ten miles of here have benefitted largely from the recent rains. The streams are full and in good fishing order, though they are at present slightly coloured. A large quantity of salmon have managed to leap the Ashford weir since the water has risen, and large numbers have been seen these last few days making up the Teme for their spawning beds. Fishing has not been indulged in to any great extent this week, though anglers are to be found who frequent the river banks in all weathers. In the Leintwardine district fishing has almost come to a close this year. Below Steventon some good grayling and perch were caught on Monday with the red worm ; the grayling averaged ½lb. each. The Clun is nearly bank full. There has been little done in this district this year, and I am informed that the river is full of grayling and other fish.—S. LUDLOW.

### Teme (Tenbury).

This stream has undergone a complete alteration since last week. Since the snow has gone, there have been several heavy downpours of rain had in this part, which has made the water coloured, and it has risen considerably higher than it has been for some months. The anglers have visited the water well this week, the weather still keeping very mild. Good fishing has been had with the red worm and maggot. In the Rochford district some very fine grayling have been landed with the maggot. Fishing, on Saturday, in the Eastham part, a fine lot of fish were taken with the maggot. Some very good grayling have been landed with the red worm in the water near Little Hereford. Good sport has been had in the Berrington water this week. Fishing quiet near Corn Brook. The Kyre, Rea, and Ledwyche are very quiet.—WORCESTER.

### Trent (Nottingham).

The Trent in this district on Thursday was in excellent condition for bottom fishing. and was rapidly fining down. From Tuesday to Thursday morning the water receded about 8in. The weather on Monday and Wednesday was adverse to the votaries of the art, and only very few anglers patronised the river. Mr. H. Wild, the well-known fly expert, caught some very choice dace in the Radcliffe length on Tuesday, with the little red or cockspur worm ; and on Thursday two Nottingham gentlemen returned from Willington with a rare basket of chub, roach, and dace, the last-named being unusually fine. There does not seem to have been much doing at either Shardlow or Weston, although attention is still devoted by the Derby contingent to the "Blackpool," below Weston Cliff. With a little less tinge in the water pike are now almost certain to run well. Recently a large number of these fish have been caught with the livebait in the Nottingham and Grantham Canal, near Hickling.—THE MAN AT THE CLUBS.

### Trent (Newark).

The heavy fresh we had down the river the latter part of last week will do a lot of good in helping to clear the bottom of the river. It is still running at a very fair height, and a little colour with it ; but still it is going down very nicely, and I noticed to-day that it would soon be in fairish trim for most sorts of winter fishing. The weather has been wonderfully mild this week. I have not heard of anything being done this week in the way of sport. If the water keeps improving another day or two as it has done this last two or three, there should be a chance for a little sport among the roach, &c., with the cockspur worm. Chub, with pith and brains, and jack should be found in the quiet corners and backwaters, as the heavy water would drive them out of the streams.—The Trent Otter.

We had about 3ft. of water in the latter end of last week, and a very dirty colour, consequently angling has been out of the question, so far as the Trent has been consemed; the water is now falling, but a lot of colour in it yet. When it gets right I shall not be surprised to hear of some good roach being got. Mr. Dale tried the Witham last Tuesday, but found the water in very bad trim; he only got one dace, 8½oz., and two nice roach. Mr. Curtis had two small jack, out of a private water. I should like to see another good fresh on just to finish the clearing out of the river, and then get in trim by Christmas.—F. T. L.

### Waveney (Beccles).

Owing to the continued heavy falls of rain during the last two weeks the river has been in a constant state of flood, and sport has been almost at a standstill: nevertheless, one or two have been out. Mr. A. Darby, of the "Fyona," with two gentlemen, the early part of last week, and had nine jack in two days. Capt. James has also been in amongst them, taking several nice fish. If weather continues as at present (Thursday) some good fishing may be looked forward to during the Christmas holidays, and water will be in good order.—A Waveney Angler.

### The Wharfe (Yorkshire).

Since my last report the river has been in full flood, occasioned by very heavy rains and westerly gales. Of course, there is nothing being done in the way of grayling fishing, and, according to the weather that we have experienced to-day, there does not seem to be much chance of any for some time to come. These high floods have been the salvation of the gentlemen who collect trout ova for breeding purposes. The becks have been almost dry up to now, and they were beginning to despair. I saw a grand lot that Mr. Chippendale, of Ilkley, had obtained the other night; there were about 10,000, and only about 12 dead ones in the whole bottleful. Mr. Critchley (sec. of the Burnsall Club) came into the bar at the Crescent Hotel at Ilkley the other evening, where several of us were talking angling matters over, and asked who would go up to Addingham to try for another lot. I should have liked to have made one of the party, tired though I was with a day's fishing, but I was obliged to reach home before seven o'clock. I have no doubt but they would get another grand batch. The club alluded to above gave an excellent dinner the other evening at the Crescent Hotel, Ilkley. A full report will be found elsewhere. I never remember spending a more pleasant and sociable evening.—Francis M. Walbran.

### Wye and Derwent.

We had a great deal of rain fall yesterday (Thursday) all over Derbyshire, which was the cause of both the Wye and Derwent being flushed to-day. The Derwent is of a good colour for either worm or maggot fishing; and if the weather only keeps fine, we ought to have some good sport yet, both among grayling and coarse fish. Sport during the week has been very uncertain, and only small baskets have been the order of the day. Fly fishing is all over for the Derwent this year, and, taking the season through, we have had a very bad one; in fact, it is the worst I have known. Weather to-night (Thursday) is fine, with every appearance of a frosty night. Some sharp, white, frosty nights would improve the fishing much.—Geo. Jas. Eaton.

### The Yare (Norwich).

Several ardent pike fishermen have been out to try their luck, but with the disadvantage of having only very small bait (the dearth of bait still continues). One party last Saturday, with only a small number of gudgeon, were successful in killing six takeable jack on the Yare, and my impression is, that with some good fresh-caught dace (without brandy dose) a good day's sport might now be had. The weather has again been unfavourable to the pursuit of the gentle art, but with colder, finer weather, we should soon be amongst them again. The news from the district of the Bure is of a similar character; three friends of mine out fishing on one of the best broads only caught two undersized fish. In this instance, their non-success was attributed to the insignificant bait they were supplied with, and even these had to be angled for. Strange, eh! This mild weather ought to bring the bait back again to the shallow water. Prospect—not cheering.—Robert Moll.

Thames Riparian Owners.—On December 3 a meeting of Thames riparian owners and owners of fisheries was held at the Westminster Palace Hotel. Sir Gilbert A. Clayton-East presided. It was resolved to establish a Thames Riparian Owners Defence Association, the objects of which are as follows:—To watch any proposed legislation or action of any public body affecting riparian interests, and to take such action in relation thereto as may be deemed advisable to protect the members of the association against frivolous and vexatious prosecutions, and to take steps for securing to its members the free and uninterrupted enjoyment of their property, and to protect the same from depredation and wilful or malicious injury. Sir Gilbert East consented to become president. Mr. E. Clett was appointed secretary.

Black Bass have Spawned in Germany.—Herr Max von dem Borne, the celebrated German fishculturist, writes to Prof. Baird as follows: "Berneuchen, June 15, 1884. You will recollect that you kindly sent to me, in the fall of 1882, by Mr. George Eckerdt, seven larged-mouthed and seventy-five small-mouthed black bass. In consequence of the long passage the greater part of the lot died, so that I had this spring three large-mouthed old fish and ten small-mouthed two-year-old bass. To-day I had the satisfaction of finding that the three large fish had spawned, and the pond actually swarms with fry. I have caught with a small net more than 2,000, and have put them into another pond which is free from other fish. I have no doubt that next spring the small-mouthed bass will spawn, and that the experiment will be successful.—*Forest and Stream.*

To Recent Subscribers.—Since we last asked our readers to be kind enough to send us the names and addresses of any anglers they know who were not acquainted with the Gazette, hundreds of new subscribers have taken the paper, and we ask them if they will kindly take the trouble to help us in the way we suggest, so that we can send specimen copies. Many of our advertisers have been in the paper continuously for years, and have voluntarily acknowledged the benefit they have received. If any of our readers can induce friends they may know who advertise, to give the Gazette a trial, it will greatly aid us in still further improving the paper.

Holloway's Ointment and Pills.—During every break of wintry weather exertions should be made by the afflicted to recover health before unremitting cold and trying storms set in. Throat ailments, coughs, wheezings, asthmatical affections, shortness of breath, morning nausea, and accumulations of phlegm can readily be removed by rubbing this fine derivative Ointment upon the chest and neck. Holloway's treatment is strongly recommended with the view of giving immediate ease, preventing prospective danger, and effecting permanent relief. These all-important ends his Ointment and Pills can accomplish, and will surely prevent insidious diseases from fastening on the constitution, to display themselves afterwards in those disastrous forms that will probably embitter life till death is almost prayed for.—Advt.

## CLUB REPORTS.

### APPLETREEWICK, BARDEN, AND BURNSALL ANGLING CLUB.

The annual meeting of the members and friends of this now famous club was held at the Crescent Hotel on Wednesday evening last, and for the first time was made the occasion for dining together. Thirty-two or three guests sat down to a first-rate repast, reflecting, in its preparation, the highest credit upon the host and hostess, Mr. and Mrs. Mercer, and their valuable assistant, Miss Palmer. The chairman was a member of the committee, Mr. J. V. Burrows, who, with the vice-chairman, Mr. Crabtree, proved to be the "right men in the right place," and they were supported by many influential members and friends of the club. The following is a list of the guests:—Mr. J. V. Burrows (also member of committee), chairman; Mr. Thomas Crabtree (hon. treasurer), vice-chairman; Major Middelton, Mr Ed. Middelton, Mr. Wm. Kelsall; committee: Messrs. J. Suttle, G. Demain, Joshua Hart, Wm. Fox, T. J. Critchley (hon. sec.) N. Chippendale, and J. Dawson; Messrs. T. G. Dawson, Francis M. Walbran, Wm. Margerison, Capt. Ramsbottom, Messrs. L. Robinson, W. H. H. Ward (hon. sec. Bradford Waltonians), J. W. Frasor, T. Peel, J. B. Dewhirst, A. Critchley, Jas. Critchley, G. B. Scott, W. J. S. Thompson, S. Earle, W. H. Fletcher, J. Barber, E. Wilkinson, A. Walker, John Lee, A. Wood, J. Brydon, and C. A. Watson. After dinner the chairman said that he had to give them the toast of "Success to the Club." In 1871 or 1872 a few gentlemen rented about two miles of the River Wharfe, and the subscription was 10s. a year. For a long time members were scarce, and the small subscriptions were not always paid. But gradually, by the liberality of His Grace the Duke of Devonshire and other riparian owners, a better and more flourishing state of things was brought about. That was in 1880. Now they had 50 members and seven miles of the best trout fishing in the North of England. They were met as a fraternity of anglers to promote good feeling and hearty fellowship. Their art was a healthy and an inexpensive amusement, linking together in a common bond of brotherhood the lawyer, the merchant, and the manufacturer. To all of them angling was a treat—the height of human felicity; for independently of the sport, the romantic surroundings like those to be found in such abundance on the banks of the Wharfe refreshed the mind and the body, and must be seen to be appreciated, for its lovely hills and verdant valleys were poetry itself. He had hoped to see amongst them more of those riparian owners to whose generous treatment the club owed so much. They would have been heartily welcomed, and they would have seen what pleasures were conferred by the privilege. The club had not neglected the breeding of fish, and the ground was now well stocked with grayling and trout. He often heard about bigger fish elsewhere, but it reminded him of what an old Scotch keeper said when asked what he thought of some bigger fish than his own which were reported: "Aye! aye! They're nae bigger fish, they're jist bigger leears." He concluded by commending the toast to their good will. Mr. W. Margerison and Mr. G. Demaine replied to the toast. Mr. Edward Middelton proposed "The Committee of the Club." Their exertions had resulted in the possession of seven miles of the best fishing, fully equal to anything to be found in the country. It had required the exercise of much tact and perseverance, with much expenditure of time and trouble. All the length had been most effectually staked, and two of the committee who lived in the neighbourhood—he referred to Messrs. Lister and Demaine—had personally superintended this important work. He knew it had been well done, for he had left a little tackle there himself. (Laughter.) He was glad and pleased to acknowledge Mr. Chippendale's success in fish breeding. Thousands of fish had been turned into the river, thus adding to the sport of the club. He was sure all would heartily drink the health of the committee. Mr. J. Hart, in reply, said he would have preferred that his duty had been performed by one who had known the club, and had been a member of the committee in its darker days. The riparian owners might think that the club and its members were well up in funds; but it must be remembered that to not a few the fishing was not easy of access, and therefore necessitated the expenditure of time and money. They could just pay their way, and what with watching and hatching they had done a good work. He felt himself very happy amongst many of the friends of his youth, and amid the beautiful scenery of his native valley. Many of them passed their days amidst the ceaseless whirr of machinery, and could therefore all the more highly appreciate the glories of Wharfedale. Mr. W. Fox also responded. He was only a junior member of the committee, but he thought it contrasted favourably with some of its predecessors. As to fish breeding, there had been much difficulty and a good deal of labour. In two years 90,000 trout fry had been turned into the river. He hoped this good work would be continued. Mr. James Suttle also replied briefly. Mr. Hart next proposed the Secretary and Treasurer, Messrs. Critchley and Crabtree, and spoke in the highest terms of their services in connection with the club. Mr. Critchley, in responding, said it was a pleasure to see so many present, but he felt some regret that those who had so generously forwarded the interests of the club in giving permission were not more strongly represented, as they would have had the heartiest welcome it was possible to give. Mr. Crabtree responded in a humorously practical speech. Mr. Wm. Kelsall responded for the riparian owners, and stated that it would give him great pleasure to communicate to them the kindly and hearty way in which their names had been received. He was sorry they were not there in force, and it was certainly their loss. Mr. Critchley then gave "The Visitors." Major Middelton said he found it difficult to express the great pleasure which it gave him in being their guest. Everything had gone off most pleasantly, and they were especially indebted to Mr. Walker for the entertainment of the evening, whilst the catering of Mr. and Mrs. Mercer and their aide-de-camp, Miss Palmer, deserved the highest eulogium he could pass upon them. He hoped the pleasant festive gathering might become an annual occurrence, and that he might always be honoured by an invitation. (Applause.) Mr. F. M. Walbran also responded. He had fished in different parts of the country, including Staffordshire, Derbyshire, and Yorkshire, and he did not know that he had fished better waters than were to be found in connection with the Appletreewick, Barden, and Burnsall Angling Club. (Applause.) He was rather sceptical for some time as to the fine grayling to be found at Burnsall, but he was now fully convinced such was the case, although he had not caught them himself, a visitor having secured some very fine ones, weighing 1¾lb. and 1½lb. respectively, and gave his testimony that he had never seen such fine grayling brought out of the Ure. Mr. W. Fox, in giving the health of Mr. N. Chippendale, Mr. Lister Robinson, and Mr. Geo. Demaine, reverted, in a few appropriate words, to the interest each of the gentlemen named had taken in the hatching of fish, but especially Mr. Chippendale, who had spared neither time nor money, and had carried out the work most efficiently. These remarks were further supported by the Chairman, and the toast was drunk with enthusiasm. Mr. Chippendale, Mr. Demaine, and Mr. Lister Robinson each replied and subsequent toasts included "The Chairman," and "The Host and Hostess." Musical selections were given at intervals by Mr. Jas. Critchley, Mr. C. H. Watson, Mr. W. H. H. Waugh (Bradford), Mr. G. Demaine; and comic sketches by Mr. Albert Walker (Otley).

### AMICABLE BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

The thirty-second annual distribution of prizes took place on Monday, Dec. 8th, when fifty-six prizes were handed over to the winners, Mr. Partrick taking the lead with the gross weight of roach, Mr. Medcalf ditto of jack, Mr. Moir ditto of bream, Mr. Dwelly ditto of perch, Mr. Harding ditto of chub, Mr. Say the heaviest one bream, Mr. Harding winning two other prizes, Mr. Partrick four ditto, Mr. Medcalf and Mr. Say three ditto; Messrs. Chevalier, F. Plumstead, Worledge, and Dwelly three each; Messrs. Robinson, jun., Dacey, A. Plumstead, Pedley, and Arnold two each; Messrs. Bryant, Taylor, Lake, Wicks, Marshall, Bond, Carrington, and Squires one each. The prizes were of the usual description, and included three one guinea prizes given by the hostess. During the distribution several songs were sung by the ladies as well as the gentlemen. Prizes were given to be fished for by Mr. Partrick, Mr. Arnold, Mr. Chevalier, Mr. A. Plumstead, Mr. Say, Mr. Medcalf, Mr. F. Plumstead, Mr. Harding, Mr. Lake, Mr. Moir, Mr. Dwelly, and Mr. Marshall. Mr. Fairbrother occupied the chair in a very able manner, and will give two prizes.—J. WORLEDGE.

### ANCHOR AND HOPE ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of the above society competed for five prizes at Tonbridge on the 7th inst., with the following result :—Mr. Hale, jun., first ; Mr. Shakel, second ; Mr. West, third ; Mr. Dipple, fourth. The following also had fish : Messrs. A. and F. Davis. A match will take place on the 21st inst., for Mr. Morgan's prize. Members are requested to attend the club for particulars as to where and how it is to be fished.—D, DAVIS, sec.

### ANGLERS' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

Since my last report I beg to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of £1 from the donation box of the Clapton Angling Society, and £1 from the donation box of the Edmonton and Tottenham Angling Society. Secretaries and friends will oblige by sending remittances for tickets at their earliest convenience.—R. GHURNEY, sec.

### THE ANGLERS' ASSOCIATION, FORESTERS' HALL, CLERKENWELL-ROAD.

The usual monthly delegate meeting will take place on Monday evening next, Dec. 15th, at 9 o'clock. The new visiting lists have been rearranged and divided into three districts. Secretaries of societies will oblige by forwarding to me at once any change of club-house or secretary, and any alteration in the addresses, so as to make the new lists as perfect as possible. The visits will commence with the new year, 1885.—R. GHURNEY, sec.

### BATTERSEA FRIENDLY ANGLING SOCIETY.

The next visit on the South London list will take place to the above club on Tuesday, December 16th. Very few members out on the 7th inst., the only ones weighing in being Mr. Martin, roach, and Mr. Ford, with dace. On December 14th there will be three prizes, for members not having won a prize this season. In consequence of Mr. Austin having broken down, and several other non-starters, I venture to predict the three following as the winners :—Mr. C. Hedges, 1st ; Mr. Robinson, 2nd ; and Mr. W. Johnson, 3rd.—A. T. SAMPSON, hon. sec.

### BIRMINGHAM PISCATORIAL ASSOCIATION.

The annual dinner of the Birmingham and Midland Counties Piscatorial Association was held at the Grand Hotel, on Thursday, Dec. 4th. Mr. Oliver Pemberton (president) occupied the chair, and amongst those present were the Rev. Dr. Crosskey, Alderman S. Edwards, Messrs. A. Parker, J. Allday, Cope, Dunn, Botteley, S. Basnett, R. Mann, Haseler, Seals, Sharp, &c. There was a good attendance. Letters of apology for non-attendance were read from the Mayor (Alderman Martineau) and the Hon. F. Hanson. Dr. Crosskey, after the loyal toasts, proposed "The Birmingham Piscatorial Association," and said that the true fisherman was, in his opinion, the man who could stand by the side of the river or stream the whole of such a day as that, and, returning in the evening without having had a bite, say that he had had a "beautiful day." (Hear, hear.) Angling was not merely catching fish. It was the close walking with Nature. The "refresher" of a day in the country by the side of the river was more than money could buy. He was delighted to see so large a number of working men devoting their Saturday afternoons to fishing excursions. He should like to see the railway companies offering better facilities to fishermen for getting into the country. (Hear, hear.) Mr. O. Pemberton replied. He read a letter from Mr. Allan Bagott, a Trent Fisheries Commissioner, stating that the Commission had lately passed a by-law, which would prohibit the use of nets which were less than 1in. in mesh when wet. By this by-law they hoped to stop the wholesale slaughter of fish by poachers. Persons using nets which were less than 1in. in mesh would be liable to a penalty of not less than £5. (Applause.) The President then presented a few prizes to several members, the Association Silver Cup being taken by Mr. Adams Parker for the best specimen fish of the season —viz., trout 2½lb. Other valuable prizes were taken by Messrs. E. Hooper, Bottleley, Thornton, Reynolds, &c. Mr. Adams Parker then proposed "The Health of the President," and after alluding to the various improvements that had taken place in the fishing, informed the company that negotiations had been entered into for the purpose of confining the swans during the spawning season, the letter of Lord Lichfield, referring to the same, causing great satisfaction. The health of the vice-president, treasurer, and hon. sec. were also honoured. The Birmingham Glee Party attended.

### BORDESLEY WALTONIANS.

The members of the above club met at host Mason's Old Lodge, Coventry-road, on Nov. 25th, to celebrate their 14th anniversary. A capital spread being placed upon the table by the worthy host, and to which, as a matter of course among a company of anglers, ample justice was done. After the withdrawal of the cloth Mr. Miles, president of the society, was voted to the chair, Mr. W. T. Howlett being voted to the vice-chair, Mr. W. H. Brecknell, the esteemed vice-president, being absent through illness. The chairman, in proposing the toast "Prosperity to the Bordesley Waltonians," dwelt upon the pleasing fact that the society was in a flourishing condition financially, that its list of members was full, while others were on the nomination list ready for enlistment whenever a vacancy occurred. He next proceeded to speak of the action the club had taken in pressing, through the Central Association, for the return to cheap fares for anglers by the London and North Western and Great Western companies, passing on to remark what he considered the wise action taken by the club in raising the minimum size of fish taken in fishing matches so as to exclude the microscopical specimens he had seen taken in other parts of the country. "The Health of the Queen," also the various officers of the society, having been drunk, some capital singing followed, a most enjoyable evening being wound up by hearty votes of thanks being given to the chairman and vice chair, also to the worthy host and hostess for their admirable catering.—E. TILDESLEY, sec.

### CITY OF LONDON ANGLING SOCIETY.

On the 30th we had four members out, Mr. Chambers being the only one to weigh in, he having roach from Amberley. On the 7th Mr. Castell had a good show of roach, dace, and perch from Roydon ; Mr. T. Payne bream and dace from Amberley ; Mr. McDonell a small jack, taken on roach tackle from St. Margaret's ; and Mr. Chambers gudgeon from Penton Hook.—CAS.

### CLAPTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The ordinary weekly meeting was held at the Swan Hotel on Monday last, Mr. George Colls in the chair. The minutes of the preceding meeting were read and signed. The secretary reported that the competition held on Saturday last was, by reason of the tempestuous weather, not satisfactory in a "fishing" point of view ; those "veterans" who did attend were rewarded with but indifferent sport, the result being that only the secretary's prize was taken, with a jack of 3¾lb., falling to the lot of Mr. H. Short. Mr. Wood had two small jack, Mr. Woodhead (not fishing in the competition) four chub, one going 2¾lb. Mr. R. Ghurney very kindly officiated as "clerk of the course," it is needless to say in a most satisfactory manner. At the conclusion an adjournment was made to the Red Lion, where ample justice was done to the substantial fare provided. Mr. H. Shaw weighed in some fine chub on Monday, and reported that at Angel-road there had been some good takes of jack (one scaling 7½lb.) and some fine chub. Mr. Ghurney attended the meeting, and was handed the collecting-box for the "Anglers' Benevolent," the contents being augmented by the members present, one sovereign being handed to Mr, Ghurney, the chairman expressing his conviction that the "Clapton" would in the future be well to the fron with their contributions to this deserving charity. Mr. Ghurney warmly thanke the members for their contribution. A cordial vote of thanks was accorded to Mr Ghurney for his valued services on the Saturday, which Mr. Ghurney responded to, saying he was always pleased to help any angling society to the best of his ability. The usual vote of thanks was accorded to the chairman, aud the proceedings terminated.—HENRY HOWSE, hon. sec.

### COBDEN ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members mustered pretty strong on the 7th inst. to take part in the contest, which took place at Taplow. As far as sport was concerned it was pretty good, for most of the members caught fish. I may say we did not have what I call good catches, but the prizes were all secured by the following members—namely, Messrs. Dunn, sen., 1st ; G. Jenkins, 2nd ; Webley, 3rd ; Tucker, 4th ; Andrews, 5th ; and Simmons, 6th.—C. REEVES, sec.

### DUKE OF NORFOLK ANGLING SOCIETY.

We had some nice fish from our waters at West Drayton on Dec. 7th—Mr. Allen having one roach that weighed 1½lb. full weight, Mr. Whitehall three nice jack, and Mr. Avon jack and perch. We fish the closing match of the season on Dec. 14th at Uxbridge for prizes consisting of pieces of beef, wine, and cigars ; the beef and a handsome lamp being the gift of our worthy host and member, Mr. Green. The roach has gone to Cooper to be preserved.—J. AVON, sec.

### GLOBE ANGLING SOCIETY.

Although the majority of our members were out on the 7th inst. to compete for the various prizes given for that day, the shows of fish were not so numerous as was anticipated, nevertheless the trays were well filled by the following gentlemen :—Mr. A. Chambers, a few splendid roach from the Stort, weighing 3lb. ; Mr. Lawrence, two small chub, 2lb. 4oz. ; Mr. J. Ballard, roach, 1lb. ; Mr. W. Brown, one roach and one dace, 12oz. ; Mr. L. Harrington, one roach, 7oz. ; Mr. H. Lake, roach, 3lb., dace, 6oz., perch, 5oz. ; Mr. S. Howell, 10lb. of pretty roach ; and your humble servant a fine tray of roach weighing 18lb.—J. J. HOLMES, sec.

### GREAT YARMOUTH PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The business this week consisted of enrolling Mr. Davis, host of the Maid's Head, Stalham, a member, and from his knowledge of the waters, and his reputation as well studying the wants of the angler, will be sufficient guarantee that he will be well patronised, as, beyond question, Stalham stands first for plenty of jack. Mr. Harrison weighed in 7¾lb. jack, Mr. Lamb 3¾lb. jack from there, and, as soon as the weather is more severe, I anticipate good baskets from that locality.—J. LARK.

### GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

The entertainment announced in the reports of the two previous meetings took place this (Tuesday) evening at the society's rooms, Masons' Hall Tavern, Masons'-avenue, Basinghall street. There was a very large attendance, the two spacious rooms belonging to the society being completely filled. A very long programme of songs and instrumental music was divided into two parts, the interval being occupied with the exhibition of some excellent dissolving views, illustrative of the Upper Thames from its source to Teddington. A brief description of each picture was given by Mr. Parker, and suitable songs were interposed. Among those who rendered help, vocally or instrumentally, must be mentioned Mrs. Atkins, Miss Layton, Miss Howse, Messrs. Chalmers, Elliott, Dean, Austin, Butler, J. E. Harding, Atkins, B. A. Parker, and Shrimpton. Messrs. Winterbottom and Brown officiated as accompanists. At the close of the entertainment Mr. Chambers, in a humorous speech, proposed a vote of thanks to the ladies and gentlemen who had so kindly contributed to the pleasures of the evening, and this having been seconded by Mr. Clarke, was carried by acclamation. A vote of thanks to the chairman was then proposed by Mr. Crumplen, seconded by Captain Alfred, and carried unanimously. Dr. Defriez, in returning thanks, explained that Dr. Brunton, who had been asked to fill the position, was unavoidably absent.—H.

### HOXTON BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

Very few fish on the 7th inst. Messrs. W. Norman and J. Huntley had jack and Mr. A. Dean roach. The Christmas prizes, which are very numerous, consisting of poultry, joints, cod fish, spirits, wines, cigars, tea, and pudding ingredients, will be fished for on Dec. 14th, at Ware, in the River Lea, the boundary from the engine house to the railway bridge below Ware town. The prizes will be distributed on Tuesday, Dec. 23rd, at the club house at 10 p.m.—R. GHURNEY, sec.

### THE LINCOLN ANGLING SOCIETY.

Our members went out fishing on the 7th inst., and met with the following result : —Mr. H. Bingle brought in from Temple some nice dace, roach, and perch, weighing in all 2lb. 12oz. ; Messrs. Embleton and Sheen some jack, weighing respectively 4lb. and 4lb. 5oz., from St. Margarets. The other members met with very poor sport.—H. BINGLE, sec.

### LIVERPOOL ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

We had again a good muster at our meeting last week, and the members seem to have fairly settled down in the Canton, and to fully appreciate its more convenient position for the majority. At this meeting the handsome and valuable bookcase, presented by Mr. Harrison and embellished by Mr. J. E. Martin (our "art member"), was formally taken over, and the library fairly inaugurated by Mr. Sergencson placing therein, on loan, for the use of members for three months, his very valuable works on angling, consisting of 24 volumes, amongst which are the following :—"Treatyse of Fysshyne with an Angle," attributed to Dame Juliana Barnes, 1450 ; "A Booke on Fishing with Hooke and Line," by Leonard Mascall, 1590 ; "The Secrets of Angling," by John Dennys, Esq., 1613 ; "The Chronicle of the Compleat Angler" of Isaak Walton and Charles Cotton ; "A Book on Angling" and "By Lake and River," Francis ; "The Angler Naturalist," "Fly Fishing and Worm Fishing," and "The Modern Practical Angler," Pennell ; "The Fly-fisher's Entomology," Ronald ; "The Practical Angler for Trout," Stewart ; "Angler's Complete Guide," Little ; "Fish and Fishing," Manley ; "British Angling Flies," Theakstone ; "The Scientific Angler," Foster ; "Guide to Rivers and Lakes" (England), Blakely ; and others. Mr. J. Evans presented the "Fly-fisher's Guide," by G. C. Bainbridge, and Mr. R. Roberts gave "Bowlker's Art of Angling." A vote of thanks was unanimously passed to Messrs. Sergencson, Evans, and Roberts for the books so kindly presented. Any members having books on fishing that they can spare, or care to part with, will oblige by bringing or sending them to the clubhouse, where they will be welcome and every care taken of them. The present quarter ends on the 18th inst., and I have respectfully to ask members in arrear to kindly "pay up," and start the next year and season with a clean page. After a remuneration had been voted the attendants at the annual dinner and other minor matters disposed of, the meeting was closed.—R. WOOLFALL, hon. sec.

### NORTH-EASTERN ANGLING SOCIETY.

Only one of our members on the war path on the 7th inst., his perseverance being rewarded with one small jack. Donors will greatly oblige, if convenient, by sending in their presents by the first day of the new year.—G. T. FLETCHER.

### NOTTINGHAM AND NOTTS ANGLERS' PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION.

The annual general meeting of the members of the above association was held at the Golden Ball, Coalpit-lane, Nottingham, on the evening of the 4th inst., under the presidency of Mr. H. Shrewsbury, who was faced in the vice-chair by Mr. R Ludwig. Mr. F. Wilkinson, the secretary, submitted the yearly report, which urged on the members present the desirability of taking into consideration the reports of the various deputations who had waited on the railway authorities in the matter of travelling privileges, and also on the Nottingham Town Council in reference to fishery rights. The report also urged the necessity of united action, and stated that negotiations were pending with a view to open up the Trent as a national river for fair and legitimate angling. Mr. Wilkinson added that proofs were not wanting that the association, in their proposed undertaking, would have the support and assistance of such kindred associations as London, Sheffield, Birmingham and Yarmouth. An animated discussion followed the reading of the report, and, on the proposition of the secretary, it was resolved to call a town's mass meeting of anglers for the purpose of considering the best means of opening up the river for angling purposes. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year :—President, Mr. Ludwig ; vice-president, Mr. Digby ; treasurer, Mr. H. Benson ; trustees, Mr. S. Dickenson and Mr. J. Grieves ; secretary, Mr. F. Wilkinson. Committee : Messrs. Whittaker, Bishop, Wilkins, Wallace, Belshaw, Arnold, Parsons, Bee, Brothwell, Wicket, and Wrightman. The committee meetings for the year will be held at the Shoulder of Mutton, Smithy-row, Nottingham.

### PECKHAM BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

Messrs. Gibbs, Gafney, and Lang took the first three prizes in the match at Kingston, the others will be fished for on the 14th, at Weybridge. Train leaves Vauxhall at 8.50. A match for a supper, Chairman's side v. Secretary's side, is spoken of : members wishing to compete will please give their names in at once. After Christmas a roach fishing match, Messrs. Page and Stidolph v. Messrs. Gafney and Duke, will take place for a money stake ; the river to be named later on.—Gadfly.

### THE PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The usual weekly meeting of this society took place at Ashley's Hotel, Covent-garden, on Monday last. Amongst those present were Messrs. Jesse, Gillatt, Foreman, H. B. Brown, Pattisson, Booker, Blundell, Huggett, Gray, Harden, Neish, Walker, Lemann, Fennings, Rev. G. Sumner, Goodger, Hill, Bennett, Aldridge, Watson, H. H. Brown, Adlington, C. C. Blundell, J. Lander (hon. sec.), &c., &c. Mr. Jesse was unanimously voted to the chair. The hon. sec. read the minutes of the previous meeting, which were duly confirmed. A letter was read from Mr. W. H. Brougham, asking The Piscatorial Society to give their usual contribution to the Thames River Keepers' dinner.—Referred to the committee. A letter was read from Mr. Oldham Chambers, secretary of National Fish Culture Association, saying that that society had forwarded us their various publications, and also inclosing two numbers of their *Journal* and a circular *re* coarse fish. Our next smoking concert takes place on the 15th inst. Members are specially invited to bring their musical friends. The concert commences at 8.30 precisely. Mr. Foreman will not wait! One A.M. said he had been fishing in Derbyshire and Staffordshire—in the Dove. He had the two best days in some of the best water. On the first day he killed eight brace—largest fish over 1½lb., and several others nearly that size. The next day he also did well, capturing ten brace, averaging the same weight as on the day previously, the flies used being the winter dun, also the green bumble, and the honey dun bumble. He perhaps lost a few fish with rather rough handling, but as time pressed he thought it the better way to get the fish out as soon as possible. In those November days they only rise one or two hours in the middle of the day ; they were in half-depth water—not in shallows or deeps, but between. He also fished other waters, but the weather was too unpropitious for good sport. He recommended certain stations on the Wye to the members of this society. Mr. Pattisson has been fishing at Hertford for roach, dace, and pike. He took a good quantity of roach and five dace, the largest dace over 12oz. The chairman proposed the health of the successful anglers, Messrs. Foreman and Huggett. Mr. Foreman showed one pike, 4lb. 5oz., from Thames ; Mr. Huggett chub, 8lb. 13oz., and roach from Lodden. Mr. Foreman thanked the members for their kindness. He and his friend H. B. Brown went to Maidenhead, and fished under Cliveden Wood ; he had two runs only during the day, only getting the one fish. Mr. Brown also took a fish, but too small to show. Mr. Huggett thanked the gentlemen for their kindness. He had not had such good sport as usual ; the fish were not well on. The weather was all that could be desired, and he heard the skylarks mount and sing as if in the days of spring ; he took the fish with greaves. One A.M. produced some twisted lines for the inspection of members ; they were not of silk, but were exceedingly good and strong, being cable laid. He intends to use them instead of silk for the future. The Chairman, rising, gave the toast of "Continued Prosperity to The Piscatorial Society," which was responded to most heartily. Mr. H. B. Brown proposed the health of the chairman, and that gentleman having replied, a very pleasant evening's business was brought to a close.—T. H.

### PRINCESS OF WALES ANGLING SOCIETY.

The usual bi-weekly meeting of the above society was held on December 7th, at the Society's room, George-street, Portman-square. The following members weighed in :—Mr. A. Porter, three nice jack, 14¾lb., and 8lb. of roach ; Mr. Gordon, 4lb. of roach from Uxbridge ; Mr. E. Porter, 4lb of dace from Richmond. All members are earnestly and particularly requested to attend on Thursday, the 18th inst., as business of urgent importance is to be brought forward by the secretary.—C. Attewell.

### PRIDE OF DERBY ANGLING CLUB (DERBY).

The ordinary fortnightly meeting of this society, which numbers nearly 100 members, took place on Monday evening last at the Old English Gentleman inn, and was well attended, there being about 40 members and friends present. Mr. J. Cadman occupied the chair. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. Several matters of importance were discussed, in addition to which Mr. J. O. Manton and Mr. Sigall were proposed as members, and their election will be proceeded with at the next meeting. Mr. Martin also explained his new harness tackle for pike fishing. After the business had been transacted, a smoking concert was held, and proved very successful. Mr. J. Bland opened the ball with "The Spell is Broken," and afterwards gave "Good-bye, Sweetheart," in capital style. Mr. J. Tomlinson rendered "She Wore a Wreath of Roses" ; Mr. Peach gave the "Four Jolly Smiths" ; Mr. Bradley, "The Anchor's Weighed ;" and Mr. Pountain, "Tom Bowling." Mr. J. Saxton rendered the "Little Hero" very tastefully ; and Mr. Bland gave the last song of the evening, "Mary Dunbar," which fairly "brought down the house." The National Anthem was then sung, and the company dispersed much pleased with the evening's amusement. Mr. Jackson presided at the piano in his usual capital style.—Thos. Whyman, hon. sec.

### RICHMOND PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

There was a roach competition amongst the members of this prosperous society on Wednesday last, for the gross weight of fish, and the measurement to be not less than 8in. in the extreme length, which is 1in. more than the Thames standard. It was open to the Thames, and the hours of competition were fixed from 9 a.m. till 5 p.m., one rod only to be used, and the fish to be measured and weighed in at the Station Hotel not later than 10 p.m. The entrance fee was 2s. 6d., and there were three prizes. Mr. A. J. Little presided at the meeting in the evening, with Mr. H. Dickinson in the vice-chair. There was a very excellent attendance of members, including Messrs. H. B. Terrill, H. Taman, J. H. Gaunt, H. E. Gaynor, W. H. Brougham, Marjason, W. Johnson, E. H. Smith, Scantlebury, Michels, &c., &c. The fish were weighed in in the following order :—Mr. John Wotton, eleven roach, weighing 3lb. 11oz., the largest 10½oz. ; Mr. Marjason, nine roach, weighing 2lb. 14½oz. ; Mr. W. Johnson, 17 roach, weighing 6lb. 11oz., the largest 11oz. ; Mr. A. J. Little, ten roach, weighing 2lb. 13½oz. ; and Mr. E. H. Smith, 116 roach, weighing 39lb. 4oz., the largest 13oz. The day in the tidal waters was a very unfavourable one, owing to the gale of wind and the heavy stream through the opening of the weir, Mr. Johnson getting nearly all his fish in the last half-hour. The splendid show of roach made by Mr. E. H. Smith was made at Cookham. The prizes were awarded as follows :—First, Mr. E. H. Smith ; second, Mr. W. Johnson ; third, for largest specimen, Mr. E. H. Smith.—B.

### STOKE NEWINGTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of the above fished at St. Margaret's on Nov. 30th for three prizes, only one being taken by Mr. W. Robinson ; the remaining two, with one given by Mr. G. Whitmore, will be fished for on the 14th inst., go where you please, the heaviest gross weight of any kind of fish to take the prizes in rotation.—T. Gretton.

### UNITED BROTHERS, DEPTFORD.

A little rain in the week took some of our members out on Dec. 7th, but not much sport. Mr. G. Belton, roach and dace from the Lea. In the week we have had some nice dace from the Ravensbourne.—H. Tyler.

### WOOLWICH INVICTA ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of the above club had a competition for several handsome prizes at Twickenham on the 7th inst., Mr. G. Walker taking the first prize, Mr. H. Davis the 2nd ; Mr. G. Knight, 3rd ; Mr. F. Latham, 4th ; Mr. Cooke taking the hon. members' prize. Messrs. Lindley, Perry, Sillery, and Timpson also weighed in fish. Messrs. B. Miles and W. Hart, of the Woolwich Brothers Angling Society, accompenied the above, they having a very handsome take of dace. Amongst the fish taken were some very good-sized roach and dace. Mr. C. Miles, Queen's Head, Twickenham, supplied punts and attendance.—F. Latham, hon. sec.

### WEST GREEN ANGLING SOCIETY.

Several members out on the 7th inst., but only two weighing in fish—Mr. Hoy, with a nice brace of Jack from Tottenham, and J. Guyver, with one jack scaling just under 5lb. Mr. Elder, late vice-president, was unanimously elected president, Mr. Woodward Dudley being elected vice-president ; Mr. Thomas Dudley being elected auditor in place of Mr. Golding, retired.—J. Guyver, sec.

## THE PROPOSED TAY SALMON FISHING BILL.

The following is the report of the committee appointed to consider the proposed new Bill for the Tay salmon fishery district, and which was recently submitted to a meeting of the whole proprietors of salmon fisheries in the district :—

At the meeting of proprietors of salmon fisheries in the Tay district, held on Aug. 1 last for the purpose of considering the heads of a Bill for amending the present Salmon Fishery Acts which had been prepared and circulated by the district Board, it was remitted to that Board and to the new Board then to be shortly elected to consider the heads of the Bill in the light of the discussion and votes which took place at that meeting, and at the two meetings of upper and lower proprietors for the election of a new Board that remit was repeated and confirmed. The newly-elected Board were thus in the position, as regards the Bill, of a committee of the proprietors to reconsider the heads of a Bill to communicate with parties having different interests and views, and to report results to the general body of the proprietors. The first meeting of the new Board was held on the 19th ultimo, when intimation was made to them that the Bill would be opposed at every stage, and not on any trivial, unimportant ground, but on the very essence of the whole proposal—viz., the exchange of weekly for annual close time, or, in other words, the extension of the weekly close time and extension of the annual fishing season in lieu thereof. The Board saw at once that such an opposition put the matter beyond the region of compromise, and as there was no prospect of convincing the parties whose opposition had been intimated after full discussion by correspondence of the point at issue, the only course open to the Board is to report the fact, and that while they would have been ready to do their utmost to make the minor details of the Bill meet the views of parties and carry through an unopposed Bill, it was beyond their powers to carry through Parliament a Bill to which opposition had been so distinctly intimated, or to incur responsibility for the expense of such a Parliamentary contest. The Tay Fishery Board make this report with much regret. They hoped that the proposed changes would have been directly beneficial to parties in the upper districts, and also to some of the lower proprietors above and below Newburgh, both of which classes of proprietors have complained loudly that recent legislation has not been beneficial to them in the way that was expected and intended ; and the Board also hoped that the change would be of great value to the whole river (even independently of works for opening up new breeding grounds) by increasing the produce, which, as regards numbers of fish taken, has not been improved under the present arrangement ; and they further expected and hoped that such a result would become very much greater by the opening of the Tummel and other tributaries from which salmon are at present excluded, and by the erection of fishways to effect that object. The Board consider that until the changes contemplated by the Bill are carried out, little advantage can be derived from these expedients, and it is therefore matter of regret to some extent that the expense of bringing Colonel Macdonald to Scotland, and other expenses in relation to his visit and fishway, have been incurred, if the object is to be defeated by opposition or failure to promote the Bill.

Having explained this position of matters, the Board will leave it to the general body of proprietors to deal with the Bill and the opposition to it as they think best. When the Act of 1858 was got, the expense of it as an unopposed Bill was £400, and as all parties expected to share the benefit of it equally, the expense was paid from the assessment ; and, probably, if the present Bill had been so treated, no objection would have been made to a repetition of such an arrangements. But the case of an opposed Bill is very different, and the advantages to be derived from the Bill now under consideration are not so equally distributed as in 1858. It would, therefore, be necessary that if a contest is thought of, the expense should be allocated, in some degree, according to the extent of *direct* benefit to be derived from the change, for it would not be fair that a park whose present assessable fishing valuation is £20, which may by the operation of the Act become worth £100 (thereby deriving a benefit of £80), should pay upon £20, while proprietors of from £2,000 to £3,000 rentals, who have no prospect of direct benefit, and may be losers by the improvement of fishings above and below theirs, should pay upon their whole rentals. These are matters which will require full consideration in the view of intimated opposition, and they are now pointed out by us in order that proprietors who are disposed to take an interest in the matter may have the point fully brought before them, and be ready to consider it at the meeting. P. Mc.G.

The truth of the old saying, "It is an ill wind that blows no one any good," has been abundantly proved by the Newbury Angling Association, who, owing to the excessive drought in various places, have been enabled during this past fortnight to turn no fewer than 121½ brace of splendid trout, from ½lb. to 1lb. weight into their trout streams. The Association owe a deep debt of gratitude to Mr. Hippisley, of Lambourn-place, for the gift of 60 brace, and to Mr. Hedges, of Bucklebury, for the gift of 61½ brace. The Shaw stream thus bids fair to become one of the best preserves in this part of the country.—*Newbury Weekly News.*

## ANNUAL DINNER OF THE NORWICH PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

THAT celelebrated haunt of the Norfolk and Norwich brethren of the rod, the Walnut Shades, Norwich, presented an appearance of unwonted gaiety and liveliness on Thursday the 4th inst., when the members of the Norwich Piscatorial Society, with their friends, met to celebrate their annual dinner.

Mr. E. Hartwell Corbyn, one of the oldest members of the society, having become host of this rendezvous of anglers since the society held their last dinner, surpassed himself in his efforts in the way of catering, the fine dining-room presenting the most *recherche* appearance, and every possible arrangement for the comfort and ease of the guests had evidently been a matter of careful consideration.

The programme of the evening's proceedings, gem of workmanship, bearing on the front a marine scene in steel engraving, and on the back an exquisite design lithographed from the charming sketches by Mr. S. F. Howitt, of two favourite angling spots, showed that our anglers were not wanting in pluck, as the toasts to be "tackled" numbered thirteen, with twenty-six responses.

Mr. Charles Daniels, President of the Society, occupied the chair, faced by Mr. Fred Parker in the vice, and there were present :—Mr. I. O. H. Taylor, F.R.H.S., Mr. Alderman Newman, Mr. Councillor Matthews, Mr. Geo. Daniels, Mr. G. C. Davies, Mr. C. Laight, of Redditch, Mr. C. J. Greene, Mr. Whincop, Mr. T. Allen, Mr. S. F. Howitt, Mr. F. Knight, Mr. C. Mackie, Mr. A. Sim, Mr. W. Page, Mr. Russell, Mr. Wigg, Mr. T. Dunmore, Mr. F. Lacey, Mr. H. Lacey, Mr. English, Mr. C. Page, Mr. Hockey, Mr. Hewitt, Mr. E. H. Corbyn, Mr. Plummer, Mr. O. B. Wilson, Mr. Barnes, Mr. H. C. Townshend, Mr. R. Otty, Mr. W. Gill, Mr. W. Butler, Mr. McWright, Mr. R. Bradly, Mr. F. F. Bradly, Mr. Rice, Mr. Norris, Mr. Cushing, Mr. Beeston, Mr. E. H. Capon, Mr. Perowne, Mr. J. Barnes, Mr. Gathergood, Mr. Hewson, Mr. R. Page, Mr. A. Bunnett, Mr. J. Weyer, Mr. W. G. Capon, &c.

"The Queen and the rest of the Royal Family" having been given by the President in a well-chosen speech, and duly honoured, "The Army, Navy, and Reserve Forces" was next proposed, and was ably responded to by Quartermaster English, N.A.V., and Corporal Capon, V.B.N.R. Mr. Tom Allen, in proposing "The Mayor and Corporation of Norwich," evinced a thorough knowledge of the affairs of and love for the old city, which was evidently fully reciprocated by the responders, Mr. Newman, J.P., and Mr. Councillor Matthews, the former of whom dwelt upon the antiquity of municipal bodies and the great benefits they conferred in times gone by, and said that the same spirit which actuated leading citizens in the past was manifested by those of the present day. Mr. Councillor Matthews spoke on the recent great improvements made in the city, and humorously referred to the incessant and arduous duties in connection with committee work.

Mr. G. C. Davies, in giving "The Yare Preservation and Kindred Societies," said that such associations had given a high moral tone of sportsmanlike feeling to anglers generally. As a yachtsman, he gave his angling friends some very valuable suggestions as to mooring their boats out of the way of sailing craft, and remarked that he was certain those gentlemen who indulged in yachting would extend every courtesy to fishermen.

Mr. C. J. Greene (Yare Preservation Society), Mr. J. J. Rice (East Anglican Piscatorial Society), and Mr. G. G. Whincop (Champion Angling Club) responded.

The familiar and genial presence of Mr. Robert Moll, the secretary of the Norwich Angling Club and local correspondent of the FISHING GAZETTE, was missed—his absence being owing to indisposition.

Mr. I. O. H. Taylor proposed "The Norwich Piscatorial Society," and expressed his pleasure at attending the meeting, because this association was an offspring of the Yare Preservation Society. Such societies were doing an excellent and valuable work, not only in promoting sport, but in improving the character of anglers, for when a man joined such institutions he was bound over, as it were, to keep the peace by fishing in a legitimate manner. (Hear, hear.) He gave "The Health of Mr. Capon, the hon. secretary."

The President said that every member appreciated the duties performed by Mr. Capon, and, as a slight token of their regard for him, he had much pleasure in asking that gentleman to accept of a present that took the form of a silver teapot and a pair of equestrian bronzes.

Mr. W. G. Capon, the society's popular secretary, in acknowledging the presentation, expressed his surprise and pleasure at the kindness of the members, and said that on looking round the board, seeing so many smiling faces, and thinking that the face was indicative of the mind, recalled to memory Shakespeare's words on mercy in the trial scene in *The Merchant of Venice*, "It blesseth him that gives and him that takes." In this instance he believed the pleasure was twofold—as it pleased him to accept the presentation, so it pleased the members to give. (Applause.) Mr. Capon promised that by his acts he would endeavour to merit their respect and esteem in the future as in the past. With respect to the society, he reported that it has just experienced the most successful season it had ever known; several valuable papers had been read by various members, and two fishing matches had been contested. The first match, held at Horning Ferry, brought over 40 members into competition; and the second, in which forty-two members competed, was held at Buckenham. At the latter match, the challenge trophy was competed for besides twenty other prizes. (Applause.)

Mr. C. J. Greene proposed "The Health of the President," and said that Mr. Daniels was a true sportsman, and it was a convincing proof of the respect in which the club held him, that since it had been established it had year after year elected him as its president. He hoped Mr. Daniels would long continue to occupy the post he now so ably filled. (Applause.)

Mr. G. C. Davies said he could not allow this toast to pass without saying that one of the most interesting chapters in his book, "The Rivers and Broads of Norfolk," was written by Mr. Daniels. It was a description of a sunset he saw while fishing on the Yare, and one of the reviewers of the work accorded special praise to this particular chapter.

The President, in acknowledging the toast, said that he appreciated the honour which the members had conferred upon him by repeatedly electing him to this office. They had in Norwich about 48 associations formed on a similar basis as this, with a membership of between 1,400 and 1,500 members of the adult population of the city. The meetings were held in taverns and inns; but it was a significant fact that never before had Norwich been so free from crime and drunkenness than at the present day, and it spoke volumes for the excellent services these clubs did in promoting good-fellowship, moderation, and intellectual intercourse amongst the members. (Hear, hear.) Having referred to the natural beauties of our broads and rivers, Mr. Daniels said he was very pleased with the good-fellowship existing among the members and with the harmonious working of this club. (Applause.) In conclusion, he gave "The Health of the Vice-President," and Mr. Parker also replied.—The remaining toasts were "The Trade and Commerce of Norwich," "The Committee," "The Visitors," "The Host and Hostess," and "The Ladies."

The musical arrangements contributed in a very great degree to the success of the meeting, the programme containing several choice *morceaux*, notably Mr. Hewson's delightful rendering of "The Lost Chord" and "A Winter Story"; while Mr. C. Campling sung Corney Grain's well-known "Three Fishermen," and as an encore gave, with capital effect, "Always go Home to Tea." Mr. E. Hartwell Corbyn, now in the front rank as an effective tenor, sang, with rare power and sweetness, "The Death of Nelson," and "Hearts of Oak" received the usual good treatment from Mr. F. F. Bradly.

Mr. Hewson's whistling solo, a performance of great merit, was much appreciated, and the novel dental solo of Mr. F. Knight was received with applause. Mr. Tom Dunmore, the buffo singer, contributed two comic songs in his usual stirring style; while Mr. Beeston, the Poet Laureate of Norwich anglers, convulsed the room by one of his topical productions. A violin solo by Mr. W. E. Tuddenham agreeably varied the proceedings, and the masterly performance of Mr. Arthur Bunnett on the pianoforte added much to the harmony of the night. A recitation by Mr. E. H. Capon was also well received.—A. S.

EIGHTH YEAR OF PUBLICATION.

# THE DOUBLE ILLUSTRATED WINTER NUMBER OF THE

# Fishing Gazette

WILL BE PUBLISHED ON

## DECEMBER 20TH.

Among the Special Features in this Number will be—

A PORTRAIT AND BIOGRAPHICAL NOTICE OF

**EDWARD BIRKBECK, Esq., M.P.,**

Chief Promoter of the Great International Fisheries Exhibition of 1883, &c., &c.

A PORTRAIT AND BIOGRAPHICAL NOTICE OF

**THOMAS SPRECKLEY, Esq.,**

President of the Thames Angling Preservation Society, &c.

AN ILLUSTRATED ARTICLE ON

**SALMON FISHING,**

By Mr. GEO. M. KELSON,

Author of "Odds and Ends in Salmon Fishing," &c., &c.

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Author of "Puck on Pegasus," "The Modern Practical Angler," &c., Illustrated.

**NOTES on SOME ANGLING EXCURSIONS,**

BY THE EDITOR.

Illustrations of the King Carp [Cyprinus Rex Cyprinorum], the Common Carp, the Crucian Carp, the Pike Perch, the Pope or Ruffe, the Stone Loach, Young Trout in various stages of growth.

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Reports from the Principal Angling Clubs in London and the Country.

**Correspondence on Angling Matters.**
**Notices of Tackle, Books, &c, &c.**

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N.B.—Advertisers in this Number desiring Notice of their Articles should send Samples to the Editor at the above Address.

## RISING OF THE SEVERN AND REMARKABLE ESCAPE.—EIGHT HOURS IN THE WATER.

Owing to the recent snow and rains the floods from the country have caused the Severn and Verniew to rise to an unusual height, and in some places the banks have been overflowed, the low-lying fields being partially under water. A remarkable escape from drowning occurred on Friday night near Pool Quay. It seems that as a man named Daniel Edwards, of Guilsfield, near Welshpool, was returning home between 10 and 11 at night, he by some means got into the Severn, and the force of the current took him down the stream for a considerable distance. Near the railway bridge he fortunately caught hold of a bush by the riverside, to which he clung, and remained hanging until the water subsided. His perilous position was discovered on the following morning by a man named Richard Davies, who was attracted by Edwards' cries for help; obtaining a ladder he succeeded in getting him out at 7 o'clock on Saturday morning, after he had been in the river eight hours at the least. Edwards has only one arm, a circumstance which must have made his enforced hanging by the bush for so long a time a severe muscular strain almost unendurable.

---

A Good Shark Story.—The Gloucester (Mass.) *Advertiser* is responsible for the following: One of the crew of the schooner *Francis W. Homans*, of this port, informs us that on the recent trip to Georges they caught a large shark and cut his head off, which they left on board and threw the body overboard. Ten minutes after, to the great surprise of all hands, the shark was seen swimming alongside without his head, and remained in sight three-quarters of an hour. This seems incredible, but several of the crew substantiate it. Captain John Hawson informs us that he has witnessed the same feat on the west coast of Africa—when the crew would catch sharks and cut their heads off, the fish would swim off as if nothing had occurred.

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See also notices in the Fishing Gazette for Dec. 17, 1881; June 28th, 1882; July 1, 1882; and March 8th, 1884.

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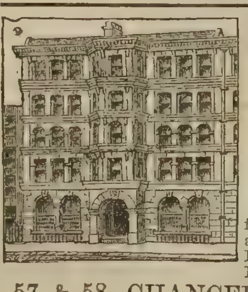

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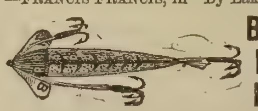

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Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only, and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith. Unless this rule be adhered to, no notice will be taken of such communications.

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# The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1884.

## THE FISHERIES DIPLOMA.

"LONG-EXPECTED come at last!" will be the expression of recipients of the above. It was to be such an elaborate and beautiful work of art that months would be required to produce it. As a matter of fact, it has taken over a year to "hatch out," and everyone will be disappointed to find it is only an ordinary black and white print, which could have been produced far more effectively in a quarter of the time by a dozen firms we could name.

We think Mr. Linley Sambourne has cause to complain of this weak and imperfect reproduction of his very spirited and comprehensive design; he has traversed the whole world of waters, and very happily combined all their poetical and practical features. Water deities and sprites entwine themselves gracefully among their aquatic subjects, and are supported by all the paraphernalia of fishing.

## SOME ANGLING REMINISCENCES.

BY R. B. MARSTON.

THE following notes do not pretend to be more than sketches from memory, given in the hope that they may be useful, and perhaps interesting, to some of my readers. To me they recall the details and experiences of many and many a pleasant angling holiday spent with some enthusiastic brother of the rod amid that lovely and varied country scenery which, in my opinion, lends the sport of angling its greatest charms. It seems to me, in spite of what is sometimes said to the contrary, that every angler—and especially every town angler—must of necessity be a lover of nature; and the humbler the angler, the harder and more dreary his everyday life, the more does he appreciate those breaks in the cloud when, in place of the grimy walls which shut out light, and air, and health, his eyes wander over the features of some bit of country landscape. It is not those who can express their delight in these things who alone can appreciate them; it is not necessary to know the name of a flower, a bird, or an insect to be able to see their beauty. You might think, perhaps, as the night mail hurries you through the Black Country, and you catch a glimpse here and there of half-naked men wielding sledge-hammers, their forms thrown into ruddy relief by the forge fire, that their thoughts were as heavy as their work; but thousands of them are genuine anglers, and if you could look into their brains you would find there pictures of scenes by brook and river as vivid as painter or poet could reproduce. I think it was Mr. Geen who, when advocating at a public meeting greater freedom for coarse fish anglers and more protection for their fish, said a large employer of labour in Sheffield had informed him that his steadiest and hardest working hands were anglers. I can bear testimony to the fact that in my many rambles I have met a larger proportion of genuine disciples of old Izaak among the humbler devotees than in those of higher pretensions. We all of us know how difficult it is to get decent fishing in England now, and how much more limited is the chance of our poorer brethren of the rod; and I think it is the duty of everyone who feels any interest in the welfare of by far the largest class of anglers—viz., the poorer ones—to do all he can to induce them to remain anglers by improving and extending their opportunities for fishing.

My first experience of fishing was when a very small boy, nearly thirty years ago, in a pond in Shropshire well stocked with Prussian carp and newts or "askels," as we used to call them. The fish and askels bit freely, and we youngsters were thoroughly imbued with the angling virus; but it "took" best in the case of cousin Sam and myself; for many years afterwards—in fact, until he went as a man to America, and died in the wilds of Tennessee, we never lost a chance of fishing together when we got it. Through the same farm in which Long Meadow Pool is situated, or as much as is now left of it by the widening of the railway, runs the fishful Onny Brook. We had cast longing eyes on its quiet stretches and rippling streams, but the "powers that be" had less fear of our getting into danger on the banks of the shallow old pond. Our catches of pond fish were always given to the wife of one of the farm labourers, who professed to be mightily pleased with them and praised our skill. "But why doan't 'e catch some o' they fine trouts 'i the bruck? I be zure ye'll get some down there 'i the cow paster," pointing across the meadow to where the alders and willows marked the course of the stream. This was the very thing we longed to do; these encouraging words fired our zeal. But though the pond had lost its attractions, it was years before our patience was rewarded with anything but minnows, eels, and "rough 'uns"—the common term in Shropshire for any fish with rough scales. One year my father had brought down from London a new fly-rod, and it was my greatest delight to watch him thrash away; nor shall I ever forget the first fish I saw hooked with a fly. It was a big chub, and the state of excitement "the Amateur Angler" got into over that fish was only equalled when he caught his first trout in Dovedale the other day. The A. A. could jump almost any ditch in those days; but I was lost in admiration, not unmixed with fear, when I saw him spring clean into the boughs of an old sally tree overhanging the brook. It spoke wonders for his tackle that nothing was broken, and there was the fish still splashing on the surface; but Walton himself could not have expected to land it after such a gymnastic manœuvre, when he had all he could do to keep from falling into the water, and to our deep disappointment the fish got off. After that I used to "borrow" that rod, and am afraid I rapidly—and vainly—used up the governor's stock of flies in the attempt to capture a trout. At last, one hot summer's day, when I had almost given up hope, I saw a great trout sailing about on a shallow. Almost despairingly I cast my flies over him, when, to my utter astonishment and no slight consternation, he rose and gulped down a big red-spinner. For one second I felt a cold shiver go through me, and the next that trout was gasping high and dry on the ground. A shout of victory brought my companions, who were bathing in the pool above, around me. "Caught him with fly," was all I could say, and there was the fly in his jaw to prove the almost incredible fact. "He must have been blind!" said Sam, quite seriously. But the day I caught that trout—and I expect he was fully as old as I was—I felt I could call myself a fly-fisher. Every chance after that found me thrashing away; and having no one to teach me, I gradually learned from that best of all teachers—experience—something of how to catch trout, but a great deal more of their haunts and habits. A year or so after this I discovered in my father's library a fat little book labelled "Walton's and Cotton's Complete Angler." It was on the top shelf, and it was only by climbing on to the back of an armchair I could reach it. My thirst for angling information nearly led me into breaking my neck, as it often has done since, for the smooth-rounded mahogany slipped from under my foot, and Walton and I came down with a crash. But what a treasure I had found! It was a very pretty 32mo. half-bound edition, which had just been published by Messrs. Bell and Daldy and my father's firm, with capital illustrations of Walton and Cotton and the different fish. Here was the very mentor I wanted. It lies before me now showing signs of age and use, and, curiously enough, the first words I opened on just now is where Peter tells Piscator "for his encouragement, that his fortune has made him happy to be scholar to such a master; a master that knows as much both of the nature and breeding of fish as any man, and can also tell him as well how to catch and cook them, from the minnow to the salmon, as any that I ever met withal." How many thousands of piscators have since then blessed their good fortune in having found such a master!

I simply devoured Walton and Cotton, and never for an instant grudged it many a whacking and other punishment at school, righteously earned through studying fish and fishing instead of French and Latin. The more experience one gets in angling the more can one appreciate the "Complete Angler"; the early veneration of its practical part fades as you begin to think you know more about it than Walton did; then you feel the charm of its style; and finally, after traversing the wide field of angling literature, you come to acknowledge how really "complete" it is. Details have been elaborated, but in its main features angling is now much as it was in Walton's day. To kill a good trout or other fish on *single hair* is still reckoned the highest proof of angling skill. How I should like to try that artificial minnow he describes:

> "It was made by a handsome woman that had a fine hand and a live minnow lying by her; the mould or body of the minnow was cloth, and wrought upon, or over it, thus with a needle: the back of it was very sad French green silk, and paler green silk towards the belly, shadowed as perfectly as you can imagine just as you see a minnow. The belly was wrought also with a needle, and it was, a part of it, white silk, and another part of it with silver thread; the tail and fins were of a quill which was shaven thin; the eyes were of two little black beads; and the head was so shadowed, and all of it so curiously wrought, and so exactly dissembled, that it would beguile any sharp-sighted trout in a swift stream."

Of course it would kill. I wish that "handsome woman"[*] was still living!

Soon after I discovered Walton I was at school at Croydon. A schoolfellow had some relatives at Beddington, and asked me to spend a half-holiday there. He borrowed an old fly-rod and reel and I found the flies—blue duns, I remember. Mr. McRae's house is on an island, as many of my readers know; at that time the bit of water here by the road in front of the house was almost free—*i.e.*, you had only to ask permission to fish it (anglers were not so numerous then as now). There were several good fish rising, and, greatly to my own astonishment, I got a brace and a half in a very few minutes. It was a new experience to me to see the trout before catching them, and with no fringe of alders to hide behind. They did not do this in the Onny Brook; there I had learned that the only way to get them in the pools was in a stiff breeze, or by dapping over the alders. My friend was evidently not quite pleased at my success, for he had tried times out of number in vain, and suggested that we should try the mill-tail with an artificial minnow. As this was against orders—in fact, considered rank poaching by our host—I suppose that was why I fell in with the suggestion at once. I had a guttapercha minnow, and in a very few minutes it was spinning down the rapid mill-tail at the back of the house. I ought to say I had previously had a little experience in minnow-fishing, and caught a few trout spinning in the rapid parts of the Onny. At the second cast an enormous trout followed the minnow, and gave me such a turn that I stopped drawing it, and of course he turned tail; then I cast the minnow again carefully up under the camp sheathing, and out came a monster, seized the bait, and we both gave an unfortunate involuntary shout. Directly over the mill-tail was a window, and at it appeared our host. I am sure now he would have enjoyed seeing the sport, but I felt so conscience-stricken that I dropped the point of the rod, and the fish shook the minnow out. "Now, youngsters, if you don't look sharp you'll miss the train," was all the reprimand we got. But time and fish have changed since then. Twenty years afterwards, casting a long line and dry fly up stream, I thought myself lucky in getting a brace or two of fish out of the same water. They are 'cute enough now at any time; but late in the season, after months of persistent thrashing from clever hands, your Wandle trout develops a sagacity which you may often in vain try to overcome.

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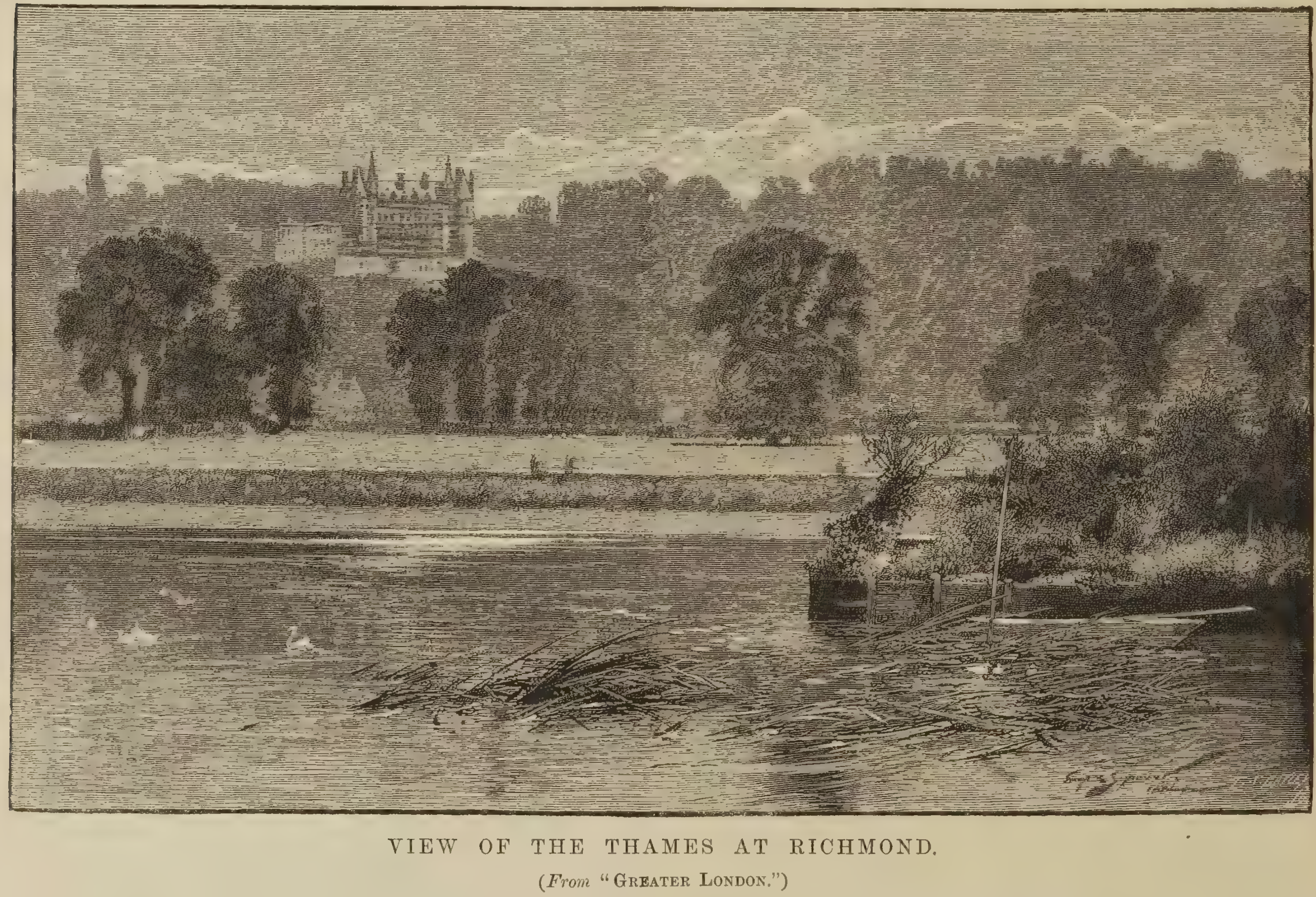
[*] My better-half happened to look over my shoulder just now and saw this wish. I had to explain, and am told I am "a bookworm, and writing pad, and fishing mad."



VIEW OF THE THAMES AT RICHMOND.

(*From* "Greater London.")

In subsequent notes I hope to give some particulars respecting waters I have fished in every part of the country.

(*To be continued.*)

## ODDS AND ENDS IN SALMON FISHING.

By Geo. M. Kelson.—(No. 7.)

One more year is gently raising its wings and gliding into the endless realms of eternity, and "Merry Christmas," with all the usual ills, pills, bills, is wending its way again into what may almost be termed the melancholy season of salmon and of fishermen. In his repose, how could the angler's days which succeed so many brilliant triumphs be quite free from gloomy reaction? Indeed, if the manifold contemplation of all past pleasures flow on in the shadowy vale of sadness at times, and rob us now and again of a gentle sigh or two, as if to stir its silent yet authoritative disposition, it is, on other occasions, a sweet enjoyment, and such a satisfaction to have a pensive and lively remembrance of our fond and engaging achievements.

However, in this period of our leisure, when beside the rapid stream we are replaced by the wild fowl seeking its food, driven by stress of weather from frozen marshes, but finding little shelter beneath the naked twigs—and even Nature, in her sure reason, after coaxing everything into harmony, is calmly resting in her wintry sleep—we, in all glowing Christmas feeling, meeting true and winning fresh friends, are as usual ever ready to trace whatever amuses or is likely to improve us.

The Gazette (may I just mention this little weekly visitor, so proud of its wide welcome?) complacently regards itself as rendering some assistance to all anglers, besides endeavouring to cultivate that mutual good-will which this season of the year especially commemorates. In its pages—of a truth—its aim is to inspire a constant flow of content. In its voice of earnest reason it gives due allowance and tenderly regards the failings of some, while of necessity it knows that no living angler is perfectly free from fault. And in wishing its readers in all sincerity a Merry Christmas and many Happy New Years, it has the satisfaction of feeling deeply conscious of its thorough impartiality—conscious that by its never-ending flow of interest, fact, and precept it is building up a pillar of knowledge, not easily overthrown, to guide its students' steps aright.

In postponing to-day further remarks upon wading, and in opening the subject at issue which the illustration foreshadows, I desire to prepare the way, for the moment, by alluding to committees of associations.

Whilst recognising their difficulty in laying down infallible rules for unerring policy—easy enough in principle, though not in practice—I, for one, am, at any rate, convinced that our pleasure should be measured by a much larger scale, and diffused over a wider extent.

Committees free from all control are a little bit apt to be prejudiced, and led sometimes—though in most cases with the best intentions—by a few of their prominent members.

Difficult as it may be to push one from cherished beliefs, what—let me ask—is the least use of delusive and arbitrary rules which frustrate so much of our sport?

For instance, Nottingham fishing, we know, is prohibited in most salmon rivers, and is never seen except in private water.

Why should we thus have to skip over magnificent stretches that often hold no end of fish—perhaps three-fourths of our beat, or even more—where the fly is absolutely useless?

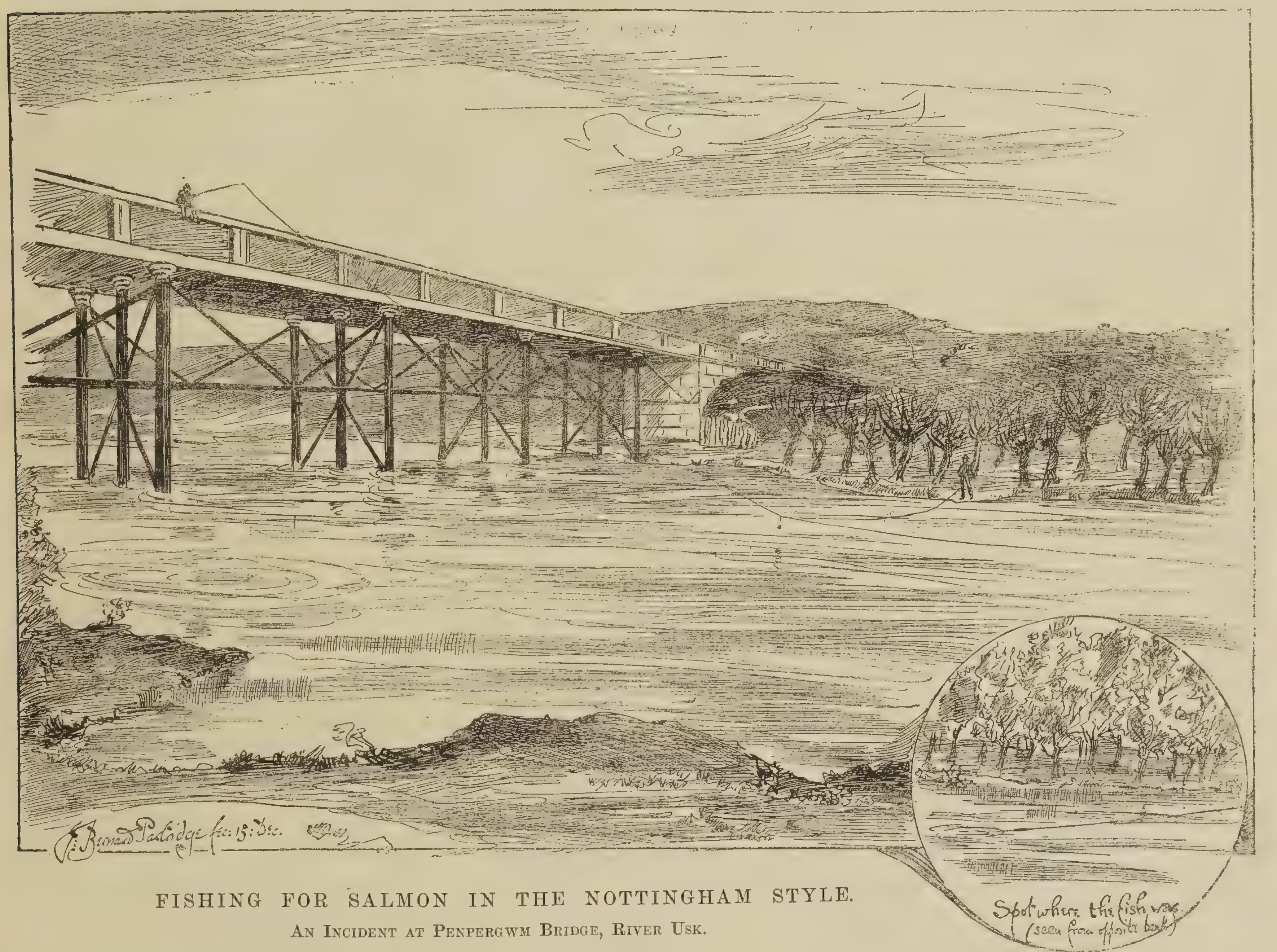
Is it because the art and pleasure of Nottingham fishing is not considered; or, if so, misunderstood?

To have worms, prawns, and all kinds of artificial spinning baits at work in the named catches would be a foolish idea, never to enter our heads. But when the water is so low that fly-fishing is a farce and the precious prawn simply a certainty, why should we remain idle day after day ?—why ? Who *could* understand ? I really cannot.

Obviously, the question can rest but little longer, nor would it have laid dormant so long were committees fully alive to the magnitude of the interests at stake, for not only is this style of fishing sportsmanlike, but he only has a glimpse of the pleasures our sport affords who is unskilled in this delicate, remunerative, and exciting employment.

I need say no more than to confidently hope that committees will perceive during the next few weeks—before the season opens—the policy and propriety of abandoning their unwise opposition to this very pleasant and diversified mode of angling.

No feat which testifies more strikingly to the combined influence of angling genius and self-command can be more significant than a faultless management of the Nottingham winch in an " engagement " upon a salmon river. And in dealing with the various requisite items one by one—before passing on to the practical details, I can scarcely over-estimate the value of Slater's new patent, which has deservedly gained much popularity.


J. Bernard Partridge fec: 15: Dec.
Spot where the fish was
(seen from opposite bank)

FISHING FOR SALMON IN THE NOTTINGHAM STYLE.

An Incident at Penpergwm Bridge, River Usk.

The recovery of slack line with this reel is performed by smart and continuous strokes or raps on the far side of the revolving disc by the flat hand. Thus impelled—the spin being rapid and unceasing—the line coils evenly round and round, guided by the forefinger of the other hand, always to be at liberty for the purpose.

All that is of immense importance to us, as it provides immediate security against a dangerous disadvantage ; for so expeditiously can the work by this means be accomplished, that with no end of line out we are able to keep on good terms with a lively fresh-run salmon in the spring that makes towards us !

Yes, slack line is brought about by one's fish heading up stream, and the moment this is discovered the rod should be raised rapidly and thrown back well over the shoulder, gradually bringing it forward again, as the reel receives the line by the tapping process described.

You must know there are no particular endowments requisite here, though some of us are more susceptible than others ; and by scanning and regarding all the bearings, by collecting issues which resolve one upon the other, we glean experience, while the whole finally becomes deeply rooted, indissolubly united.

First of all, then, in alluding to Nottingham rods, I seem to have come suddenly to a dead stop.

Are you aware there are some insatiable individuals—and I believe in many angling respects I am one—who, whatever objects may engross their hearts, always have a sensation of restlessness and a desire for chance—that is, unless their materials have more than a magnetic attraction, and are, in reality, perfect in every way ? Be that as it may, the so-called Nottingham rods for salmon fishing are good for nothing and all fiddlededee ; still, on rivers that hold no salmon and for lighter work they seem to fall in with the fashion.

For our purpose they should be made of greenheart, an entirely different model, and 14ft. in length.

But as far as lines are concerned, I can see no room for improvement, unless it be in the quality of the silk.

Of the American supply a great deal has been offered—for and against. I can only say that I have often used one of the very fine samples—and dressed, too—with the greatest satisfaction ; and although I—in common with other anglers who understand all about it—prefer an undressed line, on this winch there is, however, but little fear of disappointment with them. I do not notice that they " knuckle " more readily than our own, or that the dressing deserves its horrid reputation. The infallible receipt for this waterproofing business is as yet an unpossessed treasure—there is none perfect—no, not one ; but whether of English compounds or not, we should never allow any line to get out of order, and be limp and lifeless by becoming waterlogged. In my judgment, the undressed plaited specimens lie closer, wind truer, and are handier. By their clinging propensity you never see that confused loose heap on the reel caused by the least mismanagement, and which is invariably the case with the others ; and so the novice, in the absence of this cumbrance, is much less likely to run into danger.

And again, when wading or fishing from a boat they are a little more buoyant in comparison, which you will learn presently is of some importance ; but from a bridge or other eminence, the condition in this respect is pretty much the same.

I need not discuss their merits or demerits any further now ; suffice to say that three hundred yards of either, dressed or undressed, as the angler may prefer, is about the proper quantity.

As regards floats, it is indispensable that we have a variety.

Where the stream is not heard to flow—gliding, like happiness, smoothly away—goose or swan quills answer very well with the usual eye at one end and cap at the other; but where the little ripples murmur in their course, our pilot may be of cork, cane, or bamboo, with the eye or ring *at each end.* Anyone who has fished for barbel, chub, or the like with a float need not be told the amount of shot required. My system is to have a reserve of half-a-dozen different-sized pipe-leads; you can slip one off and replace it by a heavier or lighter weight, according to the force of water and size of float in use, having already fixed a couple of split shot 18in. from the hook on the gut trace for the lead to rest against. I say "two" to be doubly secure.

These 3ft. single gut traces must be looped at the ends, not knotted there, but whipped, and have a diminutive trout hook attached 1¾in. from the lower extremity to hold up the head of the worm.

Now we get to the hook: that may be any size you like according to the length of the worm. I often think they would be better were they longer in the shank; at any rate, it is advisable to bind on a single gut loop in the same way as for fly-making, leaving the eye as small as possible. And in baiting, having fastened the hook to the loop of the trace, insert the point into the worm about 1½in. from head, and thread down to about the same distance from the tail; but take care not to puncture the worm. This is more easily managed by keeping a small tin box in your pocket of silver sand, to dip the worm into beforehand. You may then give the loose head a couple of turns round the gut trace, secure it by the little trout hook, and you are ready for the fray.

In fishing with a prawn (which should be but little larger than a full-sized brown shrimp, and parboiled—two minutes will be ample—with a good lump of saltpetre in the water), take a fine baiting-needle, and having hitched the hook to it—which, in this case, is tied on a strand of good, sound gut, with a fine-whipped loop at the other end—pass it in, drawing the gut through from the extreme point at the head and out immediately under the tail, leaving the bend of the hook to lie amongst the legs. A very small red glass bead dropped down the shank of the hook first will go no farther than the bend, and form a butt for the prawn's head, as this bait must hang straight.

I have found this system to be as effective as the ordinary double triangle; but that boasts so many supporters, that one of these days I may give an illustration of it.

For choice, give me a prawn in preference to a worm; it is, I believe, by far the best bait for this style of angling.

In quiet water the "bite" of a salmon is seldom more than that of a gudgeon, yet in most cases you will want an extra long disgorger to get the hook back. You will soon find, too, that trout, where they run large, will occasionally accommodate you as well.

And the last and cheapest accompaniment—found in every fishing manufactory in the kingdom, as far as my experience goes—is a brand new temper, as all this extra effort is more than likely to double distress. You know it would argue the most extraordinary ignorance of human nature to expect you to submit to any defeat without some resentment. So let me accentuate the advantage of this precious attribute. It is not, of course, that the *old one* can be easily disarmed of its cheery power, nor is it that I desire to charm you by adulation in your own opinion of it; but what if you feel the influence of a new one to render even painful deformity from age agreeable! Moreover, the good wishes of all "unthawed rivals" would be purchased for a mere trifle.

Being thus fortified, we will, in a minute, touch upon the scene of action.

You know, however much our habits, superstitions, and manners of warfare are woven into an attractive web of romance, writers, so far as I know, all very properly agree that *Fly-fishing* is an inexhaustible recreation, and yields the most infinite sport. Do not the detailed biographies, drawn from the stores of one's experiments, observations, and adventures of this special branch, teem with more genuine and touching reality?

Indeed, the following little parody bears me out in this; at any rate, Nottingham fishing must be out of all question here:—

> Dear is that pool in which no sun affrights,
> Dear the loud roar of water from the heights;
> And as a child, when scaring sounds molest,
> Clings close, and closer to its mother's breast,
> So the wild torrent and the rapid's roar
> But bind us to our joyous sport the more.

That is no reflection on our useful accessories, the nodding-nose, single-tapered gentle, or the cringing, double-tapered worm—is it? No;—more of the element of "Nepenthian" and "Jock Scott" about it—rather—it must mean fly-fishing. And now that you are fully equipped, we will picture ourselves at the riverside.

If it is necessary to use either the cane or bamboo float, "set it" by putting a small piece of split cork on the line the depth required, or by a morsel of lucifer match with two half-hitches; by so doing the double-eyed float has room to play between there and the split shot. You will observe this is to facilitate striking the fish, and that you will be freed from the weight of this monster float, which would otherwise hinder you. If you mean to try the worm, it should be very deep in the water, the nearer the bottom the better, and even trail along it where the current is sufficiently fast to carry it on, and the bed of the river not too foul.

It is essentially necessary not to check the float; you can pay out line quickly enough to avoid this.

Fishing down your swim in beats, begin near the bank and take two or three "runs" before shifting your position a couple of yards further across for fresh water; but always recover your line well over to the side from whence you started.

If you are in a boat, do not have any iron foot to your punt-pole; and if wading, allow a minute or two for the water to clear if you make much of a stir—but this refers to the prawn only. The lobworm should be started at once, which cannot be too large so long as it is bright and well scoured.

Take no notice of "splashes" or "boils" in the water, and proceed quietly. A salmon is very often inquisitive, and sometimes rushes at nothing whatsoever—like a kitten—and stops before it gets there. On the other hand, he very often means something else, and should he take either bait, wait till the float disappears, and while counting ten quickly, carefully reel up slack line (it is here that the undressed favours us again, as we can see more what we are about), press the revolving disc on the extreme limit of the circumference of the winch, and strike. Then look out for squalls, using discretion how much pressure to keep up there as the fish takes off, or, if preferred, you can easily apply the well-arranged check; but by all means hold the rod nearly upright.

The strike should be exactly the same as usual, provided you have reeled up the slack. It is a common error to throw the rod back, almost down on the water behind you; indeed, you would seldom hit a salmon at all that way. Sometimes in zigzag streams there is as much as a dozen yards of loose line to pick up first, especially with over a hundred yards out, as seen in the illustration. It is of not much use trying from the bank except in places where you can take up your position well in front of the fish.

As the water becomes vapid, so do salmon settle down in their various haunts; but you can always stone them out of unfavourable quarters. It is a capital plan to throw into the different catches two or three worms or prawns from the bank, keeping well out of sight.

Managed skilfully, it is marvellous what a strain we can put on with this fine tackle. As an example, I witnessed an old brother salmon fisherman fishing from Ramsgate pierhead not long ago hook, play, and kill a monster conger of from 40lb. to 50lb.

I say "kill," although the fish eventually got away. However, Mr. Parker is a perfect Nottingham angler; during the battle he was heavily handicapped by the vast concourse of people who came running up. At one time he must have had one hundred and forty yards of line out, and perhaps more. But after the fish was gaffed, and while bringing it up the step-ladder, it spun round, unscrewed the gaff from its socket, and dropped into the sea to die with the "thorn" in its side.

"Ah!" (said a robust old angler) "that's just *my* luck with this fine tackle. I often get them on, but"——

> "The merest thread,
> The filmiest web,
> Is strong enough for me,"

interrupted the gentleman with the rod, and smiling, added, "Try your luck again, my gallant Waltonian—whichever way it goes you can quite depend it won't affect the money market or lower the consols for a day; but if you really mean to succeed, proceed to exceed me." (Laughter.)

Our illustration affords another instance of what may be done, and remembering so well all that passed, I will relate a few of the circumstances.

Impatient of my helplessness—for I had been engaged two long hours in the conflict—but still engrossed in active and eager observation, I was suddenly startled by an ejaculation at my side:

"Snakes! a'int it 'ot? My name isn't 'Bill' if ever yer gets 'im up, surr."

It was some strapping young fellow who had a third return (because there was no fourth, I presume) to Nantyderry, and had missed his train.

"Indeed it is," I replied; and thinking it had been rather warm for me so long on a seat almost red-hot, I asked him to fetch my flask.

"Cert'ny, surr; I'm the werry boy for that ere job."

And as the poor wretch, all "ragged, tattered, and torn," came climbing up the bank, basket and all, I heard him muttering, "Ugh! 'ope there's enuff fer two."

Three minutes more and he was smacking his lips, declaring himself fit for any "biznis."

"Will you go below, my man, and——"

"Go? Rather. I would'nt lose him for five bob, an' I'm orf'ly 'ard up just now."

But in giving my instructions, "Bill's" appearance was indeed opposed to such a theory, and exclaimed, "It's suercide; yer must niver try that ere game, mister."

He soon began, however, to feel a little more assured, and it seemed as if the voice of prudence whispered to him as the silver clinked in my pocket while stepping down from the parapet.

"Come, come," I urged.

"Yes, yes, er course—splendid; but I niver 'eard er that dodge afore."

And away "William" went with the back line from a spare reel tied through a ledgering bullet, and placed himself on the oozy brink of the stream.

Then came a tremendous splash, a rush, and, "By the lord 'arry, surr, e'es gone," shouted "Bill."

"Not a bit of it," I replied, though like lightning he had shot up the river and under the bridge!

"Well, well, that ere reel *do* pick up line sharp, and no mistake," I heard "Mr. Bill" saying to himself.

"Do so and so," I requested; and before you could say "Jack Robinson" a well-directed stone aimed from the upper side of the bridge roused the fish, which fortunately took down stream again.

"That wore a shaver," "Bill" exclaimed.

Time went on. Every now and again the fish would show himself, and at length getting the worst of it, and his struggles becoming weaker, he suddenly determined to lie still.

"Now is your time," said I; and my companion, with a quick glance, just inquired—

"Shall I?—good;" and cleverly popped the bullet over the line as illustrated.

"S'pose as 'ow——"

"Never mind."

"But, I say, if 'e goes orff while——"

"Keep on," I said, rattling the silver in my pocket, "and be quiet, please."

"*Oh!*" *(with a bow, as if that tempted him)* "my eye; all serene, captin."

And in the lull that followed "Bill" pulled all the line down there from my reel, and I was by his side attaching it again."

"It's all over wid 'im; ain't 'e er booty!"

And rubbing his hands, my valued friend went off with, "Er—thank yer, surr; gude day. But 'ow be yer a-goin' on if yer gets 'old of another up there?" . . .

I may observe that the experiment was rather dangerous, although he had packed the line in readiness along the bank as I wished.

But the successful issue—it may be taken for granted, all other tactics were beset with dire possibilities which the illustration before us shows, the trees on our side, the opposite bank being strictly private ground—was confined to this means only.

I have cut the story short; but it was a hard-fought battle, and worthy of being delineated by the pen of a Partridge.

And here let me remind you that reason will triumph over failure, and if you ask me how some become more proficient than others, I should say—first, because they constantly and systematically pursue and endeavour to recollect the best methods they know, which invests them with a capacity for readily perceiving links in the art above the common level, which associate and hold together till they are almost in possession of an ideal; and secondly, by reflection. Upon a future occasion I may tell you of many interesting episodes of our pitch battles, sometimes ending well, sometimes with disaster; yes, even incidents which, in childhood's happy hours, were related in my presence.

It all comes to memory without beck and call—too readily, too pleasantly. But so much seemed "Hebrew" to me in those times.

You know the old story about "old heads on young shoulders," don't you? Now, I remember in my youthful days, when friends were most probably taking an active interest in my future, I often used to steal away rod in hand to the river side as the shades of evening were falling; and while burning for the pleasure, loitering about waiting for a rise of fly which never seemed to come, my fancy frequently wandered from the present into the future. It would actually occur to me that we schoolboys were unnaturally and arbitrarily restrained and inconsistently punished. How strange it was, I thought, and what hard lines, with such happy means of reward (for the very sight of the water was enough), an hour or so to devote to one's favourite hobby was never allowed—never, in all probability, ever dreamt of. Then, again, I would think how the love of sport once engrafted might supersede almost all other aspirations; yes, how by its delights lofty and ideal ambition might be stifled in its tender life and die. But sometimes I thought of the other worldly affairs, of duties in life, and perhaps of the dreams and faiths of boyhood; this would all come to me for the moment as if to "win me from my love"—to snatch me, as it were, from an increasing temptation; for what else? Well, don't we all know how boyish desire to restrain a passion always ends? And now—now that the veil is withdrawn, I have a far clearer view of it all, and as it drifts home to me, bringing to memory many a glowing impulse—many a resolution unfulfilled—aye, many an enjoyable hour for ever gone by—I wake from the dream and pause.

However, I was only thinking what *would* boys do once in possession of the proven armour of experience, which, alas! comes so late to all!

## THE WHITBY SALMON FISHERY.

### Gratifying Results of Fish Culture Experiments.

The salmon fishing by the net at Whitby during the past season was the most successful ever known, the number of fish caught being nearly 1,500 more than were captured last year. By an apparently singular contraversion of circumstances the number caught on the river by the rod during the same period was the least, with the exception of the year 1876. This is easily explained by the long-continued drought during the past summer, which prevented the salmon getting up the river, and probably to the same circumstance is due the unusual quantity caught in the sea. Though the fishermen sometimes complain of some of the restrictions which are in operation as regards their fishing, it would seem that, after all, such are much in their favour, for without some wise check being exercised there is little doubt that the supplies of salmon would be considerably diminished, and the means of a livelihood for these enterprising toilers correspondingly lessened. Below we give a tabulated statement of the salmon (*Salmo salar*), salmon trout, and bull trout (*Salmo eriox* and *trutta*) caught by the net at sea, and also by the rod and line in the river respectively:—

| By net at Sea. | | By rod and line on the River. | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Year. | Total. | Salmon. | Salmon trout and Bull trout. | Not distinguished. | Total. |
| 1876 | 4,706 | 5 | 82 | — | 87 |
| 1877 | 5,641 | — | — | 358 | 358 |
| 1878 | 3,511 | 15 | 140 | — | 155 |
| 1879 | 4,227 | 20 | 271 | — | 291 |
| 1880 | 2,032 | 57 | 180 | — | 237 |
| 1881 | 3,376 | 120 | 160 | — | 280 |
| 1882 | 5,107 | 101 | 82 | — | 183 |
| 1883 | 4,480 | 160 | 171 | — | 331 |
| 1884 | 5,833 | — | — | 107 | 107 |
| Total by the net | 38,913 | | | Total by rod and line | 2,029 |

It will be seen from the above that, taking the average for the last nine years, over which period the statement extends, the fishermen have caught by the net 4,323·6 fish per year, whereas the anglers have only taken at the rate of 228·5 per year. In the salmon fishing at sea, cobles (small undecked boats), each with two men and a net, are employed, the cost of the license to each craft being £2 10s. The cost to each angler for river fishing is 10s. for the same period. It would be difficult, if not impossible, to state exactly the value of the salmon caught at sea during the last season, inasmuch as no official return of the price is made; neither can the exact weight of the fish landed be ascertained. But, speaking generally, it would not be far out of it if we estimated the weight of each fish at a little within 4lb., which, being reckoned at the rate of ninepence per pound, that being about the average price realised at the wholesale market during the season, will bring up the monetary or commercial value to, say, £840. Reckoning each fish at 3¾lb., the result would be £820 odd; at 4lb. each fish the amount would be nearly £875; but, placing the actual weight of each fish at an indefinite figure somewhere between 3¾lb. and 4lb., the approximate value of the sea trout landed at Whitby during the season may be fairly stated to be that which we have mentioned—namely, £840. We think that these figures make it clear that the salmon fishery of Whitby is by no means an insignificant factor in seafaring adventure. Whether it is likely to develop or not to any much larger extent it is, of course, impossible to tell; but it is certainly obvious that, had it not been for the enterprise and perseverance of the Esk Fishery Association and Board of Conservators, there would, practically speaking, have been no salmon fishing at sea in the district. It may be observed that the introduction of salmon into the river Esk was due to the artificial propagation carried on by the Esk Fishery Association. Prior to this there were a good many sea or bull trout in the river; but when the Association first began to cultivate and improve the river—namely, in 1866—it was thought that they might with advantage introduce the more valuable fish (*Salmo salar*) by artificial propagation. Accordingly a breeding house was established in Arncliffe (which house has since been transferred to Grosmont and enlarged), and ova was procured from other rivers, principally the Tees. The result has been quite successful, as after a few years from the commencement of the experiment, these much-prized fish, as shown by the statistics given above, rapidly increased every successive year. Some of the fish were of fairly large size, several weighing 18lb. or 19lb. having been landed by the rod. There is no doubt that even larger fish are in the river, as several have been taken out dead at different times, such fish, when alive, healthy, and in season, being estimated to weigh pretty well on to 30lb. It may be observed that the "Californian Incubator" was used, which obtained the gold medal at one of the fishery exhibitions, and which was the joint invention of Mr. Samuel Wilkinson, secretary to the Whitby Esk Fishery Association, Col. Flamstead, and Brockett, sen., at that time the water bailiff. It has been ascertained that salmon depositing their spawn in pure salt water is a useless operation, as it is all destroyed. It is an interesting question, however, as to what amount of brackish water will destroy it; and as we have a lot of late-spawning fish depositing their ova in the streams just below Ruswarp Mill dam, over which they cannot get when heavy in spawn, and up to which dam spring tides rise for about two or three feet, covering the spawn beds for about two hours each tide for some three or four days at each period of high tides, some ova from fish spawning there was procured, and placed in a box in the gravel at that spot. This was done in order to ascertain whether it would come to life. Though nothing came of the experiment for the first two years, it was found that this year a good portion of it was hatched, thus showing that it was not all killed by the salt water. These experiments will be repeated, and probably we shall be able to give an account of them.

Jno. J. Jackson.

## CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS, 1884.

The Great Eastern Railway Company announce that a special booking office will be opened at the Liverpool-street Station from the 20th to the 24th December for the issue of tickets for use from Liverpool-street Station on any day up to and including the 25th December; also that tickets may be obtained at the company's West-end office, 44, Regent-street, and at the City booking offices as under:—

Blossoms Inn, Lawrence-lane, Cheapside; 48, Lime-street, City; Spread Eagle, 3, Whittington-avenue, Leadenhall Market; Swan with Two Necks, Gresham-street; Messrs. Cook and Son, Ludgate-circus, Fleet-street; Messrs. Cook and Son, First Avenue Hotel, Holborn; Messrs. Gaze and Sons, 142, Strand; 16, Holborn; Golden Cross, Charing-cross; 70, St. Martin's-lane; 28, Regent-circus, Piccadilly; Spread Eagle, Piccadilly-circus; 34, Albert-gate, Knightsbridge; 33, High-street, Kensington; Mr. Whiteley, Westbourne-grove; 241, Oxford-street; Army and Navy Hotel, Victoria-street, Westminster.

On Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, 22nd, 23rd, and 24th December, additional trains will be run from Liverpool-street to relieve the principal main line trains. On Christmas-Eve special midnight trains will leave Liverpool-street at 11.55 p.m. for Norwich and Yarmouth *viâ* Cambridge, calling at the principal intermediate stations, and 12.15 a.m. for Ipswich, calling at the principal intermediate stations below Brentwood.

Senders of Christmas packages are requested to fasten the address to each package securely, and as an additional security against loss or delay, are recommended to put inside each package the full address of the consignee.

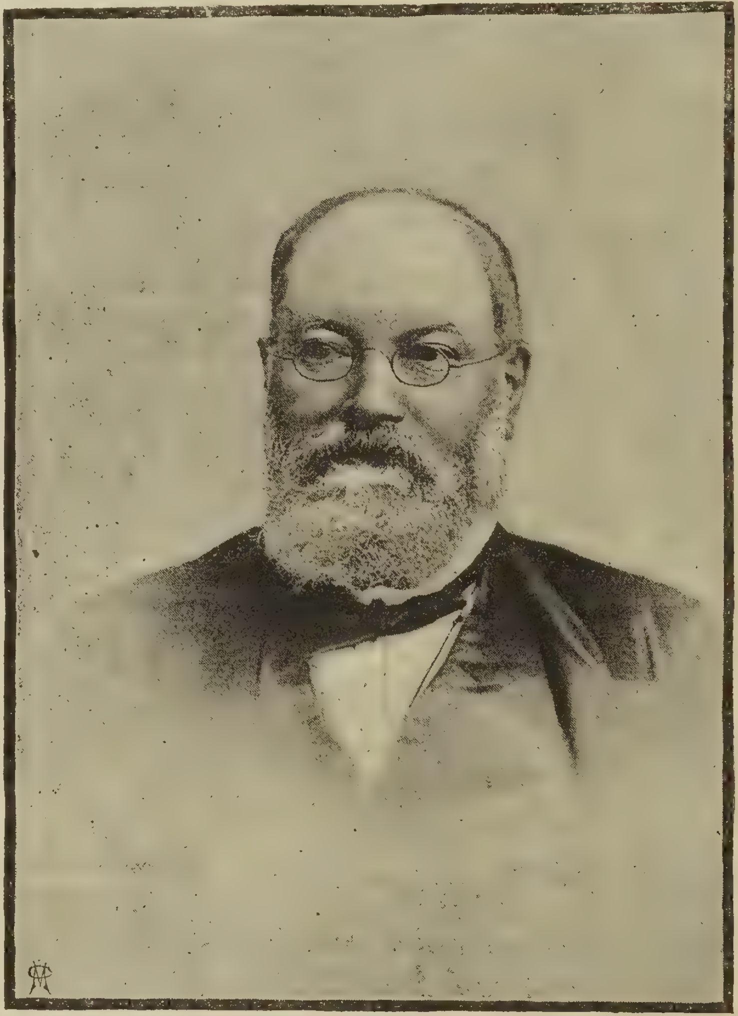
George James Eaton, of Starkholmes, Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required, from gentlemen who can fish, to prove whether they may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—(Advt.)

## MR. THOMAS SPRECKLEY,

### President of the Thames Angling Preservation Society.

On the 26th of March next Mr. Spreckley will complete the seventh year of his reign as ruler of the Thames Angling Preservation Society, and if the anglers of London, and especially of the Thames, do not celebrate the occasion by giving a dinner in his honour they ought to be ashamed of themselves.

We think that anyone who is acquainted with the history of the Thames Angling Preservation Society will agree with us that during the last seven years more has been done to protect and improve the fishing than at any previous period of the existence of the Society. We say this without wishing to reflect in the least on the gentlemen who have held the position now occupied by Mr. Spreckley, who has made it one of a personal and practical character. He has thrown his whole heart into the work with the energy and devotion which characterise all that he does, and in a manner which proves that this "labour of love" is now the pet hobby of his life. Anglers as a class are not an easy body to please, but we have never met one who would not willingly acknowledge the good work which Mr. Spreckley has done. There may have been differences of opinion as to what was the best to be done in certain cases—this is only natural; but we do not believe there is a single angler interested in the Thames who would not, if it were necessary, give his vote for Mr. Spreckley as far and away the best "all-round" president the T.A.P.S. could have, or is ever likely to get again. It is no slight cause for congratulation that a Society which, in the matter of funds, is wretchedly supported by the great majority of London angling clubs, is presided over by a gentleman who not only devotes far more time to the work than could be reasonably expected, but is also ever ready to put his hand into his pocket and from his own purse supply those means for carrying on the work of preservation which should be provided by the anglers as a body. To what a great extent Mr. Spreckley does this will never be known—indeed, we do not suppose that he knows himself.


Mr. Thomas Spreckley,
President of the Thames Angling Preservation Society.

A few words about the subject of our notice will be of interest to our readers, and it is with great pleasure we are able to add a portrait of our "grand old president." Mr. Spreckley was born at Wymondham, near Melton Mowbray, in the year 1821. His father was a farmer; he came to London in 1835, and commenced business in St. Paul's Churchyard in 1849, removing to Wood-street in 1852, and Cannon-street in 1862. He is at the head of the eminent firm of Spreckley, White, and Lewis, of 13 and 15, Cannon-street. His partners liberally co-operate with him in all objects of benevolence, and particularly in the philanthropic work of preserving the *free* fishery of the Thames from Staines to the Medway, for the benefit and pleasure of all classes of anglers. He is a large employer of labour, and the esteem and affection in which he is held by all who know him is due to his open-hearted, genial, and thoroughly English character, and the fact that he always follows his favourite advice to others—"Act fairly and squarely, and do as you would be done by."

For some years previous to 1877 Mr. Spreckley had been an annual subscriber to the Thames Angling Preservation Society. On the 4th of December of that year he was elected on the committee; on March 26, 1878, he became chairman and treasurer; and on August 9, 1881, president of the Society. During the period he has been at the head of affairs the following, among other important work, has been done:

By netting the Chelsea, West London, and East London Waterworks reservoirs, the ponds at Kew Gardens, Amhurst Park, Thames Ditton, and Weybridge, and a portion of the Hampshire Avon during the years 1879 to 1883 about *twelve tons* of fine fish of all kinds have been put into the river below Staines.

In 1883 and 1884 twelve thousand young flounders were removed from the tidal waters to portions of the river above Teddington Lock. This has been done by Mr. Spreckley, with the help and approval of the flounder fishermen, who hope by this means to provide the fish with spawning grounds not affected by the heavy tides which now carry up and deposit thousands of tons of London sewage all along the river banks as far as the tide goes. Fish culture experiments have proved that there is no more fatal enemy to embryo fish life than mud; and, if this is the case with ordinary clean mud, if we may use the expression, what must be the effect of the poisonous Thames filth, now deodorised to some extent by enormous quantities of powerful chemicals!

It is acknowledged by common consent that in spite of the great increase of anglers, fish of all kinds are steadily increasing in that portion of the Thames under the care of the T.A.P.S. This is unquestionably owing to the practical extinction of netting—we say practical extinction because we firmly believe the T.A.P.S. have "scotched the snake," and it no longer pays the poachers to run the almost certain risk of being caught and heavily punished. We are aware that there are now and then "reports of netting," but they never stand the test of inquiry—are invariably founded on nothing, or at least on nothing, on which action can be taken. One of the best and most reliable river-keepers it is possible to employ is an old punt, covered with tenter-hooks, filled with stones and then sunk in suitable deep places. We hope Mr. Spreckley will see his way to enrolling, or rather inrolling, a few more of these "honorary river-keepers."

The entire abolition of night-lines, on which so many fine Thames trout were wont to come to grief, of snatching, the complete revision of the old by-laws, the protection of tributary streams, the recovery of fish washed out of the river into ditches by floods, are most important matters which the T.A.P.S. has carried out under Mr. Spreckley, who is always delighted to acknowledge the willing aid afforded by the committee, by the paid and honorary bailiffs, and last, but by no means least, by the secretary, Mr. W. H. Brougham. As we hope to give a portrait of Mr. Brougham, and some notice of his work as secretary of the T.A.P.S. later on, we purposely say nothing about it here.

Apart from his special hobby, it is well known to our readers that Mr. Spreckley takes a great interest in all that interests anglers; no testimonial to an angler is set on foot to which he is not a most liberal subscriber; he is President of that most useful institution, the Anglers' Benevolent Society.

We gratefully acknowledge the great aid he has given us in the matter of anglers' tournaments. He is Treasurer of the City Dispensary, a member of the Council of the National Fish Culture Association, and a member of most of our best angling societies.

In conclusion, we are sure that in the name of all genuine anglers we may wish him a very merry Christmas, and hope that he may long be spared to watch over that splendid stretch of water which, unaffected by the nightmare of riparian wrongs, is happily and honourably distinguished as—"The Free Fishery of the Thames."

## THE SALMON DISEASE.

At a meeting at Berwick-on-Tweed of the Special Committee appointed by the Tweed Commissioners to inquire into the damage done to the river by the salmon disease, it was resolved to invite the co-operation of the various fishery boards of Scotland and England.

## OGDEN'S HYBRID FLY.

The other day, Mr. James Ogden, of 28, Winchcomb-street, Cheltenham, sent us a fly which is a cross between the iron blue and the yellow dun, and as he has got no particular name for it, we have christened it "Ogden's Hybrid." He tells us that he has never used any fly with greater success than this, especially on a cold or rough day. No experienced fly-fisher will need to try this fly; he will know at a glance that it must kill. We strongly recommend those who are looking up their stock for next season to get some of these little beauties.

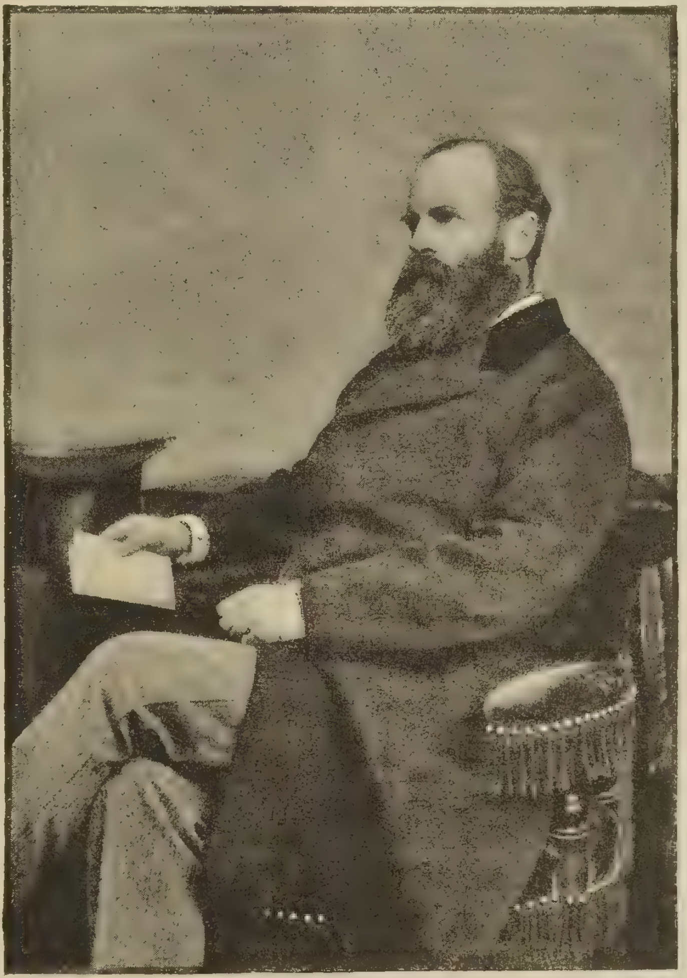
## MR. EDWARD BIRKBECK, M.P.

We have the pleasure to give our readers this week a portrait of Mr. Edward Birkbeck, M.P., to whose untiring exertions as chief promoter of the Norwich National Fisheries Exhibition of 1881, and the London Great International Fisheries Exhibition of 1883, our British fisheries are so deeply indebted ; as they also are to the great services he has rendered by securing attention and legislation for them in the House of Commons.

Mr. Birkbeck was born at Keswick Hall, Norwich, on Oct. 11, 1838. He received a private education. Born and bred in the sporting county of Norfolk, it is no wonder that outdoor sports have always been his principal recreation—fishing, shooting, and especially yachting, afford that rest which is so indispensable to such an indefatigable worker as Mr. Birkbeck. To those long cruises in the North and other seas, extended in some cases to the Polar regions, is due that interest in, and intimate acquaintance with, our fisheries and fishermen which Mr. Birkbeck has so constantly exhibited. There is hardly a fishing ground from the Dutch coast to the farthest limit of Spitzbergen which he has not visited at one time or another.

Since January, 1879, Conservative Member for North Norfolk, he has won the esteem of both political parties by the course he has pursued and the valuable services he has rendered while in the House of Commons. His speeches evince a thorough knowledge of the subject, go straight to the point, and always command attention. A glance at a few of the matters to which he has successfully directed attention will abundantly prove this. It was Mr. Birkbeck who :

1. Obtained the Government Inquiry under Messrs. Buckland and Walpole on the Norfolk Sea Fisheries in the winter of 1879-80, the results of which led to another Government Inquiry in January, 1883, and the granting of a ten years' special "Order in Council" for protecting the Crab and Lobster fisheries.
2. Obtained a Government Inquiry into the Norfolk Mussel Fisheries in 1879.
3. Obtained the Government Inquiry as to the depredations by foreign on English fishermen in 1880, the result of which was the holding of an International Conference at the Hague in 1881, and the drawing up of a convention between the leading European Maritime Powers.
4. Obtained a Government Departmental Inquiry in January, 1880, as to objections of fishing interest to the proposed new regulations for fishing-vessel lights, and was granted a select committee to inquire into same, which resulted in the abandonment of an important portion of the objections.



MR. EDWARD BIRKBECK, M.P.

But Mr. Birkbeck has not devoted his attention solely to legislation for our sea fisheries. It is chiefly due to his exertions that the Bill brought in by the Government in the spring of this year was enlarged from being a partial measure for the better protection of certain fisheries into the comprehensive Freshwater Fisheries Act of 1884, by which *all* our freshwater fish are protected, and the establishment of Fisheries Boards in any district made possible.

In August, 1882, Mr. Birkbeck was appointed by the President of the Board of Trade a member of the Sea Fishing Trade Committee.

For nearly a quarter of a century Mr. Birkbeck has been connected with the National Lifeboat Institution, of which he is now Chairman. He is Vice-Chairman and a Vice-President of the National Fish Culture Association, and that Society is to be sincerely congratulated on the very great and practical interest he takes in its affairs ; and he proposed and carried the scheme for providing fishing vessels with aneroid barometers at a nominal price by this Institution. It is difficult to overrate the important nature of this suggestion, and upwards of 1,800 fishing vessels are now provided with most valuable instruments, by means of which timely warning is given of those sudden storms which, unless prepared for, are so often fatal in the fishing fleet.

We cannot pretend to give more than a very incomplete account of the good work to which Mr. Birkbeck so zealously devotes himself, not only in respect to fisheries, but also as regards agriculture and other industrial questions : whatever he takes in hand prospers. The secret of this success lies in the fact that, with an almost insatiable appetite for hard work, Mr. Birkbeck combines a thorough knowledge of how best to deal with men and things—in one word, tact, without which the hardest worker may often labour in vain. During the recent Fisheries Exhibitions so many of our readers have been brought into contact with Mr. Birkbeck, that it is unnecessary for us to bear testimony to his unvarying courtesy, kindness, and geniality.

But it is as the prime mover and guiding spirit of the recent great Exhibitions* that Mr. Birkbeck's name is chiefly known to his countrymen—and not to them only, for it may truly be said the whole civilised world has recognised and responded to his influence. That he has been most ably supported by all, from the Prince of Wales down to the humblest official who has been connected with these Exhibitions, no one has more heartily acknowledged than Mr. Birkbeck. His services have been publicly and repeatedly recognised by members of the Royal Family, the Government, representatives of foreign nations and our colonies, the press universally, and the public generally.

## WIMBLEDON PARK LAKE.—ANGLING NEAR LONDON.

There are several ways of getting to this noted water. The South-Western Railway intersects the parish, and has a station at Wimbledon, about seven miles from Waterloo terminus. The London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway has a branch from here to Mitcham Junction, where it meets the lines to Croydon, the Crystal Palace, and London Bridge ; also to Epsom and Leatherhead ; and another branch proceeds to Tooting, Streatham, Peckham Rye, and London Bridge. Anglers taking the train either from Waterloo or London Bridge, those who are fond of a quiet country walk can alight at Hayden's-lane Station, and pass through a portion of the Wimbledon Park Estate from the road leading to Wandsworth, and I think it is quite as near as going on to Wimbledon. If you go on to Wimbledon, pass the "Coffee Palace" and turn down the first turning on the right by the side of the nursery; keep on about two hundred and fifty yards, when you will see a pillar-box let into the wall near a gateway ; take the first turning on the left past the pillar-box, and keep straight up the roadway until you come to a cross-road skirted by an iron fence. From this point on a fine, clear day a magnificent view can be obtained of the surrounding country, and you can see the lake (nearly 35 acres in extent), glistening through the trees in the valley below. The slopes are dotted with noble trees. It contains a great number of splendid carp. (The 14-pounder exhibited at the Fisheries was a beautiful specimen, but was eclipsed last summer by a grand fish weighing over 18lb.) Carp are for the most part taken while ledgering with paste and worms ; sometimes gentles are used. Strong, but fine tackle is essential. Carp weighing altogether over 100lb. have been taken this season ; but many more have broken away than have been captured. Three to six-pounders are most numerous.

There is a record kept at the cottage.

Besides these, there are shoals of bream, large roach, pike, eels, and a fair sprinkling of perch, tench, and flounders.

I have taken a jack there weighing nearly 11lb. ; but they have become terribly cunning of late. Most of the fishing from the bank is done at the further end of the lake, where the keeper's cottage stands. All along the bank in a line with the cottage the water is from three to five feet deep. The charge is 1s. 6d. per day for jack fishing, and 1s. per day for bottom fishing ; two rods allowed. As a rule, the baits used are gentles, paste, and worms—gentles for choice. Anglers fishing for bream and roach seldom have a reel, nearly all using tight lines.

When ledgering, all the knowing ones put a large pellet of bread and bran about a foot above the hook. This answers a double purpose, as it not only enables the angler to throw out long distances without a plummet, but gets the fish together ; and when once they are "on," make the best use of your time, for it is a singular characteristic of this place that they often go "off" again ere you can say "Jack Robinson."

Another strange thing is that you seldom capture a bream of over 3lb. Taking one time with another, most of the bream are taken with gentles ; but sometimes they prefer paste, and at others worms—but very seldom.

As a rule, the best dabs have been secured between daybreak and 11 o'clock a.m. Bream here often bite so quickly (in fact, more like roach), it requires all the skill of the angler to hook them. Many bream are lost whilst playing them on the surface. I have seen them turn right over and wrench themselves from the hook. The members of one London angling club last year took the better part of a *ton* of bream. Immense heaps of ground-bait are used. There are two sorts of eels in this water—the sharp-nosed or willow-backed eel, and the broad-nosed, big-headed black eel. The latter is very indifferent to the former in flavour. Fishing for eels begins rather early in the season. On warm, muggy days the shallows will be found to be the best places. Ledger with lob-worms or small dead fish, such as gudgeon, minnows, and stone loach. When using the latter more time must be given. The best time for bream is from the middle of June until the end of August. The best time for pike is from the end of October until Christmas. February is also a good month.

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* The Norwich National Fisheries Exhibition was a great success. The number of visitors to the Great International Fisheries Exhibition, 1883, was 2,703,051 ; to the International Health Exhibition, 4,167,683. It seems probable that before the series of Exhibitions is completed, a number equal to half the population of Great Britain and Ireland will have visited them. He is also on the Executive Council of the Inventions Exhibition, 1885, and one of the Royal Commissioners of the 1886 Exhibition.

Captain S—— says the snap-tackle is by far the best to use. He has fished in the lake for over twenty years, and he should be a good judge.

Lastly, anglers wishing to pass a quiet, peaceful day, and enjoy the beauties of nature near home, cannot do better than pay a visit to this well-stocked and picturesque piece of water. A.

## BEFORE DAYLIGHT TO DAGENHAM.

It seems but the other day that I arranged with a friend for a nocturnal trip to the lake yclept Dagenham ; yet I find upon referring to my record—as I call it—that that trip was undertaken over six years ago, on a certain August Bank Holiday. What a change since then ! One of the then joyous companions of the gentle craft has been called away at the early age of thirty, and nothing remains but the memory of a genial friend, who, no matter how bad the sport, stuck it out with his friend to the last. Well, 'tis man's lot to lose and make friends as well as foes, and "so the world wags."

I had been fishing at Higham Hill fishery on the previous Saturday, and there saw a certain gentle brother, who I will call S——, and he asked me, "Where are you going on Monday ?" I told him that I had arranged with C—— to meet in front of the Town Hall, Stratford, at midnight, "the mystic hour," and thence make our way through Barking on to Dagenham Lake. "Oh," said he, "perhaps I'll turn up." I said, "Very well," and we parted at Page's lock, near Park station. Each went home, not overladen with fish ; but bright were the anticipations of sport on Monday.

I think I have read somewhere that there is more happiness in the knowledge of pleasure to come than very often in its realisation, and experience has taught me its truth. "Expect nothing and you will not be disappointed." Just so ; but where is the angler who has been treasuring up bright visions of bumping roach, real red-finned silvery beauties, for weeks before the day of days, who expects nothing ? I ask, Where is he ? And echo answers not. He does not exist. Anglers being such hopeful beings, then we, of course, were animated in like fashion. I got everything ready on the Sunday, made ground-bait the last thing, saw to my rods and tackle, and did not forget my plummet—a general failing with some anglers ; in fact, to be sure, I went over the things several times, and it is a very good plan for an angler to adopt, as he is then almost certain not to be a nuisance to his brother craftsmen, for although they lend readily enough, they don't like it. At least, that is my own feeling.

Ten minutes before the hour of midnight I shouldered my basket, and somewhat heavily laden made my way to our trysting-place, to find I was the first at the rendezvous. I had not been there many minutes before I was asked, "What luck ?" by a tramcar driver, who told me he was then going "off," and would be "on" again at 7 o'clock next morning. I informed him that I had not been fishing, but that I was awaiting the arrival of a friend, it being our intention to walk to a place called Dagenham Lake. "Oh, ah !" said he, "I fished there many years ago—had very good sport ; but now," with a sigh, "I can't get away, and if I do, I'm glad to rest myself, of which I don't get too much. I'm on again at 7 in the morning." A tramcar came up at this moment, and out tumbled my friend C——, so the car driver bade me "Good night," wished us plenty of sport, and departed. I could not help pitying that car driver.

Having shaken hands with C——, I told him about S——, saying he might turn up ; and talk of the —— well, at that precise moment he did turn up. We then made a start as the clock marked 12.15, going along the Romford-road, and making our way to the right through Upton, we, after about an hour's walking found ourselves in the Barking-road. I had the misfortune to plumb one of the Dagenham ditches on a former occasion (whilst taking a short cut) with my leg. C—— and S—— were with me at the time, so whenever the darkness confused me a bit on our way from Romford-road to Barking-road (which is rather a difficult way to find in the dark, although one may know it well by daylight), I was told that they had no desire to plumb any of the ditches with *their* legs ; if it pleased me, it would not *them*, &c. However, I did not put them to the trial, but brought them safely to the Barking-road, where, just before reaching the bridge over the Roding, a guardian of the night turned his bull's-eye upon us as we were going along talking and laughing, and a voice came forth from the darkness of the night, "Oh, fisherman !" said he of the bull's-eye. We wished him "Good morning," crossed the bridge, and were soon in Barking, and found it wonderfully quiet ; not even a snore disturbed the stillness of the hour. But I warrant me snoring was going on more or less. Yes, Barking slept as we wended our way through its deserted streets, and we noisy anglers were the only ones, seemingly, unwrapped in slumber.

Turning to the left after passing the road that leads to the railway station, we journeyed on, crossed the railway, and were now on the direct road to the Chequers, which all anglers know who visit the lakes is at the present moment like unto a checkboard ; but what a checkboard has to do with "chequers" I leave the more learned to solve.

The eastern sky betokens the advance of coming day as we reached the Chequers, and we congratulated ourselves at having timed our journey beautifully. The people of this house of refreshment for man and beast were in dreamland, I suppose. I know in a few minutes we were in Muddy-lane, and likewise in a thick mist, of the presence of which we were unconscious until we plunged into the aforesaid lane. We passed the word to pass the bottle, just to keep the damp air outside one's anatomy. That is, C—— and I did so to the tune of "old Jamaica," whilst friend S—— kept the fog at bay with milk and water. *Sua cuique voluptus.*

When we got out of the lane the mist was not so thick, and we could see the sheds ; but the mist on the water was quite 10ft. high. C—— asked an angler who had arrived before us, and who was putting together his rod, &c., if he had "caught anything," which elicited a rather short answer from the not too good-tempered rodster. We crossed the ditch by the sheds, and made our pitch between them and "Man-of-war" point. Of course we could not at first see our floats on account of the mist. As for the sun, of the rising of which we had anticipated a glorious view, we saw it not till nearly five o'clock, about which time a slight breeze sprang up and swept away the vapours of the night. Then—then did old Sol warm us, and brighten our view of lake and landscape, and afterwards made glorious the whole of the day.

I am forgetting the fish, a thing an angler should never do. Well, we did not find the big ones "on." We got a small roach now and again ; but the slimy ones were *non est*, until later in the day. What are called "town biscuits" make the best paste for here. Just scrape off the brown outside, put your piece (it is best to make it several times during the day) of biscuit in your clean paste rag, and dip it in the water. It must not be too wet ; but it must be wet enough to knead into a nice, fairly-tough paste. This is only to be learned by experience, therefore I've said enough on that point ; but note that this paste is only suitable for still or quiet-running water. We plumbed the depth and ordered our floats so that the hook just touched the bottom, and our floats showing about a quarter of an inch above the water. I put this in the plural number, as we all fished in the same way. The fish here don't always take the float under : sometimes it is raised half an inch or more ; at other times it will go, thus raised, sailing away in some direction, and if the angler strikes he does not necessarily make certain of a fish. Oh, no ! How they do it I don't know ; but the bream, more especially, manage it, and strike as you will at times, you cannot hit them. The only way is to let them have it and strike when the float slants a little. Here, again, experience is the best teacher of all. *Some* of the eels here are of good size. I had hold of one in the afternoon, but the twisting rascal twined himself round some of the sedges and bit my gut, but not for the last time, alas !

About two o'clock in the afternoon C—— went to fill my bottle at the Chequers, and he was so long gone that I thought he must be in for something good. So it turned out. There was a little shanty sort of place at the corner of Muddy-lane, alongside the line, and here lived a man. Why, or for what purpose, I don't know. C—— found that he had a boiled leg of mutton just ready for the knife, and he and two or three others sat down to it at a shilling a head. They left the bone of that leg of mutton very visible, and my friend C——'s conscience smote him—he did not think the man made fifty per cent. out of that joint of Southdown. While C—— was away we caught for him on his lines a small eel and a flounder. He had baited with small red worms.

Everything, in time, passes away, and that day ended like all other days past and to come have and will ; but at six o'clock S—— cried "Enough !" and packed up. We were sorry to lose his company ; he, however, was not to be persuaded, so off he went, and we stuck it out till nearly 9 o'clock. I had two dozen roach, three bream, two perch, and one eel. I think C—— fared rather worse. Thus ended all our bright visions. We had a glorious day as regards weather, and enjoyed ourselves immensely ; but as a fishing day we found it a failure. Yet, withal, contented and happy-minded, as all anglers should be, we packed up, and as ill-luck would have it, walked to Rainham thinking to catch the train timed to be there a few minutes before ten. Excursion train after excursion train passed through the station, and the one for us did not come up till something after 11 ! Advice to anglers on Dagenham intent : Don't go, at holiday time, to Rainham on your return, but make for Barking Station, and you'll not have your patience tried as ours was. Although we had been out of bed for about 36 hours, we did not feel sleepy until we found ourselves in the train ; it was then as much as we could do to keep awake, but we managed it. There was no great incident—no capture of a fish that might have formed a stuffed memento of our trip ; yet our first nocturnal walk to "take time by the forelock, fish by the gills, and the top of the morning for our health's sake," will be remembered by the two now remaining of that merry and light-hearted trio of jolly anglers as long as life lasts. Jeffonham.

## *MY* NOTION OF A GOOD OLD-FASHIONED WINTER.

I.

The poets rave about the driven snow—
"Nature's fair winding sheet" they love to dub it ;
In sober prose 'tis odious, you know,
And I'm inclined to snub it !

II.

It drives *sans merci* in your face and eyes,
Powders you well—in every corner poking ;
You toil knee-deep beneath the cheerless skies,
Until your socks are soaking.

III.

The bards romance about the "sparkling rime"—
The icicles of this enchanting season ;
They laud the frost in poesy sublime—
That's *rime*, but hardly reason !

IV.

For if the sober truth must be confessed,
It numbs your toes, and makes your joints rheumatic ;
Of hoar frosts, icicles, and all the rest,
*Mine* is a hate emphatic !

V.

We read about the "shining sheets of ice"—
"The ring of steel" (our poets overdo it !) ;
It *sounds* all right, but isn't quite as nice,
If haply you *fall through it !*

VI.

They also sing of 'Xmas and the joys
Of festive board, which I beg leave to question ;
*I* leave mince pies to madmen, or to—boys—
Abhorring indigestion !

VII.

The ideal picture we have but to strip
Of all the glamour they have thrown around it—
Behold a monster with an iron grip !
(Snowing again !—confound it !)

VIII.

A grim old wretch who loves to make us smart,
With him, in verse, I have a lance to splinter ;
And don't I hate, detest with all my heart,
Your good "old-fashioned winter" !

IX.

The maid may love it : when it brings her "*chaps*"
It brings *me* chilblains and a torpid liver ;
For four fell months I swathe myself in wraps—
One long, protracted shiver !

Eastbourne. F. B. Doveton.

# TROUT FLIES, AND HOW TO TIE THEM.

By H. F. N.

(With Illustrations.)

I THINK it is an undoubted fact that the great majority of amateur fly fishermen do not tie their own flies, probably not above eight per cent., if indeed that. Votaries of the angle may, roughly speaking, be classed under two heads—*i.e.*, those who, owing to the pressure of business, or the time taken up in other pursuits, find in fishing a pleasant relaxation from work, or an agreeable variation of sport; and those who, having plenty of time, throw themselves into the sport heart and soul. Like lovemaking, fishing may be said to be the business of the idle, or the idleness of the busy. Now, to the man with an extremely limited time at his disposal I would say: go to your tackle-maker for your flies by all means, only take care that you pay such a sum for them as to allow a chance of the hooks and gut being good. But to the man who makes fly fishing his principal recreation in life (and who is almost sure to be an enthusiast on the subject), I say: if you want to get the greatest possible enjoyment out of your fishing, tie your own flies; for you will probably find that you get almost as much pleasure out of doing so as out of the actual fishing itself.

With what regret the ardent angler lays aside his rod for the winter, and, as he thinks of the long drear months that must elapse before he can again throw his flies over the streams he knows so well, speculates as to how he will get through the time! The man, however, who ties his own flies, can wile away many of the long winter evenings in dressing a stock of flies for next year's campaign; and as he does so, lives over again the enjoyable hours of the last season and anticipates those of the next, grassing many a trout as he sits at his smoking-room table. Besides, what is the pride of the angler who had just netted the monarch of the brook with one of Messrs. Brown and Robinson's duns, to that of him who, for the first time, has taken a fish (be it but a quarter-of-a-pounder) with a fly of his own making? Never shall I forget my sensations on seeing a fish coming with open mouth at the first fly I ever made—a black gnat by courtesy, but no more like a black gnat than I to Hercules! I can only say that in striking I broke my top joint, and sent the fish (a six-ounce trout) flying about twenty yards behind me! I have that black gnat still, for I would not endanger its reputation a second time. Then, from a more practical point of view, the man who ties his own flies is much more likely to become a proficient in the art of catching fish than he who does not. The shyness of trout has much increased with the yearly increasing number of fishermen, and on many well-whipped waters the fish require a very good imitation of the fly on; and (though perhaps he is not necessarily so) the fly fisher is more likely to be a good entomologist than he who depends on his tackle-maker, and who, even if he knows what he wants, frequently cannot get it of the exact shade or pattern. To be able to tie a fly by the water's side may occasionally mean the difference between a good basket and an empty one—as I myself found the first time I began to take a few materials for the purpose with me on my fishing excursions. I had tried a dozen varieties of flies in vain, when I put on an old fly with a very pale yellow fur body and a light honey-dun hackle—the only one of its kind in my book. I soon found I had "struck ile," for the fish took it at once, and after catching three on it, it went off with a good fish on a visit from which it did not return. I sat down, ate my lunch, and tied a couple like the one I had lost. At the end of the day I had got twelve brace, never having had a rise at any other fly than my "yellow godsend," as I christened it. Now I have endeavoured to point out a few of the many advantages that are to be found in tying one's own flies, and that are usually admitted by anglers; but a general impression seems to exist among those who have never tried to do so, that to tie a fly is a very difficult operation, and it is a common thing to hear a man say: "Oh, I could never tie a fly, my hands are much too large and clumsy; I haven't got the fingers for finicking work." I can only say that the man who first taught me would have taken about number fourteen size in gloves, had he ever worn such things, which is extremely doubtful, however, as his hands betrayed no signs of such preservation, and he being a gamekeeper—by name Robert Jones—and about the best fisherman in all North Wales, combining a most marvellous knowledge of the habits of trout, with decided views on theology, politics, and smoking mixtures. The truth is, that the only essential qualifications are—decent eyesight, and a real desire to learn; and given these, and a fair stock of patience, anyone of ordinary intelligence, who can whip a piece of gut on to a hook, would soon learn to turn out a hackle fly well enough to kill, though a somewhat longer apprenticeship is necessary to learn to make a good winged fly of a more complicated nature, such as a red spinner, which is about the hardest fly of any to tie well. I have had many pupils in the art from among my fishing companions, the last of whom, a fisherman of twenty-four years' standing, I taught about a couple of months ago. After starting him one evening, and seeing him tie a couple of hackle flies in a most creditable manner, I left him at it about eleven o'clock. On seeing him in the morning, I remarked upon his washed-out appearance, when he produced a capital winged fly which he had achieved after many failures at two o'clock that morning, at which hour he had retired on his laurels to his downy couch! This is an instance of the fascination fly-tying exercises over one when once taken up; though, personally, I recommend an earlier retirement to rest!

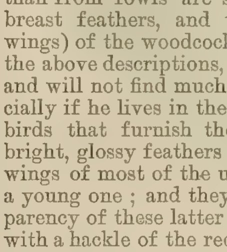
Now, before going on to detail the different steps in the making of a fly, we come to the important point of the materials out of which the artificial fly is made. As Mrs. Beeton would say, first catch your materials and then tie your fly; and very hard your materials sometimes are to catch when the eluding hen, or the ubiquitous cock, are the objects of your pursuit. It is surprising how many good fishermen are unable to accurately describe a fly to you—that is to say, they can tell you the colours, and whether with or without wings, tails, or ribbing, but are ignorant as to what bird or animal furnished the materials used. For my part, I never neglect an opportunity of collecting these necessaries of the art; and for the bodies of flies, the workbaskets of my sisters and lady friends afford me happy hunting grounds, though I must plead guilty to sometimes obtaining only such leave as is currently reported to be necessary in France. I do not know that I ever went so far as a friend of mine, a skilful salmon fisher, who was once staying at a country house where there was a pheasant aviary in the grounds containing two fine cock golden-pheasants, on whose brilliant toppings my friend at once set his unlawful affections. Unable any longer to resist his desires, he arose one morning about six o'clock, and proceeded to the cage, and, having caught one of the birds, relieved it of a few of the coveted feathers—an operation which is often, and, indeed, usually, performed without any evil results. Unfortunately, however, he learned at luncheon on the following day from one of the young ladies, whose pets the birds were, that "Tommy" (the bird in question) had been found dead—the result, no doubt, of a fight with "Jack," the other bird! My friend, I regret to state, adjourned with the lady in question to the cage, where he very kindly held an inquest on the deceased bird, for the purpose of which it was necessary, as he then explained, to remove the rest of the toppings! "And so, you see, I got the lot!" he added to me, with an unblushing smile.

And now let us return to our muttons—I mean materials. Let us first invest in a pair of embroidery scissors, two pairs of tweezers or pliers (one pair for nipping on to the hackle, and the other for the silk in the manner I shall afterwards explain), which can be purchased at almost any fishing-tackle shop, a small bottle of varnish sold for the purpose, some cobbler's or white wax, and half a dozen reels of the finest machine-silk of the various colours—black, white, orange, red, claret, and yellow. It is very difficult to get machine-silk for tying purposes fine enough—the Gossamer silk, as it is called, being too fine for a beginner to work with, as it is apt to break on the slightest provocation, either in being waxed or in tying with it. For the bodies of flies we require peacock and black ostrich herls, the dark blue fur of the mole, the light blue fur that grows nearest the skin of the rabbit, fur from the hare's ear, side, and lug, and a few crewels, silks, and filoselles of various colours, especially yellow, and what are known as neutral tints. The materials for bodies will not be complete without some gold and silver tinsel, both flat and round.

We now come to the important question of hackles, and, with regard to these, as to all other materials mentioned here, I do not pretend to give a list of all those, or half of those, one may want for one fly or another, but merely those that are in more general request for the flies most commonly used. As the fly-tyer progresses in his art, he will soon find out for himself many others that he wants. The most useful hackles are those that grow high up on the necks of poultry, especially the dark red ones from the gamecock, the lighter red from the golden Hamburgh, and those red ones, having a black centre, called coch-y-bondu hackles—those both from the cock and hen being used, the hen's hackles always being softer and less spiky than the cock's. Also, we must have ginger and black hackles from hens of that colour; and last, but by no means least, blue hen hackles, varying from the palest smoke to a dark steel colour. Some of these blue hackles have a golden freckle or tinge at the edges, and are most invaluable, though rather hard to get. Hackle feathers other than from fowls are starling neck feathers, partridge and grouse back and breast feathers, and the scapularies (or small feathers growing outside the wings) of the woodcock, starling, landrail, gull, and moorhen. With hackles of the above descriptions, the intending fly-tyer may consider himself well started, and will not find much difficulty in obtaining the necessary wing feathers, especially if he lives in the country, and is the possessor of a gun. Now among birds that furnish the last-named feathers the starling ranks first, as the bright, glossy feathers in the centre of its wing are admirable for making the wings of most of the upright winged flies called duns, especially if the bird be a young one; and they also do well for spinners, though the brilliant transparency of these latter flies often renders it more desirable to dress them buzz, with a hackle of the requisite shade. Other useful wings are those of the landrail, snipe, moorhen, blackbird, tomtit, jay, woodcock, partridge, pheasant, widgeon, and brown hen, and certain of the breast and tail feathers of these birds, and of the mallard and teal. All feathers and hackles should be kept with a little camphor to keep off the ravages of moths and insect life, and, if this precaution is taken, they may be kept for years, and yet remain fit for use, especially in the case of hackles, if all the fluffy part on the lower part of the quill has been stripped off. I have found a most convenient way of keeping feathers ready for use is to get, or make, a book like a large fly book, with parchment pockets, into which the hackles are put, tied up in little bundles of eighteen or so. And now enough of materials: let us to work, and ascertain if our hands are all thumbs, or really can boast the usual complement of fingers.

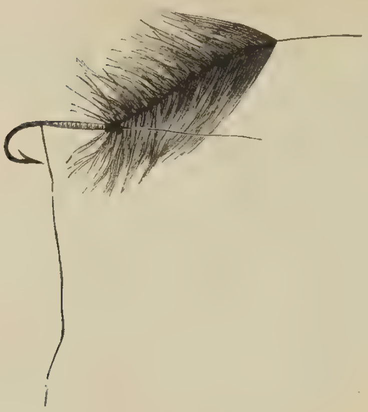
Of all flies, I always choose a coch-y-bondu upon which to start a beginner, as being one of the easiest to tie, and let him begin on a good-sized hook (say No. 8), as in the illustrations. As he progresses, the tyer will find himself better able to manage flies on the smaller sizes of hooks. Get all your materials ready to begin with: about fourteen inches of silk, a couple of strands of peacock's herl of a bronze shade, and a medium-sized hackle. Hold your silk in your left hand and wax it well, and, having done so, remove superfluous wax with a piece of wash or other leather. Bite the end of the gut for about half an inch, to prevent it slipping from the hook after the fly is tied. Now with your left hand take hold of the tip of the hackle, and with the thumb and forefinger of the right hand draw back the fibres until you get the hackle as in Fig. 1. You are now ready to start, so take the hook, barb downwards, between the thumb and forefinger of your left hand, with the bitten end of the gut on the underneath side, and place the end of the tying silk across the middle of the shank of the hook, keeping it there with the thumb. Take two turns round the hook towards the head, and then a turn or so back, so as just to bind over where you began, to prevent the silk from unwinding in case you should loosen the pressure of the thumb. Then wind again (from you, of course, unless left-handed) towards the head, taking care that each lap is close to, but not on the top of, the other, until you get nearly to the end, having first once passed the silk between the gut and shank to prevent the former from drawing. Then place the tip of the hackle, light side up, where you have stopped winding; take two turns of the silk over it, and commence to wind down towards the tail of the hook, and, having got to the place in the hook where the tail of the fly usually ends, tie a half-hitch knot. Before, however, getting quite to the end, snip off whatever of the other end of the tying silk has not already been bound over. Your fly is now in the state shown in Fig. 2. Take the strands of peacock herl, lay the thinner ends on the top of the hook, as if the fly were going to have two huge tails, and bind over it, working up towards the head of the fly, and then make a half-hitch just by the hackle, which brings your fly to the point shown in Fig. 3. Now take hold of the ends of the herl and wind it round the shank of the hook in the same manner as the silk, till you get to where you made your knot. Take one turn of the silk over the herl, and tie a half-hitch; snip off the remnant of the herl, and you have the body made. Another plan is, instead of tying in the hackle point as you whip on the gut, to tie it in after you have finished the body. This latter method does well enough for simple hackle flies; but the former is preferable when you wish to avoid the bulkiness occasioned by extra knots. Next take your pliers, and pinch one pair on to the butt of the hackle, and the other pair on to the silk, about four inches down, as shown in Fig 4. Now comes

Fig. 1.



the somewhat difficult operation of winding on the hackle; but the plan of weighting the tying silk with the pliers, and winding the hackle on the left-hand side of it, prevents the novice from getting the hackle wound too far up to the head, and possibly on to the gut—a common failing with beginners. In winding the hackle, take care to pull just enough with the pliers to keep the quill taut and prevent it from unrolling, and mind you keep the hackle always at right angles with the hook, and not to twist it. When you have rolled on the hackle, let the pliers holding the quill hang down; un-nip the pliers from the silk, and with the latter take two turns over the hackle quill, and then a half-hitch, and you have Fig. 5. Cut off the superfluous quill, take another lap or two with the silk, and finish off with a couple of knots. Cut off the remaining silk and varnish the head, and you have made your fly. You may now proceed to re-light your pipe, and, unless an exception to the general rule, will spend the next half-hour in admiration of the results of your maiden effort.

Fig. 2.



Suppose your fly had been a red spinner: before winding quite down to the tail end with your silk, you would lay your two or three long tail fibres on the top of the shank, bind over their butts as you wind to the end, and, without tying any knot, bind on the ends of the floss silk and gold tinsel together as you work up towards the head, in the same way as you would do the peacock herl in the coch-y-bondu, and then tie a knot. Now wind the the floss silk to the shoulder, where you have already brought the tying silk, nip on the pliers (the weight of which will prevent it unrolling), and next bring up the tinsel in spiral coils. Take two turns over the floss and tinsel with your tying silk, and then a hitch, cut off the ends, and you are ready to wind the hackle as before. If you want a fur body, the method is rather different. Take a little of the fur between finger and thumb of the right hand and twirl it round the tying silk, continuing the twirling a little as you wind the silk up to the shoulder, and when there remove superfluous dubbing, and make your knot. This operation of putting on the dubbing is commenced, of course, when the tying silk is in the position shown in Fig 2. When the hackle runs from head to tail (as in the Wickham and other flies), its point must be tied in at the tail together with the silk herl or tinsel for the body, the tying silk brought up to the shoulder, then the material for the body, and, lastly, the hackle, as if it were a tinsel ribbing. This kind of fly, however, is too hard for the novice to begin with, as it is very difficult to roll the hackle so that the fibres all point regularly the same way.

Fig 3.

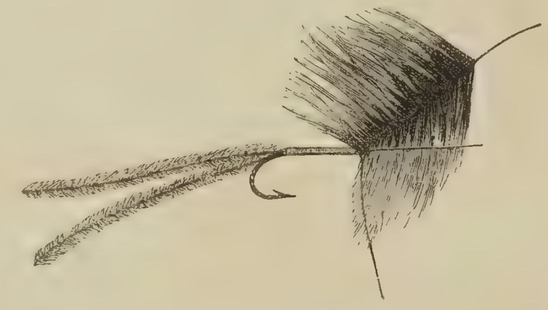
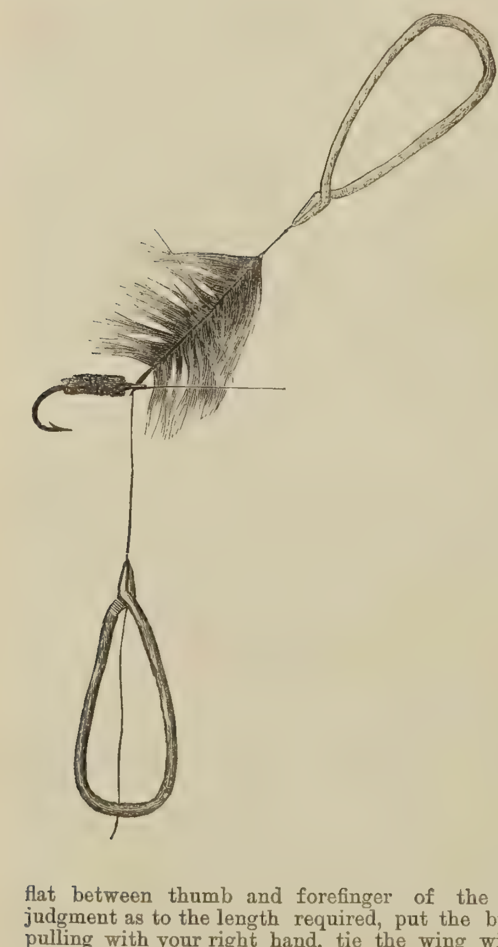
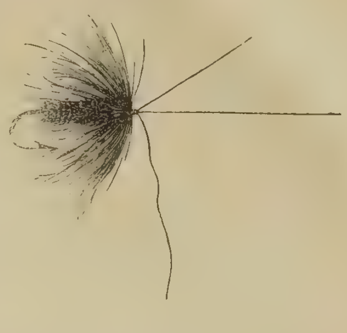


Fig. 4.



And now as to the wing, if your fly is to have one; in which case, if you have operated aright, there will still be a little of the bare shank of the hook left at head. Take a right and left side wing feather, cut out a small piece from each, and lay the one on the other. Now take a piece of Gossamer silk about seven inches long, lay on a little varnish with a stick (which is preferable to waxing the silk in this case), and having made a loop in the middle, hold one end between your teeth and the other with your right hand. Then take hold of the tips of the wing flat between thumb and forefinger of the left hand, and, using your judgment as to the length required, put the butt ends through the loop, and, pulling with your right hand, tie the wing with the silk. Fig. 6. shows the wing thus tied, the object being to nip in the butt without splitting the fibres. Cut the ends of silk off as close to the knot as possible, and lay the wing on the bare part of the hook, the place where it has been tied coming just over the tying silk as it hangs. Bind the wing down with three turns, and then make a knot. Here we have Fig. 7. Cut off the remnant of the butt, take another turn or so with the silk, and finish with two knots or half-hitches. Cut off the end of the silk, varnish the head of the fly, and, if the fates have been propitious, you have made your winged fly. With a good deal of practice you will be able to tie on the wing without first tying it in the manner shown in Fig. 6; but that method will save you much trouble at first. Before I stop, let me observe that the apparently easy operation of making a knot or half-hitch is the rock on which all beginners split, as they are apt to remove the pressure of the forefinger, which prevents the silk from uncoiling, and do not always make a firm hitch, owing to the loop twisting. The loop through which it is intended to pass the end of the silk should be long, and left hanging loosely down. The beginner will soon realise what is meant by this. Another piece of advice is always to touch the silk with varnish before tying a knot. I have now endeavoured to explain on paper how the artificial trout fly is made; but I confess that half-an-hour's observation of a practised hand at work is worth a ton's weight of written dissertation on the subject.

Fig. 5.



I have said nothing as to the advantages from an economic point of view of tying one's own flies, and doubtless to most fishermen the cost of the excellent artificial flies sold at the tackle shops is a trifling matter; but to some it may not be a drawback that the cost price of home-made flies comes to something like a farthing apiece. For my part, if it cost me twice as much to make my own flies as to buy them, I should still consider the pleasure and advantages derived from tying them oneself more than worth the difference.

Fig. 6.

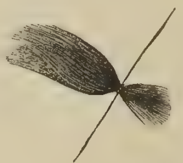
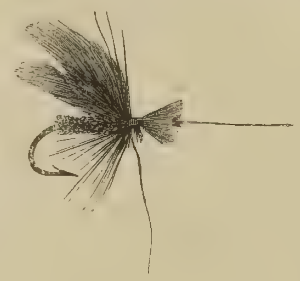


Fig. 7.



## RECIPE FOR WATERPROOFING SEA LINES, LANDING-NETS, &c.

In his interesting letter last week, Mr. Gribble asks for a recipe for dressing the landing-net so that the hooks will not readily catch in it. It seems to us that a good *stiff* dressing is the thing wanted, and after looking through various books, think the simplest and best for the purpose is described in "Sea Fish and How to Catch Them," by W. B. Lord, R.A., in the revised edition, 1863.

### Recipe.

"Make a coil of your line, which should be bound round in three or four places with thread; take of best glue half a pound, water a little more than half a pint, placed in a large pipkin or other convenient vessel; warm gradually until the glue is thoroughly dissolved and quite clear, when your coil of line should be put in and boiled for twenty minutes. Take out your line, cut the bands, and lay it on the grass (a dry day, of course, being chosen for the operation), arranging it up and down like the teeth of a large saw, so that the strands shall not come in contact. In about four hours it will be dry, when it must be recoiled round the hand, and placed in a boiling solution of catechu—half a pound of catechu to one pint of water; keep boiling for three-quarters of an hour, remove it from the solution, and hang it up to cool for a quarter of an hour. When cool, wash it well in cold water, and dry for use. For this very excellent method I am indebted to 'W. W.,' a correspondent to the *Field*, and I beg to congratulate him and his brother fishermen on the discovery he has made, as it is excellent of its kind, and far superior to anything which has hitherto been made use of for the purpose."

Last week another correspondent asked for the recipe for a varnish. We recommended shellac, and perhaps it will be useful if we give Mr. Lord's recipe for making a

### Finishing Varnish.

"The durability and strength of fishing-tackle is materially increased by using the varnish, directions for which I am about to give, to such portions as are fastened with thread or silk—the fastenings of hooks, loops, chop-stick ends, &c. Take of shellac half an ounce, naphtha two ounces; mix, and allow the gum to thoroughly dissolve in the spirit; keep tightly corked for use, and apply when required with a small camel-hair pencil, which should be secured with a small stick to the bottom of the cork, when it will remain soft, and be always at hand when wanted."

Another capital dressing for nets and sea lines is that used by sea fishermen, and it will be found equally useful for preventing any kind of net from rotting. We take the recipe from that invaluable and standard work, "The Sea Fisherman," by Mr. J. C. Wilcocks.*

### Recipe for Barking or Tanning Lines.

"Catechu and oak-bark are used for this purpose: half a pound of catechu to three pints of water, and a handful of oak-bark, if you can get it; pulverise and boil until the catechu is well dissolved, then pour it over the lines in a basin or tub, and allow to soak twenty-four hours. There is no objection to using oak-bark exclusively, if you are near a tan-yard or bark-mill; but a gallon of oak-bark has not more power of tanning than half a pound of catechu. In a town catechu is often procurable when oak-bark is not to be obtained."

**Illness of Mr. James Gregory, of Birmingham.**—We regret to hear Mr. J. Gregory has been dangerously ill for the past five weeks with typhoid fever, and although the doctors have pronounced him out of danger, it will be some time before he can attend to his duties again.

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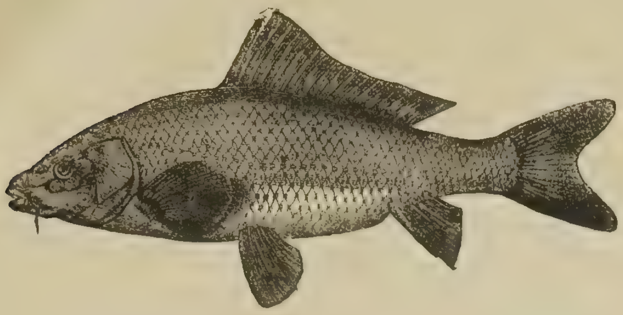
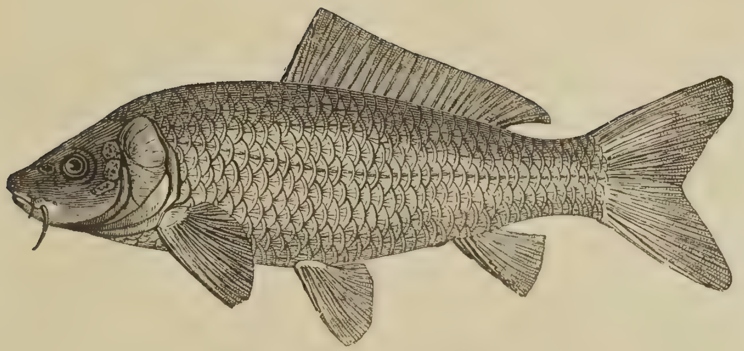
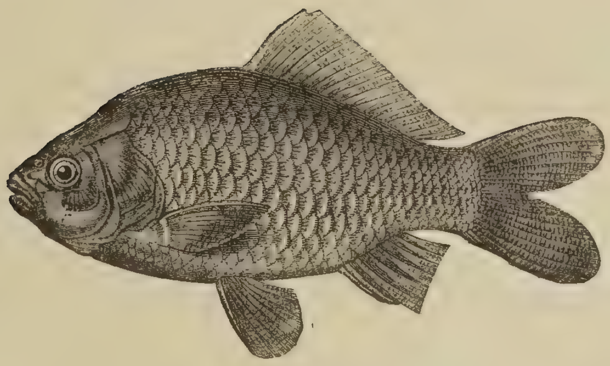
* London; Longmans and Co., Paternoster-row. Fully illustrated, price 12s. 6d.



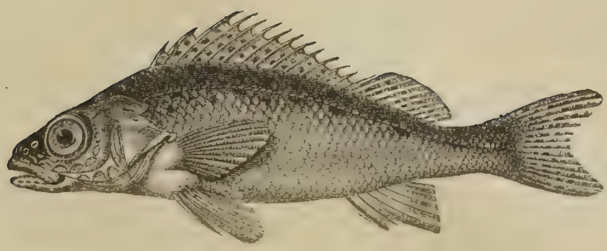
THE COMMON CARP (*Cyprinus Carpio*).



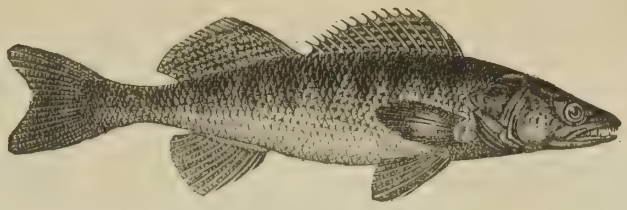
THE ROYAL OR MIRROR CARP (*Rex cyprinorum*).
(Scales four times as large as in common carp.)



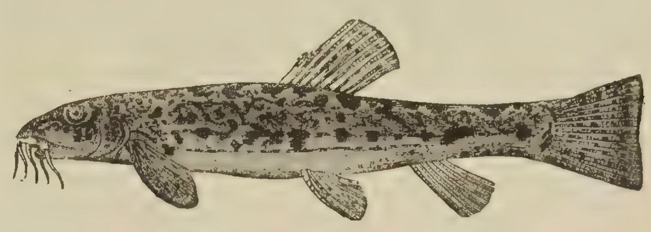
THE CRUCIAN CARP (*Cyprinus carassius*).



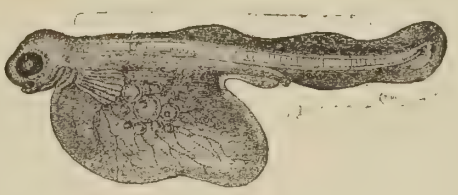
THE POPE OR RUFFE (*Acerina vulgaris*).



THE PIKE PERCH (*Perca lucioperca*).
(Called the Wall-Eyed Pike and Glass-Eyed Pike in America.)



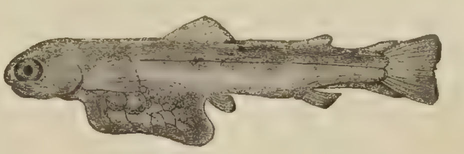
THE LOACH OR STONE LOACH (*Cobitis barbatula*).



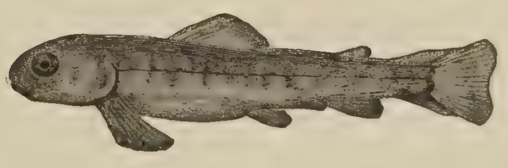
YOUNG TROUT JUST HATCHED, WITH THE UMBILICAL SAC ATTACHED.

(Four times the natural size.)

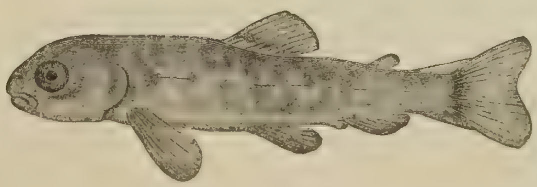
For six weeks or two months the fish exists on this "oil bag," taking no other food. The bag gradually becomes absorbed and disappears. (It requires from 90 to 140 days for salmon and trout eggs to hatch out, according to the temperature.)



YOUNG TROUT A MONTH OLD, THE OIL BAG NEARLY ABSORBED.



YOUNG TROUT SIX WEEKS OLD.



YOUNG TROUT FOUR MONTHS OLD.

## THE LATE SALMON-ROD ANGLING SEASON ON TWEED AND TEVIOT.

Votaries of the gentle art have once more put away for a season their rod, lines, and flies, and will now rest content on the recollections of their recent exploits until the near approach of February, 1885, warns them of the approaching termination of the close season, and induces them again to put them in order for another campaign. The angling season of 1883 had been a very successful one, and, at its close, anglers laid away their paraphernalia perfectly satisfied with the exceedingly good sport they had experienced on Tweed and Teviot. In the month of October, however, the disease broke out among the fish with considerable virulence, and great fears were entertained that the next season would be a bad one for the disciples of Old Izaak.

Notwithstanding this serious drawback to the prospects of 1884, the past season has completely belied the fears that were entertained at the end of the season of 1883. Whether or not the very open winter we experienced last year had anything to do with the excellent past year's fishing we cannot say; but one thing is certain, and that is that we have not had so good a fishing for some years back, notwithstanding the fact that between 10,000 and 11,000 diseased fish were removed from the rivers by the bailiffs of the River Tweed Commissioners. It may be interesting to some of our piscatorial readers to give a table of the diseased fish taken from the rivers during the past five years, which is as follows:

| | 1880. | 1881. | 1882. | 1883. | 1884. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Salmon ............ | 3,827 | 2,372 | 14,250 | 3,919 | 6,665 |
| Grilse ............ | 356 | 260 | 1,858 | 211 | 951 |
| Sea Trout......... | 1,460 | 187 | 1,454 | 673 | 2,700 |
| Total | 5,143 | 3,819 | 17,572 | 4,803 | 10,316 |

The extent of the disease can thus be seen at a glance, and, as it was worse in 1883 than it had been for a couple of years previous, the wonder is that the past season has been such a good one to the angler. When the season opened in February of the present year no fishing took place for a week, owing to the adverse state of the elements; but on Friday, the 8th, Mr. J. R. Hay-Gordon, on the Carham water, had "first blood," killing two nice clean-run fish. Another week's interval intervened here, owing to waters again being out of order; but, on the 16th, one salmon was killed, and in the Jedburgh district one common trout of 5lb. was also got. The spring fishing may be said to have commenced in earnest on Monday, the 20th February, and from thence was, with a few interruptions caused by small floods, till the end of March pursued with very much success. The number of fish killed during the month of February would amount to about 80, in comparison with the previous year's take of about 20. One of the fish killed on the Hendersyde water (on the 25th of February) was said to weigh 42lb., and was 4ft. long, and beautifully made in proportion. The lucky fisher was Mr. Barclay, Essex. Another good fish killed was one bordering closely on 20lb., by Mr. Drummond, Ednam House Water. Amongst the gentlemen who were also successful during the month were Mr. Morton, London; Mr. Russell, Yorkshire; Mr. J. R. Hay-Gordon, Liverpool; the Messrs. Jas. and Charles Kerts; Mr. T. Johnston, wine and spirit merchant, Kelso, &c. March fished well, although about eight days were lost through floods. As is usual, the month of April was not a good one, somewhere between 20 and 30 being killed, in comparison to about 16 the previous year. The Floors Castle waters contributed the largest quota of the salmon killed as above stated, while one of 10lb. was caught on the Teviot. Trout fishing during the middle of the month was excellent, some large baskets having been got. The net fishing at this time, too, was beginning to fall off, salmon and trout being scarce. The spring fishing ended with the month of April, and was considered very satisfactory. The summer fishing was, like the previous year's, a very poor one, very few fish being killed during the months of May, June, and July. The month of August was a repetition of the previous one, and although during the month of September a few fish were got, still the fishing was not what was expected, and the summer fishing finished up with the close of the month, and may be termed a very middling one. The back-end fishing may be said to have begun in earnest during the second week of October, and on the 9th October the Hon. H. Brougham, on the Mertoun water, killed three salmon, the weights being 16, 16, and 15lb.—a good beginning indeed. Four days were again lost through the rivers being out of order; but on the 15th angling was again resumed, and may be said to have gone on steadily till the end of the season, excepting three days in the first week of November, when a very opportune flood put a stop to angling, as stated. Towards the end of the month strong frosts made large takes out of the question; but the success got by the various anglers for three weeks previous fully compensated for this drawback. The rivers during the back-end season were always well stocked with fish, and little or no disease has been as yet observed. To make a comparison between last year's fishing and the present one shows that the one just closed was better, all over, than that of its predecessor, and a great improvement on that of the previous three years. In fact, on the Sprouston water we are led to believe that the same number of salmon has not been got for about eight or ten years. On some waters, however, things have not been nearly so good, as, for instance, that of Birgham Dub, leased by Mr. A. Denison, who has had very poor sport on his "casts." Floors, Upper and Lower, waters have also been somewhat disappointing. Besides that which we have already mentioned as being good and giving plenty of sport, the casts on the Hendersyde, Carham, Mertoun, and Ednam House waters have all done well, as have also those on the Makerstoun fishings. We subjoin a list of the fish killed during the season on the various waters in our immediate neighbourhood, the most of which may be relied upon for its accuracy, seeing that nearly all the statistics have been supplied to us by the kindness of the various owners, tenants, or lessees of the fishings. Many fish have, of course, been killed that we could know nothing of; but the following information will give to anglers a fair estimate of the salmon taken by the sportsman on the various salmon waters in the district:—

On the Upper and Lower Floors water, fished by his Grace the Duke of Roxburghe and his friends, over 30 salmon were killed during the spring; and, on the *upper* water alone, from the 10th of November to the end of the season, Mr. A. F. Thistlethwayte, London, killed between 60 and 70 fish. The total number of salmon killed on both Upper and Lower water, exclusive of Mr. Thistlethwayte's, was (during the whole season), as near as can be estimated, between 80 and 90, thus making a total for the season of somewhere near 160 fish.

On the Hendersyde Water, during the spring months, we believe that the number of fish got was nearly 30. The back-end fishing, however, may be relied upon as being entirely accurate, the statistics being kindly furnished to us by Sir George Waldie-Griffith, who says:—"The following is a summary of the Hendersyde fishings from the 15th September till the end of the season. Only four salmon and four grilse were caught up to the 17th October, at which date the good fishing on this water began. The season, as a whole, was most remarkable for the lowness and clearness of the water. Total number of fish killed 203, made up as follows:—143 salmon, total weight 2,883lb., average weight over 20lb.; 60 grilse, total weight 496lb., average over 8lb. Largest take in one day—November 18—was got by Sir G. W. Griffith, and numbered 12 fish, weighing 218lb.; and the heaviest fish killed was by Captain Bridges, one of 33lb., and the fly used was the Durham Ranger." In comparing the above fishing with that of the two previous years, we find that in 1883 the takes were as follows:—Salmon, 59, weighing 1,051lb., average 18lb; grilse, 61, weight 520lb., average 8½lb. In 1882 the salmon killed numbered 80, weighing 1,519lb., average 19lb.; grilse, 15, weighing 108lb., average 7lb. In 1881 the total fish killed numbered 156, weighing 2,039½lb.

Birgham water (leased by Mr. Denison) has this year been a most disappointing, and not a third of the fish got last year—which numbered 88—have this year fallen to the rod of this veteran angler. The lowness of the river has much to do with this, as also the want of heavy floods.

Ednam House water has this season done very well indeed, Mr. Drummond, the lessee, having 81 fish to his credit against 60 in 1883, and 50 in 1882, and 74 fish in 1881. During the spring 11 salmon were got, the heaviest scaling close on 20lb., while the gross weight of the others would be about 80lb. The weights of the fish killed on this water during the past season are as follows:—

| | | lb. | | | lb. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | salmon of | 3 | 2 | salmon of | 16 |
| 1 | " " | 5 | 6 | " " | 17 |
| 1 | " " | 7 | 8 | " " | 18 |
| 4 | " " | 8 | 5 | " " | 19 |
| 10 | " " | 9 | 8 | " " | 20 |
| 3 | " " | 10 | 3 | " " | 21 |
| 2 | " " | 12 | 5 | " " | 22 |
| 2 | " " | 13 | 4 | " " | 25 |
| 1 | " " | 14 | 1 | " " | 27 |
| 1 | " " | 15 | 2 | " " | 28 |

It will be seen from the foregoing that of the salmon killed most of them scaled from 16lb. to 22lb. The total weight of the whole fish killed was 1,234½lb. The most killed in one day was six, and the heaviest fish got was 28lb. The best taking flies were the Gibson (named after Mr. Drummond's fisherman), Jock Scott, Greenwell, and the Wilkinson.

Makerstoun water has done fairly well during the past season, and although Mr. Cockburn has not had so many fish to his credit this year as last, still he has had good sport, as on some days he could count from 8 to 10 salmon to his own rod, and some of them running from 25lb. to 30lb.

Sprouston water, which was fished promiscuously during the spring months, yielded fairly well, and the salmon got numbered somewhere between 50 and 60. The autumn season on the "casts" on this water have excelled, we understand, anything done on them for some years, and the total number of salmon killed during that time is stated to be 180 fish, while last season's kills were put down at 90 salmon.

On the Upper Cornhill water Col. Biden has had also fairly good sport, and his "takes" cannot be much less for the present season than those of last year, taking into account the proportion of time he fished this year and last. Many of the Colonel's fish ran from 17lb. up to 21lb.

Captain Vivian and Mr. Arkwright, on the Rutherford water, fared well also, so far as good "takes" were concerned, and many of their fish ran to good weights.

On the Mertoun water, which is leased by the Hon. H. Brougham, we don't think we exaggerate one iota when we state that, single-handed, he has killed more fish on the Tweed this year than any other gentleman can boast of to his own rod. Of course we have not his actual "takes" for the season to record from book; but when we give it at, say, from 150 to 160 salmon we don't think we are far off the mark, and many of his fish were splendidly proportioned and of good weights.

Carham water, leased by Mr. Hay-Gordon, Liverpool, has proved an excellent hold for the "king of fishes," and during the spring Mr. Gordon had 30 fish, while during the back-end season he, along with other friends, managed to kill nearly 100 salmon on this fastness.

Major-General Henry and his friends, angling on the Pavilion water, at Melrose, have killed, during the season, 165 salmon, as compared with 149 last year.

On the Bernersyde water, owned by Lieut.-Colonel Haig, rare good sport was also got during the back-end season, and the total number of salmon and grilse got numbered 162 fish. The heaviest got was one of 29lb., and the best day's fishing saw fourteen beauties brought to bank. In one week, from November 11th to November 17th, no fewer than 66 fish were got by rod and line, a feat we should imagine nearly unprecedented; and, in the same week, the greatest "take" by one rod was the grand total of 51 salmon. Rare sport, indeed! The following table shows the salmon killed, as well as the weights of each:—

| | | lb. | | | lb. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | salmon of | 4 | 14 | salmon of | 17 |
| 1 | " " | 5 | 13 | " " | 18 |
| 2 | " " | 6 | 22 | " " | 19 |
| 6 | " " | 7 | 12 | " " | 20 |
| 7 | " " | 8 | 19 | " " | 21 |
| 14 | " " | 9 | 11 | " " | 22 |
| 6 | " " | 10 | 3 | " " | 23 |
| 4 | " " | 11 | 1 | " " | 24 |
| 1 | " " | 12 | 1 | " " | 25 |
| 1 | " " | 13 | 3 | " " | 26 |
| 2 | " " | 14 | 1 | " " | 27 |
| 4 | " " | 15 | 3 | " " | 28 |
| 9 | " " | 16 | 1 | " " | 29 |

It will thus be seen by the above that 64 salmon came under the heading of from 19lb. to 22lb., being a large percentage of the whole "take." Their total weight was 2,705lb., and the average of the whole was between 16lb. and 17lb. Very good, indeed!

Of the gentlemen who fished the various waters in this district other than those above named, and were very successful, we may mention that the Earl of Hardwicke, who had fished the Floors Castle water, had good sport, and the same nobleman had splendid sport on the Dupplin water, having up to the 3rd November killed over 100 salmon in the various Scotch rivers he had angled on. In the latter water he had 55 salmon in 16 days, the weight of which was 1,038½lb., and he had also 10 grilse of 75lb. On the Sprouston water Mr. J. Brunlees, C.E., London, had 9 one day; while, on the same waters, Messrs. Whatman and Balfour, London, killed 17 salmon with one rod in one day's angling. Of the others who were most successful were Mr. Cooper, London, on Floors water; Mr. Wood, London, on Sprouston water; Mr. Mayor, London; Mr. Crawhall

Newcastle; Mr. Bidden, Q.C., London; Mr. Barrington, London; Mr. Walker, Scarborough, &c., &c.

### Teviot

has again been a disappointment to anglers, as very few fish have been got from its pools and streams, owing, in a great measure, to the smallness of the volume of water flowing in the bed of the stream, as many fish were to be seen in the various "casts." The champion for the year was Mr. A. Turnbull, the Cemetery, Kelso, who had 9 fish to his own rod, this being four less than last year, when he topped the list with 13.

In bringing this *résumé* to a close, we must congratulate those anglers who visit the banks of the Tweed in the search of salmon fishing on the success which has attended their efforts during the past season—both spring and autumn; and as the rivers are at present very full of fish all bent on Nature's duty, and with little or no appearance of the dreadful fungoid disease, we anticipate for them another seaason of large "takes," once the new campaign opens in 1885.

## A FEW PISCATORIAL JOTTINGS FOR THE SEASON.

By "Chub Chavender."

The spawning season of the trout is fully upon us, and in many rivers the earlier fish have deposited their beautiful coral and opaline gems of spawn—for when it is considered that each egg has the initial life of the carmine-spotted silver-bellied 3-pounder lying latent within it, surely such globules are "gems of price." According to "B."—your valued Thames correspondent—the trout of that river had deposited them as early as the first week of December. In most of the chalk rivers, however, this is exceptionally early, and in the Itchen and Test it is not likely that the bulk of the fish will have done with their conjugal duties till January, though it is true the exceptionally mild weather will hasten the act of generation very considerably. Some of the first batch of the males are busily at work in the former of these two rivers at the time of writing, but if a sharp frost comes the earliest eggs will receive a check which will assimilate them in point of time closely with the succeeding batches. Last year in the upper Itchen I found the fish were ready all at once about the Christmas week.

Don't the grayling have a glorious time of it in some parts of the Itchen below Winchester and in the Test spawn-eating!

By the bye, speaking of the Itchen, I heard a capital story to-day told me by perhaps the best fly-fisher in the county. Once on a time—it boots not when—he was accompanied by a brother piscator to fish. This gentleman, though in every respect an admirable sportsman, was at night-time remarkably nervous, and as they returned in the dark from their field of operations the conversation feel upon the escape of two lunatics from a neighbouring asylum. The bank-side was dark, and everything was hushed and solemnly still, when the clank of chains fell upon the ears of both. "Oh, dear!" stammered the affrighted one; "perhaps it's those two poor lunatics. Let us make haste!" "Nonsense," returned the narrator; "and even if it is, the poor creatures won't hurt us." "Oh, do come on C——" was the reply, and with more haste than caution our timid friend made his way as rapidly as his shaking legs would allow. Presently, as they got into a field—the sound of chains still quite apparent—poor Timorous espied in his way the form of a lazy, slumbering cow, and forgetting the frailty of his rod, he lashed out with it on the beast's back. The second blow let loose the fly on his line, and as the cow rose the recoil of the rod hooke it in the root of her tail. The prick of the hook was sufficient to rouse her todactivity. On went the cow, and whirr—whirr went the check-winch. Piscator ran and tumbled after, the cow increased her pace, and finally ploughed her way through the hedge. Unwilling to let go, Piscator followed and essayed to jump the obstacle, when plump he fell face foremost in the slush and mud on the other side. Whirr went the reel and snap went the gut, and as our timorous angler picked himself up out of the slough of despond into which he had fallen, aided by the narrator of the story, a large dog with a broken chain attached to his collar bounded up and fawned upon them. It had simply broken its chain, and was seeking for a master.

What a pity it is that such a really good pike pond like that of Alresford is not better cared for. During the dry weather, previous to the recent rains, the bulk of its area has been almost dry. Yet there are still, notwithstanding the great takes of the members of the Gresham, some very fine jack in it—aye, and big trout, too. I saw one which had been slain by a local in the summer of 1883 which went 14½lb., and, in my judgment, it was a brown trout (*S. fario*), too. It might be made a magnificent trout lake if cleaned out and looked after, but it seems hopeless to expect that this will be done. Previous to the occupation of the pond by the "Gresham," I had one very red letter day, in which 96lb. of jack were taken to my own rod alone *spinning*. Yet, when I wrote you, Mr. Editor, suggesting that you visited it, you replied that you thought the myriads of white fish would prevent any considerable sport. By the bye, there s a tradition of Alresford pond which most probably most of the "Gresham" who have visited that classic town of Tichborneism must have heard. It is to the effect that a certain person desired to drown a dog. He repaired to the pond and tied a brick on the poor creature's neck. Then he threw the dog in, but the brick slipped ere Ponto reached the bottom. As he ascended to the surface a dozen voracious monsters of the deep darted for him, and ere the agonised creature could scarcely cry out he was torn to pieces by pike before the eyes of his executioner. My informant assured me that two huge pike were seen fighting over a long length of its entrails, one at each end, like two birds at a worm. I couldn't help exclaiming "*Credat Judæus*" as I heard the conclusion.

A correspondent some time since mentioned the capture of a roach which was disproportionately deep for its length—in fact, its belly was of aldermanic proportions. In another issue a writer suggests that this might have been due to obstruction of the ova, as in the case of carp. There is great probability in this suggestion, for I have several times found large carp (12, 13½, and 15lb.) dead at spawning time in a large lake formerly under my control which, on evisceration, showed several hard masses of tumefied ova packed close together, and finally to such an extent that it impeded the ordinary functions of nutrition. But I have another theory as to this obesity, and that is that it was caused by tapeworm. I have on various occasions found roach to contain great lengths of the certode. On one occasion no less than 30ft. of the worm was taken from a roach of 1lb. weight—there were five of them. Dr. Spencer Cobbold kindly identified them with Creplin's *ligula digramma*. It is very advisable that fishermen taking abnormal fish should use the knife and endeavour, by means of a little rough-and-ready dissection, to discover what is really the cause of the abnormal appearance. It is similar with trout. You catch a black trout, and seeing nothing except the dark colour to warrant you in thinking it an old fish, you nevertheless reject it as one. If, however, you open it, you will probably find its liver is perforated with the "fluke," a parasite quite similar to that which is found in the hepatic organ of a sheep. A most interesting study is this of the diseases of fish, and quite worthy the angler's attention in the interregna of sport.

*Re* the influence of drugs on fishes.—I picked up a book some time since at an "old book" stall entitled "Every Man his own Farrier," published by Sowerby of Halifax, in 1852. It is by an "Old Farrier," and in the addenda there is a collection of capital recipes (for the most part), amongst which occurs one—"Prechtl's Method of Preserving Fish Alive." It instructs one to soak bread-crumbs in brandy, and after pouring a little of this in the mouths of the fish, to fill them (the mouths) with the brandified bread. The fish are then to be packed in clean straw, and they, it is said, will come to life in water after ten or twelve days—I think that is the time, but not having the book near me at time of writing am not sure to a day or two. I sent this "recipe" to Mr. Oldham Chambers, but have not since heard from him in reference to it. On the face of it, it is absurd; but it would be interesting to know how long a perch, say, might live under the influence of spirit *out* of the water. Coccalus indicus, tobacco, and cordamous have each a stupefying effect on fish, and an old poacher's dodge is the mixing of *a* spirit—not brandy—with paste, and so stupefying trout so that they can be readily taken out at a lower part of the river as they float down. I do not give the name of the spirit for obvious reasons; it is nevertheless a fact, for I caught a poacher red-handed at the little game in Hertfordshire some years ago.

By the way, I wish to ask a question of the practical fishculturists who read your paper. Is it within their observation that the process of artificial spawning has a tendency to deteriorate the vitality of the species of trout?—that is to say, have they noticed that at about the third and fourth generation of artificially-bred fish the fecundity fails, and barren fish, which are in good condition all the year round, result? At any rate, this I *know:* there are many fish taken out of a particular river I wot of which has been subjected to artificially-bred fish for many years which are absolutely without developed ovaries, and in some cases even the rudimentary ovary requires careful looking for. In the course of spawning operations carried on during the past four years on the river I have repeatedly come across fish of 1lb. and 1½lb. with pink flesh, bright colours, and absolutely no indication of spawn.

Mem. for trout fishermen.—When you bring your fish home and empty them from the creel, do so one by one into cloths, wetted, and wrung out. Roll the fish tightly, and next morning the colours of the fish will be restored to their original beauty. As a rule, if they are allowed to meet the air and dry they are part-coloured next morning, and look very unpleasant. For specimen fish, roll tissue paper all round them before the slime dries, taking care to roll enough on. It can be washed off easily. The colours will be just as they were in the stream even after a long journey.

The chub should soon be amenable to pith and brains now. Don't forget, oh Thames piscators, that when the thermometer is below freezing-point you will find *Cyprinus cephalus*—not in shallow water under the overhanging branches of osier, &c., but in deep, still lagoons, where the temperature is a degree or two higher than in air. There are various ways of preparing the pith for the hook. I boil till the pith becomes hardened, and then toss it in bran till cool. The bran scales off when you are using it, and is rather attractive than otherwise.

So also will the perch be "packed" and ready for slaughter. Let the tail of a well-scoured lob be not dispised, nor the lively black-backed minnow be discarded; but if you can get small gudgeon do so by all means, and use it in preference to any other bait for perch. Hook the hook through both lips; I like a triplet hook of small size.

Just a word to the amateur fishculturist. After getting the spawn safely in the hatching-boxes, taking care that your gravel is not too fine, else one part of the egg has not its complement of water in circulation, and letting each egg be apart from its neighbour; keep the light from them, especially candle light. Begin to feed as soon as the little fish are seen to skim the top of the water. You may give them groats, bullock's liver, or yolk of egg boiled hard and pounded in a mortar. Then mix a little water with the yolk, and scatter the food with a feather. There is one thing against this, and that is, that if there be much waste left at the bottom the egg engenders bysshus. This, however, does not seem to do a great deal of harm—not nearly so much, indeed, as the putrid remains of liver or worms. I, therefore, recommend yolk of egg in preference to any other food.

[We should very much like to hear the opinions of Mr. Andrews, Mr. Silk, and other pisciculturists on the point raised by our contributor as to whether artificial breeding has the effect he refers to.—Ed.]

## ADVERTISEMENTS IN THE "FISHING GAZETTE."

It is, of course, quite impossible for us to be answerable for the *bonâ fides* of all who use our advertising columns; but we may say this, that we trust any of our readers who mav be imposed upon in any way will let us know, and we will at once withdraw the misleading advertisement in the common interest. We take no credit for refusing to insert a certain class of objectionable advertisements, which, of course, pay well, but are properly tabooed by all respectable papers.

## PRAISE OF FLY-FISHING.

"The dictionary-making pensioner," as Cobbett used to call Dr. Samuel Johnson, defined angling as a silly thing, practised by a fool at one end of a rod and line and a worm at the other.

Let us after this see what fly-fishing is—whether it *is* a fool at one end of a rod and a worm at the other. The greatest names in arms, science, literature, and art—heroes, divines, mathematicians, poets, painters, sculptors—have been devoted to fiy-fishing. . . . . Other field sports may be more exciting than artificial fly-fishing, but there is not one requiring more skill or calling into exercise more intelligence and adroitness of mind and limb. A quick eye, a ready and delicate hand, an apprehensive brain, delicacy in the senses of touch and hearing, activity of limb, physical endurance, persevering control over impatience, vigilant watchfulness are qualifications necessary to form the fly-fisher. His amusing and chanceful struggles, teeming with varying excitement, are with the strongest, the most active, the most courageous, the most beautiful, and most valuable of river fish, and his instruments of victory are formed of materials so slight, and some of them so frail—they are beautiful as well—that all the delicacy and cunning resources of art are requisite to enable feebleness to overcome force.

Ephemera.

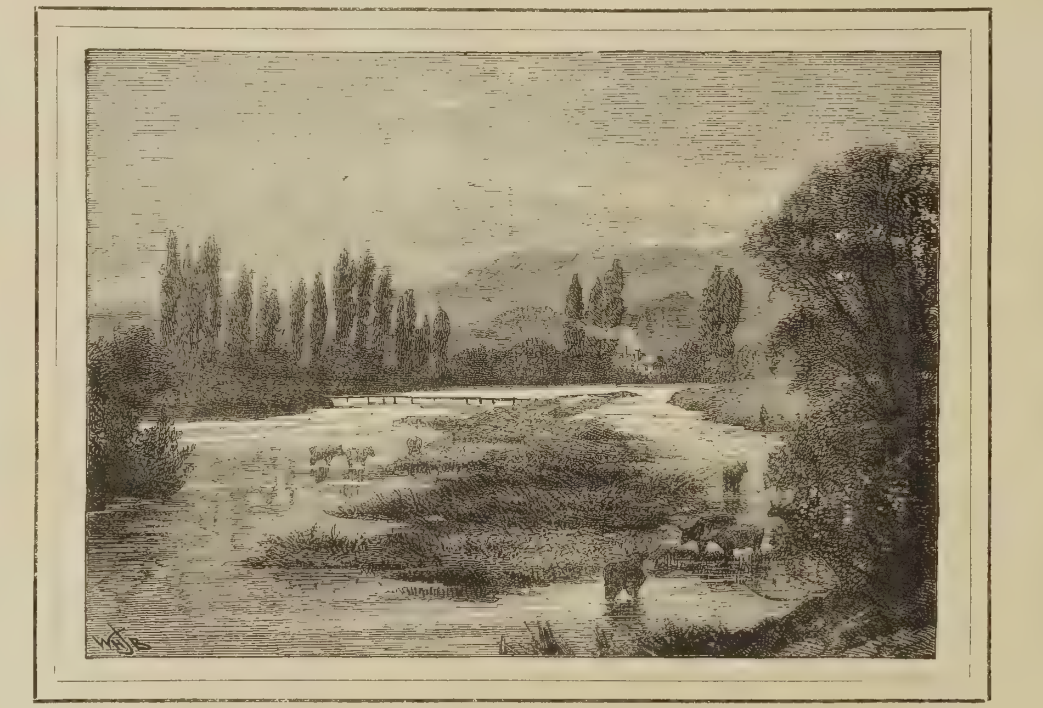
## THE FISH HATCHERIES OF SCOTLAND.

From a paper prepared by Mr. J. Barker Duncan, W.S., the hon. secretary of the Scotch Fisheries Improvement Association, it appears that there are seven hatcheries in operation in Scotland. These are:—(1) the Howietoun Fishery (Sir J. R. Gibson Maitland, Bart.); (2) the Solway Fishery (Mr. Joseph J. Armistead); (3) the Stormontfield Ponds; (4) the Dupplin Hatchery (Tay District Board); (5) the Loch Leven Hatchery (Loch Leven Angling Association); (6) the Linlithgow Palace Loch Fishery (Mr. A. G. Anderson; (7) the Marquis of Ailsa's Hatchery at Culzean, in Ayrshire.

## THE *SATURDAY REVIEW* ON DR. HAMILTON'S "RECOLLECTIONS OF FLY-FISHING."*

Many very pleasant books have been published this season—reminiscences full of anecdote of fair women and distinguished men. It may be a despicable confession, but we are compelled to admit that we prefer to these Dr. Hamilton's reminiscences of salmon he has met, and trout and sea-trout with whom he has been on intimate terms. This preference many fishers will feel, we think, and Dr. Hamilton's "Recollections" ought to be a great favourite with contemplative men. The book is a very pretty one, especially in the large-paper edition, limited to a hundred copies. Mr. Seymour Haden contributes a pleasant mezzotint of a salmon river, a "stream that flashes white," beneath dark, wet woods, and a soft, windy, cloudy sky. There is the native land of the angler's soul. There are woodcuts, also, representing Highland lochs and Lowland rivers like the Test. Dr. Hamilton writes in a good angling style—good, and not too good—with an agreeable laxity, here and there, in his English. He has fished much for forty years, and he has fished in the best places—the lochs and streams of the West Highlands, where, as the doctor says, it never rains half enough, and in the clear, slow waters like Itchen and Kennet. . . .

Anecdote is not Dr. Hamilton's only forte. He has also chapters on natural history, and pleasant bits of description of landscape. One delicious day with sea-trout and wild duck on an Argyleshire loch makes the heart sick to think how many months lie between us and the chance of those enjoyments. Among the "wrinkles" which Dr. Hamilton offers, the following is worth remembering:—"When the water is very bright and clear in the pools, many a fish may be hooked and landed by allowing the fly to sink as deep as you can, and then slowly sink and draw, never bringing the fly to the surface. You see a movement in the water, a swirl and twist, and your line tightens." Unlike most men—but with practical reason for his opinion—Dr. Hamilton prefers a dark fly on a dark day, a bright fly on a bright day. His remarks on flies, both for trout and salmon, are to the point, and not too long. He has found Mr. Herbert Spencer's reversed hackles pay on one loch; but the ordinary pre-scientific hackles are good enough for our turn. . . . . . Dr. Hamilton's remarks on gut, which in trout-fishing should be fine, but not too fine, are equally worthy of attention. He likes to be able to haul a trout the moment it is hooked across the weeds into clear water, and very fine gut will not stand this. At the same time, it is true that very fine gut will stand an *equable* strain beyond what could be expected, as we have proved in the case of sea-trout in Highland lochs. When there is no breeze, or next to none, on a loch, there is still a chance with fine gut, if the angler remembers that it *is* fine, and does not act as if he were using his ordinary stout tackle. Dr. Hamilton's book reminds one of so many delightful sights and sounds—the first view of the dark, wind-ruffled loch waters, the keen smell of bog-myrtle and peat in the Highland air, the cry and flight of birds, the clear stretches of Kennet, where the tiny circles tell of rising trout—that we leave it with regret, cordially recommending it to all good men, and wishing them no worse sport than that which the author so charmingly describes. A pleasanter book on a pleasanter topic has not been published for years.—*Saturday Review*, Dec. 13.



VIEW ON THE RIVER TEST AT LONG PARISH.

(*From* Dr. Hamilton's "Reminiscences of Fly-Fishing for Salmon, Trout, and Grayling.")

## SHORE FISHING.—No. VII.

By E. G.

When fishing from any projecting point where the tide stream runs strongly, and the water is deep, say, 20 to 30ft., put on almost as much lead as your float will bear, and make fast a piece of stout cotton or thread to the lower hook (take care that it is weaker than the gut, and so will carry away if it gets foul); it should be about 2ft. long, and have a buck shot or small pistol bullet at the end; then guess at the depth, and, if not deep enough, keep putting your line deeper until the float goes under, which it will do when the shot strikes the bottom—that is, if there is a good tide stream running. If there should be only a very slight stream the float will, perhaps, not go under, but, when the weight is down, will appear as if moored, and keep swaying from side to side. If it is dead slack tide or an eddy, throw out from the reel some 20 or 30 yards, and try the depth. In slack water the float will lie flat when the shot is on the ground. If the bottom is rocky, do not alter the depth, but take off the thread and shot and begin to fish; it is no use getting too low, as, if you are, the hook will be continually getting hung up. If it is a sandy bottom this plan may also be adopted to find the depth. In this case, after removing the thread, set your float deeper, so that the bottom hook may just drag, and give a chance of getting flat fish, rays, &c. Sometimes you may find a place where the tide stream sets right off from you: when this is so, take good long swims, and have a baby spinner just above the lower hook. Of course for this fishing a sliding float is necessary; in fact, I use them for all purposes, as when not required to slide they can be made fast by taking two half-hitches round the top.

In places such as the last mentioned you may put out a drift line. For this take 20 to 25 fathoms of strong snooding, well stretched to take the kinks out, an ordinary pike float, which place a yard away from the end of the line, where slip on a good-sized pipe lead, then affix a yard of finer snooding or plaited undressed silk, then a small brass swivel, and end with a yard of salmon gut and a good-sized Limerick hook—or, what is better, a Marston sliced hook. Bait with lug, rag, or sand worms; if the two latter, put on two, three, or four, according to size, or a slip of any bright fish, or squid in conjunction with a mussel, which should be hooked through the tongue. Let this drift out, and make the line fast; you don't want a rod. Very often this line will pick up mackerel or pollack. There is one drawback: it is apt to get in the way of your rod line. I think, however, I see a plan to keep it out of the way, and will give it a trial, and, if successful, report results. In these deep sort of places you may expect to get larger fish and a greater variety than in the shallow water—bream, ray, codlings, and sometimes large cod, mackerel, and gurnards; in fact, when you are fishing in five or six fathoms of water, it is impossible to say what may not come along. If you are not doing anything with dead bait, get a live sand eel, a small flat fish, a prawn, or any small fish, and try with it at about three-fourths of the depth of the water; or, if this does not do, put on a spinning bait, real or artificial. Remember, if you do not see any fish on the surface, you must put plenty of lead on the trace and spin as deep as you can, letting the bait go nearly to the bottom before beginning to draw it in. Small fry, suitable for bait, may be got in the rock pools with the shrimp net. It will sometimes happen that a school of mackerel will rush in after the "brit" or fry right under the point of your rod when you are float-fishing: when this is the case reel up and draw your hooks about quickly among the shoal; you will often pick up two or three in this way, and large numbers are often taken with a medium-sized Totnes minnow. Very often where there are deep gullies they will rush in after the "brit" at intervals of a few minutes for hours, and, if you have the luck to spot one of these places, you will have good sport with any spinning bait about minnow size. During the latter part of summer, and till quite late in the autumn, when the sea is calm or the wind off shore, enormous shoals of "brit" congregate in these spots, and there are always plenty of fish of all kinds looking after them, and being of a predatory nature will take a minnow. Large conger are frequently seen swimming along by the side of the rocks, trying to get their share of the spoil, and may often be gaffed. A friend who is very expert with the click often gets some very fine ones. I have seen him take them from 20 to 30lb. They are generally so intent on watching for a chance at the small fry that there is no difficulty in getting near them; but it requires a sure eye, hand, and foot to gaff them well, and I can only recommend this sport to those who possess these physical qualifications, as, in their absence, a dangerous fall, to say nothing of immersion and possible drowning, may be the result. If you are likely to try, it is best to have the handle of the gaff (which should be of ash or hickory) "checkered," as gunmakers do gun-stocks to give a sure grip, or have a large knob turned at the end. A friend who lived on the West Coast of Ireland told me he had speared them, using something like a salmon leister, or what sailors call a "grains," but for this a boat is required. I should imagine it must be an awkward job to get a big conger off the spear, though, unless the teeth were of great strength, he would smash them off directly he got on board. You will not find mackerel coming so close in shore, except in unfrequented places, and where there are few or no fishermen, as by using a stop net at the mouths of the gullies they would soon catch them up or frighten them away. If you have an opportunity, dip up a lot of the "brit," and use them for bait; put them on by running the hook through the heads of three or four like you do with gentles, so that they will hang down, as Greville F. says, like a bunch of keys. They are very tender, and die directly, so that it is no use putting them on for live-bait.

If you have luck to get a quart or so of them, take them home and try them fried—they are as good as whitebait; in fact, I expect they are the same thing, being nothing but herring or sprat fry, although sometimes other species are mixed with them—as, for instance, the mackerel midge (*Conchia glauca*), &c., &c.

In my next I have something to say about ground-bait, which, though considered of the greatest importance by the fresh-water angler, has not yet received the attention it merits by the salt-water one.

## A QUESTION AS REGARDS MR. BIRKBECK, M.P.

One of the things which no one can understand is the cause of the utter absence of any substantial recognition on the part of the Government of the great services which have been rendered by Mr. Birkbeck. It can hardly be because he is a Conservative!

## NOTTINGHAM ANGLERS AND ANGLING RIGHTS.

A "Public Rights Committee" has been formed by some of the leading citizens of Nottingham, and they have for some time past been obtaining evidence and getting counsel's opinion as to the rights and privileges of the public in the river Trent. The result is that the Committee have decided that they will leave no stone unturned in their endeavour to reinstate trout anglers in their rights; if necessary, they will go to Parliament for a new charter. There is to be a large meeting in Nottingham shortly, and then one in London afterwards.

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* "Recollections of Fly-Fishing." By Edward Hamilton, M.D. London: Sampson Low and Co., 1884.

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MANUFACTURERS OF FIRST-CLASS RODS AND TACKLE, SALMON AND TROUT FLIES, SUITABLE FOR ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD.
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(Very Light).
New Patent Lever Salmon Winch
(Can be regulated to any stiffness at will).
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## SPECIAL NOTICE.

**The Fishing Gazette**
FOR NEXT WEEK WILL BE PUBLISHED ON
WEDNESDAY, the 24th inst.
**RIVER REPORTS for Xmas Week must reach us on WEDNESDAY MORNING.**

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CASH WITH ORDER.

## ANNOUNCEMENT.

It is our intention during the coming year to publish illustrated accounts of the chief English, Scotch, and Irish Fishing-Tackle Manufacturers, both wholesale and retail. They will take the shape of

Interviews by our Correspondent,

with the heads of the respective firms. The first of the series will appear early next month, and will be devoted to the great English and Canadian house of Samuel Allcock and Co., with a portrait of the head of the firm, Mr. S. Allcock.

## NOTICES OF FISHING TACKLE, &c.

Mr. D. Slater, fishing-tackle maker, Newark-on-Trent, has sent us what we cannot but consider as—at the price—a marvel of rod-making. It is a three-joint pike rod with upright rings and winch fittings; the joints are half-brazed and the ferrules are ringed—that is to say, the end of each ferrule is double and thus all chance of splitting is avoided. This is a most valuable improvement; we have often found ferrules split both in fly and spinning rods when a little extra exertion is used—for instance, in swinging out a half-pound roach for pike the strain is very great. This rod is made of *best greenheart* from end to end. It is very light and powerful, provided with stoppers and partitioned bag, the whole, price 12s. 6d., and you can have it in four joints or stouter or slighter, as you choose. Mr. Slater evidently believes in small profits and quick returns.

Foster's Improved "Acme" Pike Line.—Messrs. D. and W. Foster, of Ashbourne, Derbyshire, send us one of their dressed "Acme" pike lines. We used a similar (though smaller) line the greater part of last fly fishing season, and were very much pleased with it. We have had no opportunity of trying the pike line yet; but have no hesitation in saying it will be found thoroughly reliable in every way.

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## RIVER REPORTS.

### TIME OF HIGH WATER IN THE THAMES.

To find the time of high water in the Thames at any of the following places, to the time of high water at London Bridge (given below).

Add
30 minutes for Chelsea.
40 " Putney.
45 " Hammersmith.
50 " Barnes.
55 " Kew.
75 " Richmond.
80 " Twickenham.
85 " Teddington.

Example:—If it is high water at 2 o'clock at London Bridge, it will be high water at Teddington about 3.25, or eighty-five minutes later; but it must be remembered that a strong wind accelerates or retards the tide very much.

For Times of High Water at London Bridge.

| | | | | Morning. | Afternoon. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Saturday, | December | 20 | ... ... | 3.26 | 3.45 |
| Sunday, | " | 21 | ... ... | 4.1 | 4.17 |
| Monday, | " | 22 | ... ... | 4.35 | 4.53 |
| Tuesday, | " | 23 | ... ... | 5.10 | 5.29 |
| Wednesday, | " | 24 | ... ... | 5.49 | 6.12 |
| Thursday, | " | 25 | (Xmas Day) | 6.34 | 6.59 |
| Friday, | " | 26 | (Bk. Holiday) | 7.27 | 7.57 |

☞ *River Reporters who want forms and envelopes should send a post card to the Publisher of the* Fishing Gazette, *12 and 13, Fetter-lane, London.*

### THE LOWER THAMES.

General Remarks.

The river has been rising and receding, and the water nicely coloured. The one great event of the week has been Mr. Bull's additional success amongst the large barbel at Teddington. In one day, at the beginning of the week, he caught sixteen barbel, estimated to weigh little short of 80lb.—he only weighed ten of the largest, which made exactly 60lb., the best fish weighing 8½lb., and all caught with pieces of lampern. The whole of the fish were put back again after being marked, so that Mr. Bull can recognise his old friends again.

Angling Results.

**Richmond.**—Henry Mansell, in a couple of days, has taken ten dozen of roach and dace. Job Brain, in the same time, twenty dozen. Henry Wheeler, in three days, 42lb. F. Brown, in two days, 37lb.; and Henry Howard, in one day, sixteen dozen.

**Twickenham.**—Richard Coxen, in five days, forty-three dozen of roach and dace. H. Spiers, in one day, seven dozen. C. Miles, the same quantity. J. Dobbins, eight dozen; and John Spong a similar result.

**Teddington.**—Benjamin Stevens, in one day, four barbel; and Mr. Bull and F. Kemp sixteen barbel.

The water has been all against fishing in the tideway this week, but it is now much improved.

**Kingston.**—John Johnson, sen., writes: "I have only had one day's fishing this week and that was in the tideway, when I got eight dozen of dace. My son John has been out twice, and got five dozen of roach at Kingston, and six dozen of dace in the Tideway. The perch should begin to feed now, if anyone would come and try for them. The river is in fine form for roach or bream. A carp was picked up below Teddington lock, on Friday last, from 7lb. to 9lb. in weight. It had a hole in the head, as though it had been struck with a hitcher. I should say the bream would feed, if properly baited." The bank anglers here, and at Surbiton and Thames Ditton, have caught a nice few roach, dace, perch, and chub.

**Hampton Court.**—George Martin, in two days, ten dozen of roach and dace; and Thomas Wheeler, in three days, sixteen dozen. At "Tagg's Island Fishery" there have been some good takes of roach and dace.

**Hampton.**—J. Langshaw, jun., in one day, six dozen of fine roach. The bank anglers have been doing well amongst the roach and dace.

**Sunbury.**—Mr. Edmonds has taken, in one day, 26lb. weight of fine roach. The bank anglers are estimated to have taken twenty dozen of roach and dace, in addition to some perch and chub.

**Walton.**—Mr. Alfred Mackrill, in a couple of days, with George Hone, four brace of perch, the best fish weighing 1½lb., and three dozen of roach; and Mr. Hickey, another day, with the same fisherman, one brace of jack. John Hone, in one day, three dozen of roach.

**Shepperton.**—Mr. M. H. Blamey, with David Hackett, in one day, seven chub, the five largest weighing 2½lb. each. Henry Purdue, in one day, three dozen of roach; and F. Purdue, two and a half dozen.

**Weybridge.**—Mr. White, in one day, with Herbert Curr, a jack of 5lb., and seven dozen of roach and dace.

**Chertsey.**—John Poulter, one day, three dozen of roach and one chub, and another day, two dozen of roach and one perch.

**Staines.**—John Keene, jun., one day, six dozen of roach; another day, eight dozen, and another day, six dozen. John Keene, sen., in one day, two dozen of roach.

## UPPER THAMES.

The state of the elements during the past week has precluded any chance of successful sport amid the finny tribes. The river is bank high, still rising, and of the proverbial pea-soup consistency. Roach can now be best approached with the tail of a lob on a light ledger, fishing available eddies and quiet lay-byes. Perch and chub should not be attempted until the flush is of a retiring disposition. Jack may be found close to the banks, and should be introduced to paternoster. At Maidenhead, Cookham, and Bray fair bags of roach and perch were had early in the week from the banks, one enthusiast taking 7lb. of roach, and another 6lb., all being had with worm for bait. At Hurley, on the 14th, Messrs. Kidd, Finch, and Parry, between them took some 10lb. of roach and dace. Several other bankers were out the same day with varying success, amongst whom I noticed a fair fisher, who obtained some 5lb. of good roach. This lady thoroughly deserved her success, for the day was very dirty, and hardly fit for a rat to be out; but then this lady must be a first rat-er. The Medmenham waters have yielded up some five jack lately, the best fish going 7lb., and had by Bob Young. I wish all my angling confrères and other readers of the FISHING GAZETTE "a Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year."—MARLOW BUZZ.

### Thames (Datchet).

The past week fishing has not been very good; as the weirs having been drawn up and down it must disturb the fish. I have not been out this week at all. My son, out on the 14th, took but very little—7lb. of roach. Out on the 15th, he got on very well at the start, until the weir was drawn, and then it was all up. The water went down at the least 2ft. Done but very little after—only 6lb. all through the day. I hear that the banker fishers have been getting on very well in the Old River this last week—been taking them with the worm. Roach: the water is rather thick at present, and the fish are like ice which have been caught. Very sorry to see more rain to-day, as I think we have had enough for the present. Better tidings I hope next week.—JAMES HOARE.

The changeable weather makes it almost impossible to know what to expect. The roach are biting very well at paste and tail end of lob. Have been out one day; roach bit very well in the evening. Have had other little turns, with following results: On the 12th inst. two dozen roach, ledgering with worm, averaging 1¾lb. On the 15th, two barbel and a few roach. On the 16th, after a severe frost, mid-day, five barbel and a few roach. Mr. Fenn tried the chub on the 16th, and got one 2lb. The rain that fell that night has postponed their biting, and jack ditto. Mr. Buchanan, on the 15th, 5lb. of roach, and on the 16th, 15lb. of roach, all with paste. Not many anglers out.—G. LUMSDEN.

### Thames (Goring).

Water now a little thick. In good order for roach fishing. Nothing doing here this week. Only a few roach.—J. RUSH.

### Thames (Oxford).

Unless settled weather intervenes between this and Boxing day the Christmas sport will be anything but good. Throughout the week very little has been done, and that not worth recording. Mr. Able Beesley, the champion punter, a well-known resident of this delectable locality, was caught by two of the honorary bailiffs on Sunday morning with a quantity of undersized fish in his possession, which he had taken at Port Meadow with a cast net. It appears that whilst one bailiff held the man who was in charge of the punt in conversation, the other, waiting his opportunity, dropped from the Black Swing Bridge into the boat, the man, relying on the decision in the case of Thomas Johnstone, having refused to come to land when called upon. When the party arrived at Mr. Beesley's house he treated his visitors in the rudest manner, and finally mounted the well and intimated his intention of knocking the first person who attempted to enter his boat into the water. From what I hear to-night I shall be required to take a verbatim report of the conference between Mr. Beesley, the Oxford Angling Society, and the City Bench, which will ensue in a few days. Before I write again—and then I hope it will be of heavy takes and large fish—the pleasant message of the bells will have again rung out over the silent country, and I trust that in their train they bring to Editor and readers alike a very merry Christmas.—CHERWELL OTTER.

### The Thames (Windsor).

Though heavy rain fell here last night, I venture to predict a good water during the Christmas holidays—not Parliamentary holidays—for jack, perch, and chub, unless we get an extraordinary downpour. I myself intend trying the former, devoting a day to spinning with sprats—an excellent bait in a slightly coloured water if you have the tackle suitable, as they are very tender. Doubtless I could do far better with my one-hook gut paternoster; but for very cold weather spinning is much to be preferred: there is exercise and pleasure in casting, besides being more sportsmanlike. By the bye, that last day of mine at Bray, I toiled all day spinning over every inch of that fishy-looking bit of water, from Wilder's Bucks down to the bottom of the Cut, without the sign of a run, and can attribute it to nothing—at least I have none of the proverbial anglers's excuses to offer. A nice ripple was on water, it was cloudy overhead, and wind in right quarter. Who knows the cause? Not scarcity of fish, as the Rev. Cecil Fardell, whom I was with, assured me that only two days before, on this piece of water, he had a brace 8lb., lost one about 12lb., and had 11 other runs. When water is fit I may have revenge in that quarter, but cannot pick a better day. Those who delight in "running the quill" for chub ought now to be able to get an unlimited supply of bullock's pith (spinal cord) and brains of their butcher, if seen to at once; and as regards water for its use, do not think anglers will be disappointed if fishing after this week. Any one requiring a day's fishing on this principle should place themselves in the hands of an experienced "chubbist," if I may use the expression, of whom there are a few on the Thames. One lesson from a good man is worth all that was ever written on the subject, especially if water is right and they feed well. Poor old "Nottingham George" was an adept at this business; but never again will he send home that little bit of steel that so bothered these big-mouthed gentry, who could not refuse a nicely-flavoured piece of pith when put on by his skilful fingers. Thanks to the kindness of many old patrons, in response to an appeal made by Mr. Francis Francis some time back, he is not in want, though his allowance is small, and I daresay a few shillings extra this Christmas would be the means of once again gladdening the old chap's heart, as it used to be when hitting those leviathan barbel and chub in the days of long ago. If, as I have always understood, he was the originator of the far-famed Nottingham winch, anglers owe him not a little. With respect to sport very few anglers have been out. At Monkey Island, Bob Plummer reports things very quiet and very few fishermen down. His son, out 16th inst. with two gentlemen, had one nice jack, a brace of perch, and a brace of chub. At Old Windsor Haynes had a good day with a gentleman, 14th inst., among roach and jack. From Datchet Lumsden appears to have done well. He tells me he has had the following:—12th inst., two dozen roach, averaging ¾lb., taken with worm—largest 1lb.; 15th inst., two barbel and one dozen roach; 16th, five barbel, 2½lb. average, and a few roach. Out with Mr. Buchanan yesterday, 15lb. of roach, and the day before 5lb. Hoare, sen., one day, 6lb. of roach. Mr. Howard, out with James Gray at Surly Hall, 14th, a brace of jack, his usual luck in getting more runs than fish not forsaking him.—B. R. BAMARIDGE.

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### The Bure (Norwich).

Some very fair sport amongst the pike has been had lately. Reports of catches made on one broad show that 13 nice fish fell to the lot of one party and 10 on another occasion; whilst at a pretty little piece of inland water close to this river a friend of mine got eight very good fish, the largest scaling about 9lb. During the Christmas holidays all the stations on this stream ought to be busy, as the best of the Broad district is thus reached. Many Norwich anglers have already made their arrangements for 25th, 26th, and 27th inst., and I fancy Mr. Jack will have to be very careful to avoid an unpleasant rise in life, though if he falls a prey to his gluttony he does so in good company at this festive season. I wish every reader a very merry and joyous Christmas, and every success in their piscatorial efforts during the holidays.—ROBERT MOLL.

### Chichester.

The past week has been somewhat finer, a frost on Wednesday night giving promise of a successful day among the pike; but rain has fallen the whole of this day. The recent rains have improved the water, the canal gradually rising. A few good roach have been taken, but the canal side has been almost deserted by rodsters. No news has reached me from either Selham or the Ouse. We are hoping for a seasonable Christmas to make a raid on the Selham pike.—GEORGE F. SALTER.

### The Dove.

There is very little doing just now—in fact, I don't think twenty rods have been out along the whole course of the river since my last communication appeared. As I observed last week, things always slacken down a good deal on the Dove just before Christmas, but the spell will be broken directly the holidays set in; that is, if the weather remains anything like open. The flies on the surface are the winter duns, but there has not been much rise of grayling this week. We have had a fall of snow to-day (Wednesday), and as the temperature has fallen very low, we look like having a frosty Christmas. The river is in capital order for either fly or bottom fishing.—THE SPLODGER.

### Exe and Canal (Exeter).

A few roach and perch have been taken near the railway station during the past few days; but now the fish have been shelved for the Christmas turkeys, geese, and other festive comforts. Water clear now, and in good fishing order.—J. A. KELLEY.

### Ilfracombe.

Sea Fishing. Strong winds have prevailed during the past week and, as a consequence, the herring fishing has fallen off considerably, the most taken for the week having been 1½ maize, and those fishing from the rocks and jetty have had very little sport. On Saturday Mr. Slocombe caught a cod, 12lb., from the jetty, and on Monday some whiting from Shallow Path. Weather still very stormy.—E. COMER.

### Lea (Tottenham).

The water, more particularly the "Copper Mill Stream" is in capital condition and the roach the last few days have been well on the feed. Angling prospects for the coming holidays look very bright at present.—HACKLES RED.

### Lea (Edmonton).

The weather on the 14th was not very nice, but some good fish were taken, including one jack weighing 9lb. Some good roach were taken on Saturday and Monday. Mr. Short, of the Clapton, had a decent lot of chub, one scaling 2lb. 14oz. The water is very nicely coloured just now.—T. A. WARD, per W. W.

### Leicester.

The seasonable weather during the latter part of last week and the early portion of this caused the waters in the district to receive more attention from anglers, who, upon the whole, had good sport. Some rare lots of roach and dace were taken, and perch also came fairly well to hand. The best fish were caught with the fresh water shrimp, which is a killing bait at this period of the year in these waters. Pike have been well on the feed, and although no large ones have been captured, a good many between four and five pounds, have been brought to bank. Chub fishermen were fairly well rewarded for their efforts in the Leicester Angling Society's preserves at Aylestone. A few of the wielders of the rod and line visited the distant resorts at the beginning of the week, chiefly for pike, with the result of some nice specimens being shown. The largest that came under my notice was one scaling 8lb. Wednesday was a raw cold day, snow falling heavily at intervals, thus causing fishing to become dreary sport. To-day (Thursday) the weather has again been unfavourable, snow and rain continuing throughout the day, rendering matters very uncomfortable.—ALERT.

### Ouse and Ivel (Blunham).

Both rivers are in very good condition. Some nice jack have been taken. T. E.

### South Level Cut (Littleport).

Not so many anglers down this week, owing, I suppose, to the preparations for Christmas, but those who have been have in no case gone empty away. Dec. 11th.—Mr. A. T. Ellis, Cambridge, got 24lb. of roach in four hours—a picture. Dec. 12th.—Mr. F. Ely, 20lb. roach in three hours; Mr. E. M. Jones, and Master Morgan Jones, Cambridge, 21lb. very good roach in three hours; Mr. Hailstone, 21lb. roach; Mr. W. L. Agger, Cambridge, 10lb.; Mr. C. Brown, Ely, 20lb.; Mr. S. O. Beeman, Littleport, 10lb. Dec. 13th.—Messrs. J. M. Wright and W. Knights, Ely, 15lb. good roach in one and a half hour, largest nearly 1lb. Mr. S. O. Beeman, Littleport, 10lb. in three hours. Dec. 14th.—Several anglers out, and a good lot of roach taken. Dec. 15th.—Mr. C. Brown, Ely, 22lb. of roach; Mr. W. Buckle, Ely, 20lb.; Mr. J. Hutt, Cambridge, 13lb. in three and three-quarter hours; T. South, Littleport, six pike, 3¾, 3½, 3½, 3¼, 3, and 3lb. respectively; Messrs. Bryant and Webb, 10 pike, largest about 8lb. Dec. 16th.—Too much frost; still, Mr. W. L. Agger, Cambridge, got 14lb. roach, two largest 1lb. 4oz. and 1lb.; Mr. Bailey, Cambridge, 6½lb.; Mr. Hall, Cambridge, 7lb.; and Mr. H. Lee, Cambridge, 12lb. good roach.—CHARLIE SOUTH.

### Trent (Alrewas).

During the past week the river has been in fair condition for all-round fishing, and several good pike have been landed. The heavy rains of the last two days have caused another rise in the water, and put a stop to all fishing for the present.—ANON.

### Trent (Newark).

Thursday night.—Water is a couple of feet higher than usual, very much coloured, and I expect in a few more hours we shall have a lot of extra coloured water.—THE TRENT OTTER.

### Trent (Nottingham).

Angling news this week is very scarce indeed; and, excepting the capture of dace at Willington and a few roach at Weston (upper portion, near Cuttle Brook), there is really nothing to relate. Gales have succeeded gales, and on Thursday a most violent thunderstorm upset all calculations as to future sport. Salmon in abundance continue to run up the Dove, and the spawning season, so far, seems to have been a highly satisfactory one.—THE MAN AT THE CLUBS.

### Tweed and Teviot.

Since the closing of the salmon fishings on these rivers, the lovers of the rod and line have had very fair sport in angling for trout, in bottom fishing. Both rivers have now been running very full since the last day of November, and have thus afforded excellent sport. To say that the fish are at present in good, or even fair, condition, would be a misnomer, as they are as thin as rakes, and as soft as butter in summer. Why we have not a legal close time on these rivers for trout is a mystery to me as well as to many other disciples of old Izaak, and the sooner that some of the more influential anglers in the district take the matter up and lay it before the proper authorities, the better will it be for trout angling in the future. One basket of these emaciated fish that came under my notice weighed no less than 11lb., which I am bound to say, that if they had been in condition, would have weighed double what they did at the time of my seeing them. Worm is said to be the lure that all fish are caught with just now; but I am inclined to think that salmon roe is more like the lure, and, as the late Mr. T. T. Stoddart often remarked, "It would be better to legalise roe-fishing, than have it done as at present; for, were it made the law, roe would go up to such a price that only a few of the now would-be anglers would be able to afford the cost of it. I entirely agreed with this idea at the time, and do so still, as anyone who has any pretentions to be an angler can now easily get hold of a pot of salmon roe. The most successful anglers during the past week have been Messrs. Mabon, Lindsay, Cameron, Bell, Robertson, Oliver, Tait, and Johnston, and the baskets have ranged from 3lb. to 11lb. and 12lb. The weather is very open, and the spring fishing of next year promises well, so far as the season has yet gone. Very little disease is as yet to be seen in the river, and with no large flood to bring down the refuse from the upper districts, anglers are of opinion that the forthcoming spring fishing will be a good one.

### Waveney (Beccles).

The water is now getting a bit clearer, and, with a prospect of fine weather, will be in first-class order for angling during the Christmas holidays, which is the earnest hope of your humble servant. In spite of the heavy stream and thickness of the water, Mr. W. Oldham (who, by the bye, is an angler every inch of him) on Saturday last had between 7lb. and 8lb. of nice roach, all standard-sized fish. Wind S.W., clear air, and prospects generally good.—A Waveney Angler.

### Wye and Derwent.

Everything in the shape of fishing seems all over for this year, for to-day (Thursday) we have had a very heavy fall of snow, and a great quantity of heavy rain has also fallen all over Derbyshire, which has caused both the Wye and Derwent to have large waters on them, and now the snow broth has got into the river it will be very little use fishing again this side Christmas, as fish never feed kindly on any of the Derbyshire rivers when the snow broth has once got into the water. Sport during the week has been very bad, owing to the continual rises we have had on the Derwent on most days; in fact, I have not heard of more than two and three brace of grayling being killed of a day by any one angler. A few brace of chub, roach, and dace, and several perch have been killed with the worm during the week between Whatstandwell and Ambergate.—Geo. Jas. Eaton.

### The Yare (Norwich).

Still no good reports from any of the stations on this river. During the week past the weather has again been fickle and the water has been thick, which puts spinning or trailing out of the question. One or two instances of good sport have occurred in waters immediately connected with this stream; on one occasion six nice fish, averaging about 5lb., and last Saturday, between two and four o'clock, twelve jack were landed, and several escaped in consequence of being fouled in the weeds which line the banks of the water in question. I am pleased to say that the gentlemen were sportsmen enough to return seven which weighed under 3lb. each. The frost seems as if it cannot continue; when it does, I believe we shall speedily hear of some good catches. A good many parties are already arranged for the holidays, and I hope they may be lucky. Wishing all your readers a very merry Christmas plenty of sport.—Robert Moll.

## CASSELL'S "GREATER LONDON."*

THIS time last year we had the pleasure to speak very highly of Vol. I. of this admirable work. Vol. II., which completes it, and is even more interesting, has recently been published. There are more than 400 illustrations in the complete work, by the kindness of the publishers we are able to give, on page 298, a specimen—a charming view of the Thames at Richmond—which abundantly indicates their high quality. An excellent map is given with the second volume, and this shows that the district treated of extends beyond London proper, from Waltham in the north to Epsom in the south, and from Staines in the west to Purfleet in the east, thus including the whole of the Thames under the care of the Thames Angling Preservation Society. As every place on this stretch of the river is described, and, as a rule, also illustrated, the work should have a special interest for anglers. A very full index enables one to find in a moment what is said about the thousands of places mentioned in the work. From the pages devoted to Staines, we make the following interesting extracts:—

"Staines Stone.

"It is generally said—and we suppose that the statement may be accepted—the derivation of the name of the town is usually given as from 'Stane,' or 'Stana,' the Saxon term for stone; and it is supposed by Camden, and by various subsequent writers, that the appellation refers to the boundary-stone by the side of the river, which is said to bear date A.D. 1280, together with the words, 'God preserve the City of London.' This stone was repaired, and raised on a pedestal in 1781, during the mayoralty of Sir Watkin Lewes. The stone—be it Roman, Saxon, or Norman, in its origin—still stands on the north bank, a little above the bridge, near the church, on the Lammas Lands. It is adorned with the city arms and motto, and the names of sundry Lord Mayors who have visited it officially, for the purpose of enforcing their jurisdiction, or on swan-upping expeditions. On its base it bears engraved the words 'Conservators of the River Thames,' who, it may here be mentioned, regard the river above this point as the Upper Thames; whilst from here, down to Yanlet Creek, at the mouth of the Medway, it is called the Lower Thames.

"The court of Conservancy of the Thames, over which the Lord Mayor presides, holds eight sittings every year within the counties of Middlesex, Surrey, Kent, and Essex. It is in this capacity that the Lord Mayor of London is comically apostrophised by Tom Hood as—

'Conservator of Thames, from mead to mead,
Great guardian of small sprites that swim the flood,
Warder of London stone.'

"When Alderman Venables, as Lord Mayor, went by barge to Oxford, in 1826, it was part of the programme that the city banners should be waved over the stone. It may be added that several attempts were made in former times to extend the Lord Mayor's jurisdiction over the Thames as far as Oxford; but in this the city did not succeed, and ancient custom has determined the limit as already mentioned."

We should like to quote some of Mr. Walford's interesting notes about Kew, Richmond, Twickenham, Teddington, Kingston, and other places on the Thames, &c.; but must be content with referring our readers to the work itself. They will find it an almost inexhaustible storehouse of information, and we can imagine no more valuable or acceptable present than these handsome volumes. We are astonished to find that, instead of being about 30s. each, as we had imagined, the price is only 18s. for the two.

## ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A. C. Shelley, Crosby-square, E.C.—Unless you choose to become an assistant-riverkeeper or registered professional fisherman, you have no right to use a cast net or any other net in the Thames from Richmond Bridge upwards to Cricklade. The Thames Conservancy and the Thames Angling Preservation Association have legal powers to stop you; so you see the water-bailiffs, who threaten you with "all sorts of penalties," are right.

Oxonian.—Messrs. Hardy Bros., of Fenkle-street, Alnwick, sell a capital dead-bait tackle for pike. You work the bait exactly as with the old gorge, but strike directly you get a run.

H. S., Ponder's End.—The "Crystal" roach hooks are so called after the inventor, a fisherman of the name of Crystal, who used to fish with Mr. Greville Fennell. Messrs. Williams and Co., of Great Queen-street, have the original pattern, and were the first makers. You can get them either on hair or drawn gut; your best plan is to call and select sizes.

# CORRESPONDENCE.

[*We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.*]

⁂ Several Letters are crowded out this week.

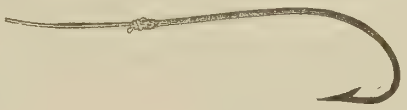
### EYED SALMON HOOKS.

Sir,—The "Great-eyed Trout-hook controversy" being for the present suspended, at any rate so far as I am concerned, pending experiments in the actual production of hooks with needle eyes, a few words on the subject of eyed Salmon hooks—whether turned-up or needle-shaped—may possibly not be without interest.

Whatever disadvantages may (or may not) attach to the turned-up eye in fine trout-hooks, they certainly disappear in the case of the large-sized hooks ordinarily employed in salmon and grilse fishing. The undoubted advantages of the system of metal eyes or loops are, on the contrary, brought out in strong relief, inasmuch as the two great points on which the eyed-hooks claim superiority over lapped-on hooks—namely, strength, and durability of the fly—are clearly more important in the case of very heavy fish, and flies which sometimes cost two or three shillings each. How annoying it is, again, when salmon are rising freely at the fly on the cast to find that the gut is so worn to the "unsafe point" by previous encounters as to necessitate a change of flies, whilst no other specimen of the same pattern, or size, may be, is in the tackle-box! . . . And it is almost always at the head of the fly that the fraying-away of the gut first takes place.

For these reasons I am entirely in favour of metal eyed salmon hooks—whether turned-up or needle.

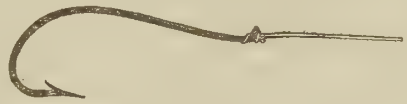
To take the latter first. The engraving is a facsimile of a needle-eyed grilse or small salmon hook* with the casting line attached.



NEEDLE-EYED GRILSE HOOK.

This attachment is of the simplest form, consisting merely of threading the gut (previously well soaked) through the eye, like thread through a needle, and then making round the central link a double half-hitch. The latter having been first drawn quite tight is then slipped downwards to its proper place by a sort of compound process of pushing and pulling—pushing the knot downwards towards the hook-shank with the one hand, and at the same time with the other pulling the central link tight. This it will be observed makes an exceedingly small knot, certainly smaller, taking it altogether, than is produced by attaching the central link to a gut loop. At the same time the hook stands out in a perfectly straight line with the gut, *and will so remain as long as the gut is kept moist.* This description of an eyed-hook and of gut fastening cannot, I believe, be surpassed for grilse or small salmon flies. The eye (N.B.) should not be drilled laterally but perpendicularly to the hook-bend when the latter is in the position of the engraving. Whether this form of needle-eyed hook would act equally well with Shannon or other large-sized salmon flies I am doubtful; but if it is found in practice that it will not do so—that, in other words, the "clasp" of the knot is insufficient to hold its own against the weight of the heavy hook—then the turned-up eyed-hook can be used instead.

I fear it may be somewhat difficult to gather from the annexed engraving the exact knot by which the gut is attached to the turned-up loop, or the precise angle at which the latter should be bent in order to ensure the hook standing in a perfectly straight line with the central link—two points quite essential in obtaining a perfect result. I will endeavour therefore to describe the mode of knotting verbally, observing only that however complicated it may appear as thus presented, when reduced to practice it is simple, as the saying goes, as A B C:—*The gut being thoroughly soaked*, pass a couple of inches of it through the loop, in the direction of the hook-bend; then pass it under the shank of the hook and again through the loop in a direction away from the hook-bend. The gut end and the central link will now be lying parallel. Make a "single-hitch" † knot with the former round the latter and pull the knot perfectly tight, then, by the sort of "pushing and pulling" movement already described, and "humouring" the gut in the process, draw the knot as far down the central link as possible,—that is, until it *presses close against the metal loop*, and, when it is firmly fixed in this position, cut the superfluous gut off close to the end. A *fac-simile* of this knot tied with stout salmon gut is shown in the engraving. The shank of the hook is incorrectly drawn and is very far from being what a Limerick hook ought to be, but the knot itself, and the loop, are of the exact size and there is no reason why they should be any larger, whatever be the length of shank or size of hook, and this observation holds good also whether the hooks be double or single.



TURNED-UP EYED GRILSE HOOK.

In order, however, to get a perfect result—that is, that the hook shank should stand in a line perfectly parallel with the central link of gut—it is necessary that the eye of the hook should be turned up nearly, *but not quite, to a right angle* and Messrs. Warner are now prepared I believe to supply hooks, single and double, with the eye turned up according to my instructions. If the angle of the turned-up eye is in the least degree "broader" or "narrower" than it should be, a corresponding deviation in the straightness of the set of the fly, upwards or downwards, will be the result.

Looked at from the fly fisher's—though not perhaps from the fly-tyer's—point of view, the advantages of salmon hooks with metal eyes, made as above, contrasted with flies with gut loops or tied on to the central link are so great and so obvious that I cannot doubt their absolutely superseding the latter in the long run.—I am, &c.,

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* Greater London: A Narrative of its History, its People, and its Places. By Edward Walford, M.A. Illustrated. 2 vols., quarto cloth, price 9s. each.

* Manufactured by Messrs. Warner and Son, of Redditch.

† A single-hitch knot is all that will be usually necessary in practice, especially with small salmon hooks; but if desired, or in the case of large hooks, a double instead of a single hitch may be employed, to make assurance doubly sure.

London, Dec. 13th. H. CHOLMONDELEY-PENNELL.

### UNDYED PIG'S WOOL.

SIR,—Will you kindly forward to your Irish correspondent inclosed sample of undyed pig's wool?—I am, &c.,

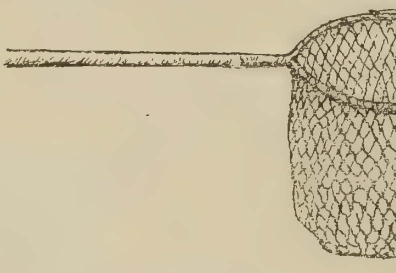
Central Arcade, Hope-street, Glasgow. WM. ROBERTSON.

[Mr. R. tells us he has 100oz. in stock, price 3s. per oz.—ED.]

### LANDING-NETS.

SIR,—Your correspondent, A. H. Gribble, hits the right nail on the head when he says of a landing-net "let it be made broader immediately below the ring than at the ring itself." All ordinary landing-nets are simply an unmitigated nuisance—too deep, terminating in a point—to me almost worse than useless.

My ideal net, though I can rarely get one made, is about 12in. deep (for trout fishing), same size all the way down, thus :—



(I'm not a good hand at sketching) and made of fine tanned water cord, so as not to catch the hooks.

I wish some of the tackle-makers would try this pattern and advertise it in your columns. By the way, Mr. Editor, I asked our mutual friend, "Red-Spinner," to get you—of your goodness—to lend me one of the blue-winged "coachmen" for a pattern, but it has not turned up yet.

Confer this blessing on me, and come down one day next summer with me and try it on our water.—I am, &c., AMWELL MAGNA.

Leytonstone, Dec. 13.

[Mr. Senior sent on the card all right, and we should have sent the fly, only that we thought the address was insufficient, and returned the card to Mr. S. to have it filled in. We now send the blue-winged coachman, and a very excellent fly it is for use, either in large or small size, and we shall certainly accept "A. M.'s" invitation. His idea of a landing-net is a capital one, and we elsewhere give a good waterproofing for it.—ED.]

## NOTICES OF BOOKS, &c.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S CARDS.—Mr. Harding, art stationer, of 157, Piccadilly, W., has sent us a selection of Christmas and New Year's specialities which he has published, and it gives us much pleasure to notice them, because, in addition to their "artistic merit," they are many of them designed specially for the angling community, and are all of a sporting character.

"THE COMIC ANGLING SERIES" consists of a set of six original drawings specially prepared by Geo. Lambert, all very comic and clever. One represents the Right Hon. Mr. Joseph C——mb——n dreaming of perch-fishing, lovely mermaids and the Caucus combing its back hair, while the "G.O.M.," like a "sweet little cherub sits up aloft," and watches over the slumbers of the "People's Tribune." Another card represents "'Arry" trailing for pike on the back of an elegant mermaid ; a dragon fly is evidently recommending her to tip him the mermaid fling. Mr. Lambert seems partial to mermaids, for the next scene shows us some punt anglers in pursuit of a fair syren who beckons them overboard.

"ANGLING COMICALITIES" is the title of another set of twelve original drawings by G. L. F., which will cause merriment in many an angling club circle. But the series we like best is one of six drawings of fish by Joachim Susini, entitled, "Piscatorial Studies," for the most part really excellent sketches of carp and bream, chub and roach, salmon, barbel, trout, and pike. The two latter appear to have been sketched in the spawning season, and are not so successful as the rest. The hunting scenes, by Alfred Roberson, Audax, and L. G. M., are very good, and so are Mr. Moore's Sporting Dogs.

"PRIMÆVAL CONCEPTIONS" may be fairly designated as weird and fanciful pictures of beauties and beasts ; and "Our Advanced Girls" are a decidedly "forward," but none the less captivating, "set."

We must congratulate Mr. Harding, who, by the way, is himself an accomplished angler, on the effectiveness and originality displayed in his productions and the taste with which they are got up. They are all the more welcome for being quite out of the ordinary hackneyed run of Christmas and New Year's cards. Another improvement is the entire absence of description or greetings ; the latter are provided in very neat gold-edged, gold printed, small cards intended to be sent with the pictures, which may well be trusted to tell their own tales.

SUTTON'S POCKET GARDEN CALENDAR.—Most anglers take an interest in their gardens, or if they do not their wives do, and we can recommend them to send a penny stamp to Messrs. Sutton and Sons, the Queen's Seedsmen, Reading, and ask for a copy of this little pocket Calendar. It is just the very thing for the amateur ; here is given with the calendar for the year full instructions in all garden operations, and much other useful general information. Many people are in the habit of letting their gardeners supply their seeds, but this is the greatest mistake they can make. We speak from experience, and can say that in our own case, and in that of numerous friends, disappointment is almost impossible if the seeds are obtained from the great Reading firm. For instance, we bought some of their prize medal hyacinths some time ago, and every bulb is coming on splendidly. We are glad to see that the angling club which has been formed among the employés of this firm is flourishing like a green bay tree, owing in a great measure to the hearty support which it receives from the members of the firm.

NORFOLK BROADS AND RIVERS. (By G. C. Davies.)—Our readers will be glad to hear that Messrs. Blackwoods have published a cheaper edition of this charming book. We have already noticed it on its first appearance, and it seems only needful now to mention its reappearance in this new and still very attractive form. The original photo-gravure illustrations have now given place to equally graceful and effective woodcuts from the same subjects. The text remains unaltered.

## CLUB REPORTS.

### THE ANGLERS' ASSOCIATION.

The ordinary delegates' meeting of the above Association was held on Monday last, December 15th, at the Foresters' Hall, Clerkenwell-road, and may be characterised as one of the most successful meetings ever held—Mr. P. Geen, president, in the chair. Numbers of well-known men were present, and the utmost cordiality and unanimity prevailed. The secretary (Mr. R. Ghurney) read the minutes of the previous delegates' meeting, which were duly confirmed. The secretary stated, in reply to a letter ordered to be sent to the Great Eastern Railway relative to granting privilege tickets from Park Station, that he had received an answer from the Company, in which they stated "that it was with a great amount of pleasure that they acceded to the request of the Anglers' Association to issue privilege tickets from that station" ; so, in future, all anglers will be able to take their privilege tickets from Park Station should they so wish. This will be a great boon to clubs in that district, and the announcement was received with great applause. The London and North-Western Railway have again been approached with a view of endeavouring to regain the concessions on their line, but up to the present unfortunately without success. The Anglers' Association have no intention of losing any opportunity that may arise of pegging away in their endeavours to once more regain these grand concessions. The secretary then brought the new visiting lists under the notice of the delegates, in which it was proposed to divide the clubs into four districts. This arrangement was very generally approved, and district officers were at once appointed. Mr. Jennings, No. 1, or Western district ; Mr. Manning and Mr. Thorling, No. 2, or Eastern district (the Eastern district being so extensive, it was deemed advisable to divide it, and the gentlemen above named will work it conjointly) ; Mr. Page, No. 3, or Southern district. Mr. Manning, in thanking the delegates for appointing him, said he had one great object in mind, and that was to give all the information in his power to the various angling clubs as to the work of the Anglers' Association, and to refute some of the false statements that have been allowed to be made broadcast in "another place," and it would be his strenuous endeavour to show the anglers of London who their real friends were. (Applause.) Mr. Tibbatts was next called upon to give some account of the negotiations that have for some time past been carried on between the delegates of the Central Association and the delegates of the Anglers' Association relative to amicably winding-up the Fisheries Society ; this he proceeded to do, and put the delegates in full possession of all the facts up to the present time. He was followed by Mr. Ghurney, Mr. Beckett, and Mr. Manning. It was then proposed by Mr. Marriott—"That having heard theaccount of our three delegates, we hereby express our entire confidence in them, and agree that the future conduct of the negotiations as to the Fisheries Society be left in their hands. This was seconded and carried enthusiastically. A conversation then ensued as to the advisability of the Anglers' Association renting waters on their own account for the use of their members, and it was agreed : "That the working committee be empowered to rent waters at their discretion for the exclusive use of the Anglers' Association." Upon the roll being called, the following clubs answered :—Alliance, Anglers' Pride, Bostonian, Brompton, City of London, Cavendish, Clapton, Cobden, Dalston, Edmonton and Tottenham, Golden Barbel, Good Intent, Hammersmith Club, Hammersmith United, Hoxton Brothers, Magdala, North-Eastern, Putney United, Phœnix, Prince of Wales, Portsmouth Waltonians, Peckham Brothers, Queen's, St. John's, Stepney, Sociable Brothers, Trafalgar, West Ham Brothers, Waltonians, West Green, Turnham-green Sun Dial. A vote of thanks to the chairman concluded the business.—H. J. TIBBATTS.

### ANGLERS' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

Since my last report I beg to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of 10s. (annual subscription) from Mr. Snook, Good Intent Angling Society, and 5s. (donation) from the Cobden Angling Society. The committee will not hold their meeting on Boxing night.—R. GHURNEY, sec.

### AMICABLE BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

On the 14th inst. Mr. Taylor weighed in one jack, 4lb. 13oz., and 4lb. of roach.—T. WORLEDGE.

### BATTERSEA FRIENDLY ANGLING SOCIETY.

A South London visit was paid to the above club on Tuesday last, but owing to being so near Christmas, but few clubs were represented, but still a very pleasant evening was spent. The harmony was well kept up by Mr. W. Johnson, "She Wore a Wreath of Roses" ; Mr. Hedges, "The Midshipmite" ; Mr. Wright (Wellington), "The Goose Club," which was received with great applause ; Mr. Bossiou (Clapham Junction), "The Spanish Cavalier" ; Mr. Allen (Bermondsey Brothers), a recitation, "The Brummagem Sweeps" ; Mr. F. Webb, "Old English Gentleman" ; Mr. R. Rodney Smith, "I've Only been Married To-day" ; Mr. Johnson, "The Blackguard Boat" ; Mr. Newton, "When Noah Hung Out in the Ark" ; Mr. Alexander (Wellington), "A Soldier Still," encored ; Mr. Anstis, "Bob Fubbs" ; Mr. Mathews, "Joe Muggins" ; Mr. G. Maddams, "The Death of Nelson" ; Mr. F. Ford, Mr. H. Martin, &c. On the role being called, the following clubs answered : Wellington, Rodney, Bermondsey Brothers. Mr. Allen announced the next visit would be to the Bermondsey Brothers. The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the delegates for their attendance. A match was fished at Staines on the 14th, for three prizes presented by Messrs. Mumford, Martin, and Ford, for members not having taken a prize during the year, and was won by Mr. H. Payne, Mr. Gloster, sen., second, and Mr. Gloster, jun., third.—GEO. MUMFORD, president.

### COBDEN ANGLING SOCIETY.

Several of our members were out on the 14th inst. They went to various places. Messrs. Maples, Stead, and Webley weighed some very nice roach from the Thames and the canal. Our other members that went out were not so successful.—C. REEVES, sec.

### GOLDEN BARBEL.

On the 7th there was a nice show of fish from the Thames, contributed by Messrs. J. Green, J. Roach, J. Stanton, A. Crow, C. Crow, and G. Crow, and consisted of roach, dace, and jack. The result of T. Adams's draw fell to Messrs. Emanuel and Fairchild ; the former took the tench and the latter the bream. On the 14th Mr. Green had some good sport among the roach. Mr. Hall and several other members also had fish from the Thames.—PIXIE.

### GOOD INTENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of this club, to the number of 56, fished at Broxbourne for our Christmas prizes on the 14th inst. The weather being so bad only six took fish, so it has to be finished on the 21st inst., the members to go where they please. I will give the full result next week. Mr. Snook, not being in the competition, brought in a capital show of roach ; also Mr. King some good fish.—R. MURPHY.

### GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

The ordinary weekly meeting of the above society was held on Tuesday evening at the Masons' Hall Tavern, Masons'-avenue, Basinghall-street. The chair was taken by Mr. Cartwright. The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, the election of two new members was proceeded with in the usual way. Mr. Sowerbutts, one of the gentlemen elected, expressed the pleasure it afforded him in becoming a member of the society. Mr. Crumplen then read a paper, "The Life of Izaak Walton," for which a vote of thanks was accorded to him. Some very good songs brought a very pleasant meeting to a close after the usual vote of thanks had been accorded to the chairman.—H.

[For remainder of CLUB REPORTS see page 316.]

# THE SCOTTISH WIDOWS' FUND

was established in 1815 for the Assurance of Lives upon the *Mutual* principle, whereby the whole profits of the business are divided among the Assured alone, and now presents to the public every advantage which Life Assurance, conducted under the most favourable conditions, is capable of affording.

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EXTENSIVE FOREIGN TRAVEL and Residence is allowed Free of Charge from the first. Most Policies become absolutely indefeasible and whole-world after the first five years.

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LONDON OFFICE: 28, CORNHILL, E.C. WEST END AGENCY: 49, PALL MALL.

DUBLIN ... ... ... 41, WESTMORELAND STREET.
GLASGOW ... ... ... 114, WEST GEORGE STREET.
MANCHESTER ... ... 21, ALBERT SQUARE.
LIVERPOOL ... ... 48, CASTLE STREET.
BRISTOL ... ... ... 40, CORN STREET.

BIRMINGHAM ... ... 12, BENNETT'S HILL.
LEEDS... ... ... ... 21, PARK ROW.
BELFAST ... ... ... 2, HIGH STREET.
NEWCASTLE ... ... 12, GREY STREET.

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SAMPLES FREE. NONE GENUINE WITHOUT *PATENT* ON LABEL.

PIKE FLIGHTS.—The "Archimedian" tackle is rapidly acquiring great notoriety as the best killing flight yet invented. Mr. F. S. Perkin, Stour Cottage, Chartley, Stafford, writes on Saturday last, December 13th:—"*Your 'Archimedian' worked well yesterday; we landed seven pike with it, whilst other arrangements were of little use.*"

"*Experience proves that, mounted with a salted gudgeon or pickled sprat, the 'Archimedian' works more successfully than other flights with the best of fresh bait.*"—W. GURNEY, Esq., Skegness (December 11th).

PATTERN, WITH SWIVELED TRACE, POST FREE FOR 1s. 9d.

Live Bait Tackles on finest Gimp-made Twist, Bronze Rustless Hooks, Swivels, &c., 6d. each, post free.

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**D. and W. H. FOSTER, Manufacturers, ASHBOURNE.**

### CITY OF LONDON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The following members weighed in on the 14th: Mr. MacDonnell, roach, dace, and perch; Mr. Castell, roach and dace; and Mr. Chambers roach, all from the Stort. On the 21st we compete for prizes at Egham, towing-path only.—Cas.

### HAMMERSMITH UNITED ANGLING SOCIETY.

The half-yearly meeting of this society took place on Thursday evening, Dec. 4th, when the election of officers was made who will serve for the next half-year:—Mr. Smith, chairman; Mr. Alders, vice-chairman; Mr. Penney and Mr. Green were, as usual, re-elected as hon. secretary and treasurer; Mr. Reynolds and Mr. Alders, delegates to the Anglers' Association. On the 11th and 14th inst. a match was fished for Mr. Morris's prize; a second and third prize was also given from the funds of the society. The competition for these prizes was very keen, although the takes were not large, and resulted as follows:—1st prize, Mr. Inman, 7lb. 13½oz., from the tidal water; 2nd prize, Mr. Johnson, 7lb. 12oz., from Datchet; 3rd prize, Mr. Penney, 7lb., from the tidal. The other competitors were not in it at all, notably Mr. Hobden, whose catch did not exceed 2lb. in weight, although he fished the same spot at Cookham where Mr. Smith, of the Richmond Piscatorials, had the previous day had such a magnificent take of fish, when the fish were evidently "dead on"; but certain it is that the next day they were "dead off"—even the redoubtable Godden, the Cookham fisherman, who was trying to repeat his previous day's exploit, had to pull up the rypecks in disgust. This serves well to illustrate the "glorious uncertainty" of the sport. Our committee are about to arrange another smoking concert, and a reading on "Piscatorial Matters," which paper is being prepared by one who knows what he is about, and will not instruct us "to work half an inch of bullock's pith up the shank of a single hook." Due notice of this concert and reading will be given in the Gazette.—H.

### HOXTON BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

Twenty-six members were out on the 14th inst. to fish for thirty Christmas prizes. The boundary was from the Engine House to the Railway Bridge below Ware town, in the river Lea (towing-path only). Thirteen prizes only were won, the first being taken by Mr. G. H. Wood with two jack, weighing nearly 8lb. The remaining prizes will be fished for, by the unsuccessful competitors only, on the 21st inst. The prizes will be presented in the clubroom on Tuesday evening, Dec. 23, at ten o'clock.—R. Ghurney, sec.

### PECKHAM BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of this society fished at Weybridge on the 14th inst., but owing to the state of the water, only one, W. Gardham, got any fish. The three remaining prizes will be fished for at Waltham on the 21st. Messrs. Freeman and Sons are subscribers to the prize list of this club.—Gadfly.

### THE PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

In accordance with previous announcement, the second smoking concert this season of the above society took place on Monday evening last at Ashley's Hotel, Covent-garden. Mr. Foreman occupied the chair, and Mr. Goodger the vice-chair. Punctuallay at 8.30 the chairman called on Mr. King, who gave a pianaforte solo, which was well rendered and gave entire satisfaction. Mr. Walter Harrisson, song, "Speed on, my Bark," very powerfully rendered. As the company were not yet properly seated, Mr. King gave another pianofore solo, testing the capabilities of the instrument to its fullest degree. Mr. Danielli, comic song, "Muddle Puddle Porter," sung with capital effect; Mr. Godwin, song, "To-morrow will be Friday," telling how the monks of old fished, had bad sport, and took to malvoisie, applauded; Mr. Rhys, recitation, "The Midnight Charge at Kassassin," effectively given; Mr. Ball, song "I'll Sing Thee Songs of Araby," exceedingly well sung, and applauded; Mr. Phillips, comic song, "Far, Far Away," showing the present troubles of bank bachelors, exceedingly amusing; Mr. T. Hardman recitation, "Kissing Cup," encored; Mr. Norman Harrisson, comic song, "The Essexshire Farmer," most amusing; Mr. H. H. Brown, flute solo, selection from "Il Trovatore," applauded; Mr. King, song, "Only Once More," artically sung and loudly encored; Mr. Fennings then gave violoncello solo, and finished amidst cheers; Mr. Townley, who was really inimitable, gave a comic song, "She Wanted to be a Fairy," encored so persistently that Mr. Townley had to respond, and gave "Moses and Aaron"; Mr. Tomson, comic song, "I'll Place it in the Hands of My Solicitor," loudly applauded. The vice-chairman rose and called attention to the fact that this happened to be the anniversary of a good angler's death—one whom generations had called the father of anglers. Izaak Walton died this day 201 years ago, and all ought to revere his memory. He therefore gave, "To the Memory of Izaak Walton, the Father of Anglers." Mr. Jesse, song, "The Vagabond," cheers; Mr. Norman Harrisson, comic recitation, applause; Mr. King, song, "I Prythee Give Me Back my Heart," encored; Mr. H. H. Brown, flute solo, most excellently played, and applauded. The chairman rose and proposed the healths of the successful anglers, Messrs. Huggett and Blamey, who showed some nice chub and roach. He next proposed "The Continued Prosperity of the Piscatorial Society." Both these toasts were drunk with enthusiasm. Mr. Marsden, song, "Anchored," applause; Mr. Jesse, song, "The Charge of the Light Brigade," cheers; Mr. Ball, song, "The Pilgrim," splendidly sung, and applauded; Mr. Harden, song, "The Arab's Farewell to his Steed," well sung; Mr. Danielli, song, "Sailing," an opportunity was here given for a splendid chorus; Mr. Rhys, recitation, "Little Breeches," well done; Mr. Foreman (chairman), song, "The Anchor's Weighed," finished amidst shouts of "Bravo, Foreman"; Mr. Hardman, recitation, "The 10th Hussars and Trooper Hayes," most pathetically recited. The vice-chairman proposed "The Health of the Chairman," which was duly responded to with musical honours. Mr. Adlington sang "The Powder Monkey," applauded. The vice-chairman was proud to say we had had a splendid evening's entertainment without professional assistance; in his opinion professional assistance checked many amateurs, who refused to sing when professions were present. Mr. Huggett proposed a vote of thanks to those gentlemen visitors who had so ably assisted at the concert; carried by acclamation. The chairman proposed "The Health of the Vice-Chairman," who briefly replied. Dr. Brunton gave "Auld Lang Syne," the company all joining hands. "God Save the Queen" by the company terminated a most pleasant and successful evening.—T. H.

### RICHMOND PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

On Wednesday this society held its weekly meeting at the club-room, Station Hotel, Mr. A. J. Little in the chair, Mr. H. Dickinson being in the vice-chair. The chairman congratulated Mr. Thomas Bull upon his fine take of barbel (eleven fish, weighing 64¾lb.), and which were entered in the books in competition for the barbel challenge cup. Mr. Bull, in a very interesting piscatorial speech, informed the members that the fish were caught at Teddington (fishing with Frank Kemp, of whom he spoke very highly), and were taken with slices of lamperns; that he had captured five others under 4lb., and, after the fish were weighed, the whole of them were returned to the river. He should be very pleased if other members could have as good sport, and spoke very enthusiastically of the fishing in the tideway. At the same time, although he had had many red-letter days, he, like the rest of anglers, had had many blanks. Mr. Abbott sang the well-known song, "Oh, the Gallant Fisher's Life," accompanied by Dr. Sellé, who had set the words to music, and the Doctor kindly presented the chairman with a copy. Dr. Sellé, who also composed "The Land and Water Revel," delighted the members with his rendering of the piece, and gave the society one of the 100 published editions, stating that the song was the result of a meeting between Mr. Frank Buckland (to whom the piece was dedicated), Mr. Rolfe (the celebrated piscatorial artist, who painted the frontispiece), and himself.

[*Several* Club Reports *are unavoidably held over till next week.*]

### RODNEY PISCATORIALS.

On the 7th inst., the members of the above commenced fishing for Mr. Liversage's prize, given for the gross weight of fish taken during December, punt or bank. Messrs. Chantry, Flower, and Co., punt fishing at Kingston, had a nice lot of dace; Mr. G. Dodd, bank-fishing in the upper waters, had some splendid roach, which landed him on the top branch for this day. On the 14th, 1st, Mr. G. Dodd, roach, 4lb. 2¼oz.; 2nd, R. Smith, roach, 4lb. 2oz.; 3rd, H. Flowers, 2lb. 2oz., roach and dace. On the 16th, between 8 and 9 a.m., Mrs. J. Hotham found "a little lamb," which has been added to the flock, and, at the time of writing, is going on quite well. A Merry Christmas to members and friends at home and abroad; and, Mr. Editor, please accept the same from—Pixie.

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Trade Mark.
**S. Allcock and Co.'s New Steel Collapsing Ring.** There have been many objections to the different kinds of rings now in use, both from difficulty in folding and from their injuring the net, but in this new pattern these objections have been overcome.
**Wood Jointed Landing Rings.** A circular wood ring in four joints, with spring fasteners, making a compact and serviceable article.
**S. Allcock and Co.'s Crank-Shank Needle-Eyed Hooks, "Patented."**
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Communications relating to the Literary Department, Fishing Tackle for Notice, Books for Review, &c. must be addressed to the Editor of the FISHING GAZETTE, No. 12, Fetter Lane, London, E.C.

Contributions are solicited, but the Editor will not undertake to return rejected MSS. unless accompanied with a stamped addressed envelope.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only, and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith. Unless this rule be adhered to, no notice will be taken of such communications.

THE FISHING GAZETTE is published every Saturday, and can be obtained at Messrs. W. H. Smith and Son's Railway Bookstalls, and of the principal Newsagents and Fishing Tackle Dealers in London and the Provinces.

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# The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1884.

## TO OUR READERS.

BY the time this issue of the GAZETTE is in the hands of our readers the festival of Christmas Day, 1884, will have commenced, and anglers will be making merry, enjoying those social and family meetings which are so appropriate at this season of the year. Anglers, however much they may follow old Izaak's advice, "Study to be quiet," when they are fishing, have always been noted for their social qualities when they get together, and every year they get more sociable and jolly. Any excuse is good enough to get up a dinner or a meeting. Whatever the ostensible object may be, the real attraction is the opportunity to meet a lot of good fellows and enjoy a chat about angling over a pipe or cigar, and much as they love to talk of their favourite water, they certainly do not care to *consider* it exclusively in the form of an *unmixed* blessing! The angling club system is extending every day, and as long as the clubs are of the right sort we say, "The more the merrier." By "right sort," we mean those which are animated by a desire to elevate the art and discountenance anything of an unsportsmanlike nature, and whose members do not fish simply for the purpose of catching prizes.

While on the subject of clubs, we would like respectfully to give a few words of advice, and we know many a club angler will agree with us that they are not quite uncalled for. We refer to the undue importance which in many clubs is given to what is called the "business" of the evening. You go to a club to have a talk with some of the members, and find that three-quarters of the evening is taken up with the discussion of matters which could be far better settled by the committee. Of course, all matters of general interest should be brought before the club and discussed; but the aim of the chairman of the evening should be to make it of general interest.

During almost the whole of this year the rainfall has been below the average of the previous ten years, and angling of all kinds, but especially salmon and trout angling, has been, as a consequence, unsuccessful as compared with previous seasons. Whatever our political opinions may be, we must all hope that Jupiter Pluvius will be more liberal next year, and extend the franchise to thousands of springs which are now dried up.

In conclusion, we must again thank our readers for the hearty support they have given us, assure them that we shall do all in our power to make the GAZETTE of interest and value to them, and sincerely wish them all a Happy Christmas and most Prosperous New Year.

## LOCH LEVEN TROUT OVA FOR AMERICA.

THE Anchor Line steamer *Furnessia*, which sailed from Glasgow on Friday, 19th December, carries to New York one hundred thousand Loch Leven trout ova for the United States Commission of Fish and Fisheries.

Mr. Spencer Baird, Commissioner, proposes to send the eggs when received to the station in Michigan to be hatched out for introduction into the Great Lakes.

The ova were packed by machinery, so as to avoid handling as much as possible. They were enumerated by being spread in water over square wooden frames, covered with suitable netting, each mesh of which isolates a single ovum. The frames were then inverted on squares of felted moss, leaving each ovum in its proper position and perfectly separated from the others. Three layers of moss and eggs are placed in a tray, and six trays in each box. A large ice receptacle covers a double column of trays, the ice in which will be occasionally replenished on the voyage to insure an even temperature throughout.

Through the kindness of Messrs. Henderson Bros., ample space in the ice-house has been placed free of freight at the disposal of the Howietoun Fishery, by whom the eggs have been presented.

The Loch Leven trout is a pure *Salmo fario*, and one of the very best strains that can be obtained for stocking purposes. We have had ample proof that it has done well when transplanted to our slow South of England trout streams, though, of course, it loses somewhat of the superb flavour of the fish which are bred in Loch Leven.

## AN INCIDENT IN PIKE FISHING.

BY J. P. WHEELDON.

ONE of the very oddest incidents I ever saw in my life in connection with pike fishing came under my notice only so recently as towards the close of last season. I was fishing with a right good and trusty friend, known to scores of readers of the FISHING GAZETTE, in a magnificent river in the West of England. You want his name, eh? Here you are, then—Tom Hughes to wit, some time host of a certain little angling crib within hail of the Great Eastern Railway station. A real good fellow every inch of him; an A 1 man with a "roach pole," perhaps better with a jack rod.

Instead of the middle of February, it might very well have been the middle of June. Save that the trees were leafless, the branches only just beginning to shoot out little gummy, sticky buds as heralds of spring, there was very little else of winter or its associations to recall the dismal period to our mind. Grass had grown thick and high in the meadows, and down by the riverside it was absolutely luxuriant; whilst March buttercups, with here and there beautiful straggling patches of wild jonquils, gave the moist water meadows an air as though they were clothed in cloth of gold in honour of the approaching summer. As to the hedge bottoms, they were simply magnificent. One could not stir a step without meeting clusters of the delightful star-like blossoms of wild primroses shining out from backgrounds of smooth, deep green ivy leaves and the pale fronds of springing ferns. Then was the air scented and perfumed with the true, delicious, never-to-be-forgotten odour of wood violets. There were hundreds—aye, thousands—of shy blossoms hiding like little frightened children amongst the broad leaves of polypoddies, or nestling within the shadow of the crinkley primrose leaves, and each sweet purply-blue, or pale greyish white floweret, breathed its tribute of gratitude to the warm, delightful sunshine, which was fast hurrying every blade of grass and tiny leaf towards perfection. To tell of birds! Ah me! 'twas like a concert of fairy-like musicians perched on every tree, where speckled thrush challenged yellow-billed blackbirds to vocal conflict; where sweet twittering linnets, with restless, jerking flight, hurried apace from clumps of gorse bushes, blazing in golden splendour, to where whitethorns covered the wild nettles and dock leaves in the hedge bottoms below with a frequent tiny shower of summer snow; where gay, pink-breasted chaffinches piped shrilly from every bough, and still gayer yellow hammers trilled their wild song from the tops of high hedges. Over all sung the prince of spring songsters—the shrill, glad-voiced lark—that bird which, unlike the nightingale, fills one's soul and bosom with hope, and fires ambition once more. Nay, I can hardly say why it is so, save it may be that the bonny speckled songster, with upraised crest and bright, bold eye, springs to the skies bravely, and breasting the billows of air when morning suns tint every leaf and blade of grass with glory, makes all things glad and bright. Whereas the nightingale—ah, he sings sadly, complainingly, and low, breathing a sweet, wild lament at that time when most men's bosoms yield to a solemn feeling of despondency—to wit, the close of a brilliant summer's day, when wreathing clouds of soft mists are rising from the meadows; when the light dies out of the bloodshot, garish sky; when queenly Venus shines shyly out from her throne, set amidst a sea of emeralds and silver sheen; and when black night is seen slowly stealing up over the sky to take the drowsy earth in its mighty grasp.

I can fancy somebody saying, "Ah, yes, a lovely bit of gush, old fellow; but about this incident?" Well, to commence with, let me say it was a regular roasting morning, with a blazing hot sun, and the river was like a calm, shining expanse of glass, clear as crystal, and without a ripple on it from one end of a a wide reach to the other.

"Not very much like jack fishing," you'll say, and very naturally. And indeed it was not. We had tried every good corner fruitlessly; and lay-byes which, before that scorching hot day, had never failed to hold a lodger, were here returned as apparently tenantless. Thus, after working a mile or so of good water to no earthly purpose, we gave it up as a really bad job, and both sat down on our wicker baskets to try if we could coax the roach to "come at it."

Tom was fishing a hundred yards above me, and nearer a little isolated cottage, where a perfect lady in cotton stockings, who lived to all appearance entirely upon bubble-and-squeak, sold ginger-beer at a halfpenny a time. We had some of that beer, too, that day—at least, I can answer for myself; and curiously enough, whenever I went for a bottle, there was invariably bubble-and-squeak on. Well, my swim was a literally charming pitch. A lot of old thorns and alders growing upon the bank had had their roots partially disarranged by heavy floods and runs of land water during preceding winters, and had partly fallen over until they laid at a considerable angle across the stream. All the upper portions of the boughs were submerged and settled deep down in the water. Very probably they will be swept entirely away when next I go there, and that sweet little swim may be a thing of the past. However, there they were then; and just above, say, fifty or sixty yards, came thundering down a mighty, swift, impetuous run of water which, breaking full upon the bank on which I sat, might very probably have had some hand in the displacement of the old thorns and alders.

It was the very place for a big salmon or trout to be in; and, believe me, before I put my pike rod and spinning bait down, I had a very great mind to "tiddle" that little dace along under the bank just to see what would result from such a course. To my credit be it spoken, I did'nt do it, but sat contentedly down on my roach swim.

"Although I says it as should'nt,"—*vide* Mrs. Brown, or some other old frump—"which her father was a 'ighly respectable cheesemonger in the Borough," nobody in this wide world—no, not even Joe Woodard himself, could have fished for roach that day better than I did. I don't say they might not have caught more, because I got none at all. No, not a smell—not a scale—not even a whiff of a roach; but in the art of "trying for 'em" I was perfect. George Lee said only the other night that he was open to back "Woodey," fit and well, against "anybody breathing, roach only to weigh." All right, George; but just wait until you see me shape, my boy, and then see what you'll say. Upon reflection he'll very likely say just the same thing—put the money down, and win. Such is the criss-crass ignorance and obstinacy of mankind, who will not be convinced by theory alone. Yes, there they were, "tons of 'em." They were all round my float. There were huge, great "bangers," plenty of them, of two pounds and more apiece. There were scores, aye, hundreds of pounders, and pound-and-a-halfers, enough to drive a Ponder's End man stark, staring mad, and they kept rolling over and over, and plashing the water up in little silvery showers of spray, until I scratched my head in sheer despair and shied more ground-bait in, tried ledgering on the bottom, fishing midway, two inches off and two on, and at last gave it up in downright desperation, and went and had another bottle of ginger-beer at the residence of the bubble-and-squeak lady.

Having had a cooler for a halfpenny, I came back to the swim and tried again. I might just as well have tried round the base of Nelson's monument, and for the life of me I could not make out the strength of the business.

At last out came the murder. After a lot of fiddling I managed to nick one little sprat of a half-pounder. I call him "a sprat," because there were such perfectly awful members of the same family in similar shops all round me; and at the very instant that I was chuckling and "chortling in my joy," all to myself, over my triumph, bless me! my Sowerbutts cane gave forth a mighty twang; the top bent as though the Jabberwock himself was hooked, and away went my roach and about a foot or two of my gut line. "Ho! ho! ha! ha!" cried I, or something in the same strain; "Master John Pike stands confessed, does he?" Indeed he did, and the next instant was "on the rampage," if ever precious fish was in this world, assaulting and bullying those peaceful roach in the most shameless and unheard-of fashion, and turning the whole blessed delicious quietude of the scene of only a few minutes before into one of unheard-of bustle and confusion. I'll be hanged if he wasn't like a mad pike.

First he splashed up amongst some sedge and rushes on the opposite shore; then he came shooting across the stream, the frightened roach jumping in every direction; and next he came sailing in under my feet for all the world like one of those "long, low, black-hulled piratical schooners," which Captain Marryatt was so fond of describing in chase of a lubberly Dutch galliot, in this case represented by a fat two-pound roach. I shouted for Tom to come and see the fun, and down went his rod, and he came through the long grass, mopping his head as though it had been the middle of August. Quoth he when he had watched a little of the performance, "I'm darned—absolutely darned, old man, if that fish is'nt a twenty-pounder." There was a little bridge fifty yards below us, and on to this bridge went Tom and I. Under the bridge, and all round the side piles, the water was quite shallow, certainly not more than 2ft. in depth. While we stood there on the look-out for my gentleman, he sailed right in on to the shallows, and lay motionless save for a quivering of his fins and tail, and full in view under our very noses. There was a little jack about a pound, previously entirely unnoticed, lying amongst some weeds. Did'nt he make tracks! Just a little! A few he did, and edged quietly away perhaps a yard or so, then gave one shoot through the water, and he was off—off like the stranger and away, while the big pike took no more notice of him than an Irish policeman would of an unmistakeable Yankee with a slouched hat, or a London officer of cold shoulder of mutton and pickles.

The next thing I noticed was Tom "doing Time" through the meadow. He went like Deerfoot with those wolves after him, and in less time than I thought possible was back again with his pike rod and the bait-can. There lay Master John in precisely the same place, and my chum quietly dropped a bright, flashing bait attached to a paternoster close to his nose. The fish backed a bit at first for all the world as though he had said to himself, "This is a wrong 'un." Greed getting the better of him, he "went for it," however, and to my delight and joy I saw him first dash at the bait, seize it crosswise in his great fanged jaws, and then, without any further ceremony, gulp it slick down. I could literally see every morsel of the gimp disappear down his throttle, and said I to Tom, "My boy, I'll bet you a pound to twopence that you get him!"

He on his part nodded and closed one eye, which meant that he thought it was highly probable. He likewise ejaculated the word "Stones!"—a custom of his; but this I fancy had no real bearing on the facts of the case.

Pulling line from the winch so that the fish might not feel any obstruction, Tom got over the bridge as fast as he could, jumped the fence, and stood amongst the sedge and rush beds by the waterside. Then, seeing everything clear, he wound up, and I, from my point of view on the bridge above, could see the loose line lifting along the bottom of the river, and gradually tighten from the point of the rod to the jaws of the fish. The very instant that he felt the pull the fish set his fins going and moved slowly away. At the very moment that he moved Tom hit him, and to my unbounded astonishment the hook came clean out of his mouth, and with one sweep of his great tail he had vanished to the deeps above.

I never felt so utterly flabbergasted in my life. As for Tom, his face was a perfect study, and he stood looking at the tackle, and feeling the point of the hook on the ball of his thumb as though even with the entire disappearance of the fish he could hardly realise the fact. "Did you ever see anything like that before?" he asked as he rejoined me, and I told him, "That I never had, and never should again." The only explanation I can give of it is this:—The gimp was full short, and the fish had got the bait partially down the throttle. At the very instant my friend struck him he was in the act of opening his throat and jaws. The hook was torn clean away from the lips of the bait, and missed the pike altogether. Had he been shutting his mouth instead the whole order of things would have probably been entirely reversed.

**Messrs. Dorey Lester and Co.'s Fac-Simile of a Diamond Ring.**—Among the numerous advertisements which appeared in our double number last week was one of a coupon entitling the holder, on payment of two shillings, to "one Single Stone Paris Diamond Ring." We had the curiosity to send for one, and find that it is really a wonderful piece of workmanship. The stone has all the lustre of a fine brilliant, and has been cut with the greatest care. The mount is a gold-cased alloy of wonderful "finish"; in fact, the "get-up" of the whole thing is so good that even an expert might easily be deceived. It will, as stated, cut glass. Anyone who wishes to make a present which is sure to please should cut out the coupon in last week's F. G., and send it with a money order for two shillings to Messrs. Dorey Lester and Co., Kilburn, London, N.W.

George James Eaton, of Starkholmes, Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required, from gentlemen who can fish, to prove whether they may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen Orders punctually attended to.—(Advt.)

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS.—Nervous Debility.—No part of the human machine requires more watching than the nervous system—upon it hangs health and life itself. These Pills are the best regulators and strengtheners of the nerves, and the safest general purifiers. Nausea, headache, giddiness, numbness, and mental apathy yield to them; they dispatch in a summary manner those distressing dyspeptic symptoms, stomachic pains, fulness at the pit of the stomach, abdominal distension, and overcome both capricious appetites and confined bowels—the commonly accompanying signs of defective or deranged nervous power. Holloway's Pills are particularly recommended to persons of studious and sedentary habits, who gradually sink into a nervous and debilitated state, unless some such restorative be occasionally taken.—[Advt.]

## ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A. G. Forbes.—You should get a copy of Ronald's "Fly Fisher's Entomology," published by Longmans; it is the best book we know on trout flies.

# CORRESPONDENCE.

[*We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.*]

### A THIRTY-POUND SALMON TAKING GENTLES.

Sir,—I venture to send you the following exciting struggle with a salmon, as I cannot hear of anything similar having ever occurred on this water.

Whilst roach fishing in the Ringwood Avon, to-day, I hooked a salmon of between 30lb. and 40lb.; I was using a fine crystal hook baited with gentles, and the finest of Nottingham silk lines,

Upon being hooked, the fish took things somewhat quietly; but becoming aware that all was not right, he commenced a series of tremendous rushes, frequently leaping out of the water and throwing himself upon the line.

Hurdle, the fisherman, dexterously followed him with the punt and succeeded several times in turning him just as the last foot of the 80yd. of line had run out; at length, after 20 minutes of the most exciting sport, the hook became disengaged, and we looked at each other as only fishermen can on such occasions.

The fight of a fish of this weight on such slender tackle can, I assure you, be much better imagined than described.—I am, &c., H. Hare Winton.

Guildford, Dec. 18.

P.S.—The river is full of enormous salmon, the spawning beds being literally covered with them; the water being excessively low, their little domestic arrangements are clearly visible. This augurs well for February next.

### THE MAY FLY (GREEN DRAKE).

Sir,—In your issue of the 13th inst., there is an interesting article headed "The May-fly Week." Having, as I fancy, learnt most of what I know concerning this fly on the same stream, but lower down, than the writer of the above-named article, I venture to give him and your readers what I have learnt; but if I am wrong I shall be glad to be corrected.

"T. A." asks if the grey drake is the female fly? I believe that he is right in his supposition. I have for several years noticed that there are two sizes of green drakes on the river, and remember once starting the theory to two brother anglers that the larger sized ones became grey drakes, and the smaller ones the black, or, as in some places, the death drakes (*vide* Mr. Francis Francis's "Book of Angling," and also "Ronald's Entomology"), after changing their skins. Soon afterwards I was reading an article in the *Field*, by Mr. Francis Francis, wherein I found that he had some years previously propounded the same idea, and as I had certainly read this article myself, I must have unconsciously appropriated his idea without due acknowledgment. If "T. A." will examine those May flies, or "grey drakes" that, as he writes, "dance up and down with a graceful regular swing," &c., he will find that some are smaller-bodied, blacker-winged, and with longer tails or whisks than the bluer-blacked winged larger whiter-bodied drakes; the former he will find to be the black or male drakes, and the latter the grey or female drakes.

Ronald, in his "Fly-fisher's Entomology" under the "Dark Mackerel," has a note (see page 93) in his first edition in which the following occurs:—"The tails and the two forelegs of the male increase to about double their former length, those of the female receive an accession of not quite one third. The male carries two large stemmata upon his head and a pair of calipers at the end of his body, which two peculiarities chiefly distinguish his appearance from the female."

I have also read, either in F. F.'s or Ronald's book, that the male drake, when settled, raises his forelegs above his head in a slanting direction forwards.

The grey drake, or female, after the fly has risen several days, may be seen often dancing up and down, over, and every now and then touching, the water for a second, and then springing up again, aided by their whisks or tails; they are then laying their eggs, which are exuded from the last ring but one of the body towards the tail end. When this process is finished, the female often falls exhausted on the water, and is either drowned or eaten by some fish or bird.

I believe that the reason why the "yellow [green] drake flutters straight away to leeward, and hardly seems able to steer a course," is, that being but recently hatched on the water's surface, it has not got got its wings hardened by exposure to the air; as I have often noticed when wading, &c., that when the fly is just out of its larva case, or "shuck" as some call it, the wings are all crumpled up, and look softer than if examined later on after its escape from its larva case.

I am also indebted to an angler I first met on the river side in 1878, who kindly pointed me out the differences between the grey and black drakes, as well as teaching me how to float a dry May-fly over a rising fish. He had fished the stream I allude to for nearly 40 years, and I unexpectedly met him last year in his old haunts, though he was not fishing then.

I have also noticed that trout make a peculiar noise when you are unhooking your fly from them, and if returned to the water will disgorge dead May flies, and sometimes minnows.

By the bye, I find it a good dodge when returning undersized fish to separate some of the stems of the sedge, &c., and slightly wedge the fish between them, as they are kept in their natural positions and are able to recover at their own leisure, instead of being thrown in, and often stunned or killed.

One saves time during the rise, and also, when grayling fishing, avoids cold fingers, as you do not have to hold and nurse them in the water in an awkward position perchance until the fish recovers. I generally place them so that their heads point upstream, and, if possible, out of the stream in a quiet corner.—I am, &c.,

Hull, Dec. 18. J. B. J.

### SALMON ANGLING IN THE NOTTINGHAM STYLE.

Sir,—I see my report last week was unavoidably left out; this week there is no fishing news to write about, the Trent being bank full and out of condition. The weather during the week has been all against fishing—snow-storms one part of the day and sunshine the other, finishing up on Thursday with a violent thunderstorm, that will long be remembered for the time of the year. Salmon anglers will sympathise with Mr. Kelson, having hold of a fish for two hours on a bridge, and give him credit for the very ingenious method of landing it. I beg leave to differ with him in his description of the Nottingham style of angling for salmon with worm, as you never see a Nottingham fisherman, who has any knowledge of the gentle art, who has any slack line in bottom fishing with a running float, as both Nottingham and Derby anglers take a pride in keeping their line tight and their float held back, thus allowing their bait to travel first, striking as soon as it disappears. As an old Derby angler once said to me, he liked to see it go straight down their throats, and he has killed hundreds of salmon in his time, fishing in the so-called Nottingham style, himself and son having killed as many as 40 fish in a season.

Now, Mr. Editor, I like to give merit where it is due, as the Derby anglers have certainly been the first to introduce this style of fishing with worm for salmon, and there are some first-rate fishermen amongst them, myself being one of the first in Nottingham to adopt their style of fishing, having got a few instructions from Mr. Brown, of Derby, who has been a salmon fisherman on the Trent upwards of 25 years, the one I have alluded to above. I hope Mr. Kelson will not think me impertinent in venturing to criticise so experienced a salmon fisherman.

Several salmon have been taken out at King's Mills to see if they had spawned, and carefully returned, not having begun yet.

Your paper is getting an increased circulation in Nottingham. Half-a-dozen of my friends are going to take it. Wishing you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year,—I am, &c.,
A. W.

Dec. 22.

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Sir,—In this week's Fishing Gazette (Christmas Number) your learned and experienced contributor, Mr. G. M. Kelson, in an article under the above heading, makes a statement that, in the interests of common justice, cannot be allowed to remain unchallenged; the sentence in question being this:—"Be that as it may, the so-called Nottingham rods for salmon-fishing *are good for nothing and all fiddlededee; still, on rivers that hold no salmon*, and for lighter work, they seem to fall in with the fashion. For our purpose they should be made of greenheart, an entirely different model, and 14ft. in length." In the paragraph preceding that just quoted, Mr. Kelson says:—"First of all, then, in alluding to Nottingham rods, I seem to have come suddenly to a dead stop." Now, in my opinion, it would have been better if Mr. Kelson had made a "dead stop" just there, or else to have gone a little further and told us why Nottingham rods are "good for nothing, and all fiddlededee." "On rivers that hold *no* salmon," says Mr. Kelson, "these rods seem to fall in with the fashion." Precisely so; and they also "fall in with the fashion" on rivers that do hold salmon, because the Trent is a salmon river to all intents and purposes; and, as I have seen these light barbel and chub Nottingham rods, when they have been in conflict with large salmon, and seen them come out victorious from the battle, I don't think they merit the term "good for nothing." If Mr. Kelson had stood on the banks of the Trent near here some time ago, and had seen that old and skilful angler in the Nottingham style, "Old Kitty," hook, play, and kill a large salmon when worm-fishing for barbel, he would not have written those words about our Nottingham rods being "good for nothing." Scores of salmon have been killed in the Trent by an ordinary 12ft. Nottingham barbel rod. I should like to know why our Nottingham style of fishing should have foisted upon it a heavy greenheart 14ft. rod, when a 12ft. or 12½ft. ordinary barbel rod will do the work just as effectively and a lot easier for the fisherman. I have seen a salmon (fresh run) hooked, played, and killed by an ordinary roach rod, line, and fine-drawn gut tackle—aye, and helped to eat him, too. I venture to say that it would be almost an impossibility to fish the "Corporation" swim, say, with a 14ft. greenheart salmon rod, a barbel line, a small cork float, and an ordinary gut bottom tackle. The rod would be out of all proportion to the rest of the tackle. The rod must be light in order to handle comfortably with one hand. It must be built so that you can draw down the line between the rings and cast out cleanly and squarely from 20 to 25 yards, or even more, with a small cork float and ordinary shotted tackle. I don't believe this tackle could be cast with a long greenheart rod; anyhow, I am quite satisfied that our ordinary Nottingham rods, built purposely for float-fishing for salmon, cannot be improved on for the style (I am not alluding to ledgering; but float-fishing pure and simple). I should like to stand on the banks of some famous salmon river, Mr. Kelson looking on, and if the fish were in a taking humour, and worm fishing in the Nottingham style was allowed, and if, at the end of a day's fishing, Mr. Kelson did not say that the Nottingham rod had done its duty, why I should be quite ready to order my coffin from the nearest joiners. But, however, I am quite willing to write an article on "Salmon Fishing in the Nottingham Style" for the columns of the Fishing Gazette," giving the tools required, and a description of the *modus operandi* as practised on the Trent; that is, if the Editor could spare the space, and its readers would care to read it. In my humble opinion, Mr. Kelson, by his bright, clear, and racy descriptions of fly fishing, fly making, wading and casting for salmon, stands almost without a rival in that branch of sport, even if he does sometimes soar away into the realms of fancy and grandiloquent language that we poor mortals can scarcely follow; but when he comes to describe worm-fishing in the Nottingham style with a float, I see, in several details of his very interesting article, he is clearly at fault. Time and space prevent me from saying any more on this subject just at present; but I must say to ye "Nottingham Georgies," ye "Baileys," ye "Bendigoes," and ye "Old Kitties," that the oracle hath spoken and declared that the rods ye handle so tenderly, and look at so lovingly, and put put away so carefully—those rods that have stood the brunt of the battle so often—are henceforth, and for ever, to be dubbed "good for nothing," and "all fiddle-de-dee," and nothing remains for you but just to break them across your knee, and boil the kettle with the remains, and as thoughts of their past glory and strength vanish up the chimney with the smoke, to wearily exclaim "*Sic transit gloria mundi.*" Thanking you in anticipation for the space, which, in common justice to our style, I hope you will not refuse—I am, &c.
The Trent Otter.

Newark-on-Trent, Dec. 22.

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## FECUNDITY OF ARTIFICIALLY BRED TROUT.

Sir,—"Chub Chavender" wishes to know if it affects the fecundity of fish to breed them artificially? Most decidedly not; in all waters that I have collected ova from, either rivers or ponds, I have found such fish as described by "Chub Chavender." They are certainly large enough and, to all appearance, old enough to have developed ova; but that is not always the case. I have some fish that weigned from 4lb. to 5lb. each, and were five years old before they developed any ova, but now they spawn annually, like the other fish.

Another circumstance is, I have known fish to develop ova only once in two years instead of annually, as is usually the case. This circumstance was first brought to my notice by Mr. James Ramsbottom, of Long Island, U. S. America. In going to a particular lake in the State of Maine for trout ova, we found that one year most all of the female fish were full of ova, and the succeeding year the majority seemed barren, but the year following that they were all right again. We then came to the conclusion that the fish only spawned once in two years, and such we found afterwards to be the case.

My experience is, that artificially bred fish, kept in ponds, will develop 25 per cent. more ova than a wild fish of the same weight and age. Further, I do not believe that there is such a thing as a completely barren fish, either naturally or artificially bred, providing time is given to devolop either the milt or ova.—I am, &c.,
W. T. Silk,

Burleigh Park, Stamford.
Pisciculturist to the Marquis of Exeter.

[This is most valuable testimony from one who is a thoroughly practical pisciculturist with great experience.—Ed.]

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## LARGE NEW ZEALAND TROUT.

Sir,—The inclosed cutting from a newspaper has been sent to me by a friend in New Zealand. He asks what sort of a trout it could be, and says that there are some indigenous trout in the rivers, and others that have been raised from ova sent from England and America. If it lies between John Bull and Jonathan to furnish such fish, I think old John must take a back seat; unless, indeed, the specimen mentioned should turn out to be a *bull*-trout.—I am, &c.,

Carlisle.
Silver Grey.

The following is a copy of the cutting:—

"A noble trout was caught in the river Selwyn a few days ago, and was placed on exhibition at the Dive, Christchurch. It measured 35½in. in length and 24in. round the shoulders, and weighed 25lb.

[This is probably one of the descendants of the Hampshire trout sent out 17 or 18 years ago by Messrs. Youl, Buckland, and Francis; they run far larger than their English ancestors. There were no trout in New Zealand prior to their introduction from England, and the Americans have not sent any *S. fario*.—Ed.]

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## PARTICULARS OF SALMON FISHING WANTED.

Sir,—Will any of your readers oblige me with a list of salmon-fishing rivers in the North of England and Scotland; the best time of the year for fishing them, the nearest stations to go to, and whether hotel or other accommodation. Also cost of licenses (if any), and whether free fishing, or by permission, and from whom?

My salmon fishing has hitherto been confined to the Tees; but owing to the Dinsdale Dam obstruction, salmon cannot ascend this river till the autumn, when there are floods, and it is generally well into September before a start can be made in the higher reaches of the river. This year it was October before anything was done, owing to the dryness of the season. Now, as the season expired on 1st November, it only left a month to get the worth of your license (25s.), and I know many anglers who only got one or two fish. I only got four myself, and disgust compels me to seek "fresh fields and pastures new": hence the questions I ask.

Perhaps there may be some guide or book published which will answer my purpose.

Any information will be gratefully received.—I am, &c.,
G. J. S.

Middlesborough.

["G. J. S." should get Little's "Anglers' Annual," published by G. Little and Co., 63, Haymarket, price 1s. This gives particulars of English rivers under counties. He should also get Watson Lyall's 1s. "Sportsman's Guide," published at 15, Pall Mall, London. It gives the Scotch salmon and trout fishings under counties. The "Anglers' Diary," published at the *Field* office, is a work we find invaluable, in spite of its shortcomings. Personally, we should recommend the Eden in Cumberland, and the Tweed.—Ed.]

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## EYED SALMON HOOKS.

Sir,—In Mr. C. Pennell's letter on this subject in your issue of Dec. 20th, in reference to the angle at which the eye should be placed, he writes:—"In order however, to get a perfect result it is necessary that the eye of the hook should be turned up nearly, but not quite, to a right angle . . . . If the angle of the turned-up eye is the least degree 'broader' or 'narrower,' then it should be, a corresponding deviation in the straightness of the set of the fly upwards or downwards will be the result."

As this particular point engaged my very special attention as far back as 1878, when Mr. Hall and I were consulting about the first order for eyed hooks, and as our past six years' experience and my present decided opinions are strongly opposed to this dictum of Mr. Pennell's, I beg to explain why and how I practically tested the matter in 1878, which test, I think, ought to be conclusive to anyone's mind who will take the trouble to try it. I believe in practical tests in preference to theories elaborated over the dinner-table, and have already shown how I tested the "needle eyes" to their disadvantage as compared with turned-up eyed hooks.

Something has been written by enthusiasts in angling matters even before my day as to the propriety of lashing the gut on the inside of the shanks of fish-hooks, in preference to the outside or back of hook, and all practical fly-dressers will probably agree that (in the old system of gut lashed to the straight hook) the preferable plan is to lay the gut along the inside of the shank before wrapping it on with silk. I am not going into that question: I take it for granted as an established custom, and admissible one.

Now, the angle at which the steel eye is "pitched" determines the line upon which the "pull" on the point of the hook falls, and it will be obvious that the higher the pitch of the eye the higher will the "pull" be thrown on the shank, and in Mr. Pennell's second illustration it is pretty clear that the pull will fall quite on the back of the hook-shank, and not on the true line, or on the underside.

I assume, for argument's sake, the opinion to be settled that the pull is best on the underside of the shank nearest the point, and in order to obtain it so in a steel-eyed hook it is absolutely necessary to make the pitch of the eye very slight indeed, and a turn upwards from the horizontal line of shank of about 12 degrees is enough for the purpose, and better than any greater angle, whereas, taking Mr. Pennell's words in a liberal sense, would certainly mean an angle of 35 to 40 degrees.

It is practically not of much importance whether the "pull" falls on the direct line of hook-shank or underneath it, though the latter gives a better tendency to sending the point home in striking a fish, and the lower the pitch of the eye the more the direction of the pull is thrown inwards.

If Mr. Pennell, or any of your readers, will repeat the following very simple experiment, which determined my opinion in 1878, they will see at once at what angle the eye of the hook ought to be pitched to obtain a pull directly on the line of shank of any hook, whether it be of trout or salmon size.

Take 5in. or 6in. of stout lead wire (such as is used for fastening up plants, or shoots of fruit trees, to their supports), and double it into a loop with the ends equal. Take 6in. of salmon line (selecting it so as to bear about the same proportion in thickness to the lead wire as a piece of stout single salmon gut will be to a salmon hook), loop the two together exactly as if two lengths of gut were looped for any angling purpose. Now pull gently but firmly on both till closed up tightly, but not with sufficient force to cut into the lead wire. When it is seen that the lead wire loop is jammed up closely, slacken off the salmon line very carefully (so as not to disturb the form of the eye formed in the lead wire) and remove it entirely. The loop left in the lead wire will now show with the nearest approach to perfection what shape a metal eyed-hook should be, and the experimentalist will probably be surprised to see how slight the "pitch" of the eye really is.

But we have something more to perform with actual hooks and gut—viz., to form a knot to prevent slipping of the gut, and this necessary knot slightly disarranges the previous proportions. If the steel eye is pitched at quite as low an angle as the lead wire shows, the outside formation of the knot pressing against the rigid steel throws the central line of gut a little lower downwards, and to allow for this a slight additional elevation of the eye is desirable, say 5° or 6°; but it should not exceed in the whole 20° from the horizontal line, and I think that will be found about the actual average pitch of the eyed hooks already made, though variations occur owing to some carelessness on the part of the hookmakers, and I hope the new hooks brought out by Messrs. Woodfield and Sons, of Redditch, under Mr. Hall's supervision, will be found to follow the general design.

The knot described so clearly by Mr. Pennell, as attached to his second illustration, is the identical knot which has been several times before described by Mr. Hall in the *Field* and Fishing Gazette, and the same knot on which we founded our early experiments, and adopted the form of eye hitherto so successfully used in eyed-hooks. It makes no difference whatever whether the hook be a 0 0 trout-hook or a 3in. salmon-hook: the fastening is identical, and the principle is the same, and amounts to this—that the gut knotted to an eye made straight with the shank throws the "pull" too low down beneath the shank; one of 20° throws it nicely upon the line of shank, and one "of nearly, but not quite, a right angle," throws it well above the back of the hook. Whichever direction a pull is desired can be obtained by the pitch of the eye, and I volunteer it as my distinct opinion that if Mr. Pennell has his salmon-hooks made with the eyes turned up at a pitch of 30 to 35°, he will spoil his hooks for neatly hooking fish.

The shapes of his hooks (as illustrated) are not good—the points tend too much inwards toward the shank; but I suppose "doctor's differ" on this matter, so I will let it alone, further than to express my opinion that it is so.—I am, &c.,
George Bankart.

[We think it only fair to Mr. Pennell to say that we got the engravings done, and had the greatest difficulty in getting the engraver to understand what was wanted. The engravings were intended to illustrate the "eye" only, and Mr. Pennell distinctly states in his letter that the shape of the hook is wrong. Personally, we would far rather use a hook in which the point pointed in towards the shank than out away from it. The knot Mr. Pennell described is as old as the hills. Mr. Hall has in our columns protested against it being called his method.—Ed.]

## WOBBLE v. SPIN.

Sir,—In the case of "Wobble v. Spin," may I be allowed to state the experience I have had of the wobble? Some time ago I met a gentleman (well, shall I say "wobbling" for jack?) and who, I afterwards found out, was considered the best man in that part of the country. I saw he was not fishing in the ordinary manner, and after having got into conversation with him, asked to have his principle explained to me. I will commence with the hook first, which consisted of three hooks soldered together, but not the ordinary treble hook, one being smaller than the other, obtainable at any fishing-tackle shop. The piece of gimp to which it was attached was a liitle longer (nearly double, I should say) than the ordinary length of gimp attached to treble hooks; of trace there was none, nor even a swivel or lead. The way it was baited was by fastening the gimp loop to a baiting needle, and threading it in at the vent and out of the mouth, exactly between the lips, which are allowed to be open, the water running right through the gills. The hook is drawn close up to the vent, the two larger ones pointing upwards, and the smaller one downwards. No weight ought to be used of any kind, as the great idea in this style is to "wobble" as *slowly* as possible. This I must impress most particularly on my readers. I must say myself I prefer about two yards of gut, with a gimp loop at each end, one to fasten on to the gimp hook, and one to fasten on to the line. I find one of the largest swivels (I think they are called "buckle swivels") on the running-line very useful; but, curiously enough, the make of the largest size is very indifferent, as, though it is possible to thread the thickest gimp through a medium size, by far the greater quantity of the largest-sized ones will not take a loop of thick gut; so, in choosing them, mind and try them first. Do not bind the swivel on to the line, but join it on a loop formed at the end in the ordinary manner of joining loop to loop. Perhaps some persons are ignorant of of the manner of joining gimp to gut, so I will let them know. Unlay the gimp as far as required, and make what is known as a "fisherman's knot" with the exposed silk as one end and the gut as the other, soaking the gut well first in warm water to make the knot form at the end of the silk an ordinary knot, such as one would use at the end of a piece of thread for sewing purposes; but do not pull this tight. Pass the end of the gut through this knot and form a similar knot round the strand of silk; pull each tight, separately, and then draw them together; the ends ought to be whipped and varnished well, care being taken not on any account to varnish the exposed gut, or your line will snap. With a double end, such as a loop would have, the knot is just the same, the two silk ends being tied as one end; but mind each knot is drawn tight before the silk and gut are drawn together. In drawing the bait through the water a slight curving motion is necessary. It will be found sometimes that the bait does not wobble, but comes through the water perfectly straight. A slight jerk given to the bait will rectify this; but, from experience, I do not think this matters much as long as you "wobble" as slowly as possible. I have, I know, pointed this out before; but I cannot impress it on you too much, as it is of such importance. There are two drawbacks to the wobble, that certainly, I should say, might be rectified. One is that after a quarter of an hour's use, or less, the vent tears and the entrails of the fish begin to come out. The second is that I must say I have lost a good many fish—I mean, missed them in striking—with the wobble tackle. This does not in reality seem so bad as one would think, for the simple reason that one has so many more runs wobbling than when spinning; the proportion, I should say, is one lost to every four caught. This might be obviated by having a treble hook hanging down below the other; but then one could not fish a weedy river half so well. I forgot to mention that the size of the hook used is of the largest. I have found this style of fishing kill when fish would not look at any other bait. I never use a very large bait, and never, except in a lake, fish more than a few yards from the banks. Those who have not tried this style as yet, it is my advice to go wobbling on their first opportunity.—I am, &c.,

McWalton.

Sir,—If "Swivel" or any of your correspondents are likely to have a day or two of good pike angling offered to them, I would willingly join, when, unless I am sorely mistaken, it would be easy to convince them a wobbling bait would prove far more killing than a bait that spins to perfection, such as we covet for trout angling. I think you may add that my experience warrants my asserting that I can put either bait upon the hooks in the desired form. I am not asserting that a perfect spin will not take pike. Far from it. Yet I do assert that a wobble will kill when the other will not. The more a bait appears wounded or in trouble the greater appears to be the greed for it. The pike is a savage fish, and, like dogs, will fly at anything in trouble. If you send a howling dog down a street, the meanest mongrel is certain to attack him.

Please note each must fish out of the same boat, which, I take it, is the only fair test, for there is such a thing as luck—one may get into a company of these fish, and so have all the sport.—I am, &c.

New Broad-street, E.C. Sixty Years an Angler.

[Our correspondent is one of the most successful Thames trout anglers, and he only uses the spinning bait or the fly.—Ed.]

## ARTIFICIAL GOLD FISH.

Sir,—I am curious to know why artificial gold fish are not made, for, I think, several piscatorial authors say that pike regard that as a *bonne bouche*. If such is the case, why is not an imitation of that fish made?—for, as far as I know, it has not a place among the myriads of artificial pike baits made. Many thanks for your punctual answer in Saturday's number.—I am, &c., Juvenile Angler.

[There are plenty of gilt and silver artificial baits, and the capital "Comet" bait, sold by Mr. Bambridge, fishing tackle maker, Eton, is silver and red in colour, like the red and silver carp called gold fish.—Ed.]

## SOLUTION OF SHOEMAKER'S WAX—FLIES, &c.

Sir,—In making artificial grasshoppers, the worsted with which the lead is covered is apt to slip, to prevent this I adopt the following plan:—Dissolve a little shoemaker's wax in naphtha, and with a feather give the lead a slight coat. The naphtha quickly evaporates, leaving a thin coat of wax on the lead. This prevents the worsted slipping, and will not show through. After coating, the leads can remain to dry for half an hour, or longer if you like.

I am of the same opinion as yourself, that there is nothing so reliable as shoemaker's wax, used in the usual way, for tying on hooks and fly-making. A coat of shellac varnish over the whipping makes it firm and impervious to the action of the water.

"E. E. S." experiences a difficulty in making the wax look neat. Some wax is nearly black, and some a light-brown. The light is the best for fishing-tackle making, and used sparingly. It was mentioned some time ago about wax showing through floss silk on the bodies of salmon-flies. Now, just for an experiment, I have tied on three hooks with silk not waxed at all, which I send for your inspection. Instead of waxing the silk I gave the shanks of the hooks a coat of the solution. If these small hooks will stand the test tied on with unwaxed silk, I should think it would not be a bad plan to give the shanks of salmon-fly hooks a coat of solution; the whipping silk would then require but little wax.

I have found the three following flies to kill trout and grayling from the beginning to the end of the season:—Blue dun, claret-bodied blue, and small red palmer. Those three, with the following, would comprise a good assortment fit for any occasion on the waters near Ludlow:—March brown, blue and white-winged coachman, red spinner, silver-twisted blue, red tag, yellow dun, and pale blue.

If you think anything that I have said worth notice or of use to any amateurs or others, I shall be much pleased to see it in your columns when you have space and time.—I am, &c., T. B. Hodges.

13, Raven-street, Ludlow.

[The hooks are firm enough, but the wax is such a protection to the silk that it ought to be used outside as well as in. The blue coachman is a capital fly; the body should be made of bronze as well as green herl.—Ed.]

## WADING BOOTS, SCREWS, &c.

Sir,—In answer to your correspondent's ("F. R. C. S.") inquiries respecting wading *boots*, the only advantage that I can find in them is convenience. They are easier to put on, and perhaps they may be a little lighter; but, for practical use and hard work, I think there can be no comparison to thin wading stockings, with tight fitting leather boots which lace up. They give more support to the ankle than any other kind of wading boot.

I see your correspondent, A. H. Gribble, speaks very highly of screws for boot soles. Having used them for many years, I quite indorse all he says about them. They cad be at 7d. a gross from Nettlefold and Co., High Holborn, London, who now keep them in stock in two sizes—small for shooting boots, and larger for fishing boots.

I finished up one of the worst fly fishing-seasons that I have known for many years with three weeks on the Teme, using one of Reuben Heaton's strike-from-the-reel winches, which I found perfection for grayling fishing. Though using the finest gut collar, I never broke it or lost a fish from striking too hard, the reel always giving with the greatest ease and never over-winding.—I am, &c., G. Yarde.

## MR. HALL'S PATTERNS OF HOOKS.

Sir,—Your issue of this date is one of a most interesting character to the general angler. I want to ask you where I can obtain Hall's eyed-hooks with the right side-twist? I have used them during this season, but I can only obtain four sizes in Manchester, and they all have the objectionable fault of the side-twist, commencing at the back side of the hook-bend. Do you know any maker who now produces the right hook in all the sizes? If so, kindly oblige your numerous readers, and—Yours, &c., T. T.

Heaton Moor, near Stockport, Dec. 13.

[Write to Messrs. Woodfield and Sons, Easemore Works, Redditch—they make the improved eyed-hook for Mr. Hall; and although they will not supply you, they will give you the names of some retail houses who keep their patterns. They make them from 0 0 0 (midge size) up to May-fly size.—Ed.]

## POACHING IN THE TONE.

Sir,—I have such an exalted opinion of the power of the press that I look to it to redress grievances that, but for it, would have to be endured patiently, or otherwise; and, as "the law's delay" is proverbial, to put down practices either really illegal, or, though not directly prohibited, most undesirable.

It is for this reason, and also because I know that there are some acts the performers of which would blush to find fame, that I ask you to give publicity to the following.

About a fortnight ago, a gentleman fishing in the Tone, near Taunton, saw a man in possession of a number of trout, of ½lb. and upwards, which had evidently been caught by means of nets, eel-traps, or "rave," and having been caught (which they *might* have been heedlessly), were not returned to their native element. It is worthy of note that this person, who wittingly retained trout during the close season, boasts of his skill, success, and ardour as an angler. Of his success he has thus given an example; his skill is doubtful; and of his sportsmanlike instincts the less we say the better.—I am, &c., Helwr.

## THE ROMANCE OF BOTTOM FISHING.

Sir,—You have partly anticipated a reply I feel bound to make to your correspondent, "J. H. W.," in your editorial footnote to his letter in the issue for Dec. 13. As you say, I do not claim for one moment that there is romance *only* in fly-fishing, or that romantic scenery and romantic associations are found *only* in "Streams o' the North." This would be presumption and egotism on my part, so long as there are rivers in Hampshire and Wales, or spots in England like Dovedale in Derbyshire. The pictures I drew in my contribution to our Gazette were *personal* experiences in the pursuit of our beloved sport on our borderland rivers, and I cannot but feel that fly-fishing for *trout and salmon*, and wanderings in such scenery and amidst such associations as I have (perhaps very sentimentally) described, do possess more romance than any other form of fishing.

I am sure my "comrade-in-arms," "J. H. W.," will agree with me that the romantic element in the various modes of angling is one of *degree*. If a canal is *not* slimy then it is more romantic than one that is. It is purely a question of association in the lure adopted, whether *pills* of paste, maggots, grub, worms, *fine-smellin'* or otherwise—in interesting or uninteresting scenery and other surroundings of whatever kind.

I assure "J. H. W.," who is, I feel sure, an enthusiastic brother of the craft, that the thought of "sneering" or "pity" for anglers of the "paste and maggot" never entered my mind. My allusion to "poorer brethren" was meant for the many hundreds of the humbler classes who cannot afford to join a club, nor a *real* day's outing, and who have to content themselves with coarser sport in most *unromantic places*. With such I deeply sympathise. I am sure from "J. H. W.'s" letter that he is a right good sort, and one, if it were my lot to meet on the banks of *any* stream, it would be a real pleasure to exchange flasks with, and a crack and a smoke would make us "real cronies." I confess I never saw a chub in the water in my life: if I did (I wish I had the chance), I know this—I would try my level best to slay him with paste, maggot, or any other *fair* means. I have for over 20 years been a most enthusiastic angler; but my sport has been confined to these royal fish—trout and salmon—almost wholly, and therefore *baiting a swim*, to my mind, seems a low sort of angling, and coarse baits generally. But, as Mr. Editor says, one must take and be enthusiastic about the *next best kind of fishing one can get;* although it may be less romantic, it will still be very pleasant and philosophical, and I can only say, had I the choice of so many kinds of fish and fishing as my South country brethren, I would be at it to-morrow. If "J. H. W." ever comes North, and would like a day *on the romantic* for trout and salmon in the season, I shall be pleased to have his card through the Editor. I shall be happy indeed to give him the hospitality of—Yours, &c., Streams-o'-the-North.

P.S.—I think I must add that if any articles are sent on "bottom fishing," as suggested by "J. H. W.," they should be entitled, "The *Philosophy* of Bottom Fishing," not "The *Romance* of Bottom Fishing." You see philosophy is *deep*, and is always at the *bottom* of everything. Philosophy goes always to the *bottom where the mud is;* whereas romance is at the *top*, *above*, where the *flies are*, for romance always *soars*, having beautiful wings, *like flies and fly-fishing! D'ye see the difference?* Will "J. H. W." pardon my joke?

## HELP FOR FISHER FOLK.

Sir,—Early in the New Year from two to three hundred fisherwomen or seafaring men's wives are to visit London, with a view to enlisting sympathy in favour of refuge Harbours to save the loss of life from shipwreck, which has increased very much during the last few years. Two women will come into each district as representatives.

The women will probably remain in London for about a week. Some ladies have kindly volunteered to look after them a bit, and the Crystal Palace Company has invited them for one day to the Palace, but I shall be glad if any one will write to me who desires to render any further help in any way.—I am, &c.,

F. Johnson

The National Refuge Harbours Society of United Kingdom,
17, Parliament-street, London, Dec. 15th, 1884.

## THE HALF-BRED OF THE YARE.

Sir,—Will Mr. Robert Moll kindly inform me in what the "Half-bred of the Yare" differs from the white or silver bream? By so doing, he will greatly oblige.—I am, &c., Mark Antony.

### THE RIVER ELWY AT ST. ASAPH.—PENNELL'S FLIGHTS, &c.

Sir,—In answer to "J. S.," may I tell him of a day I had on the Elwy in April last?

I reached St. Asaph in the morning, and hurried into the comfortable Plough Hotel for breakfast. Trout were offered, and I "rose" at once; but when they came they were no larger than average Thames gudgeon; yet I was told they were of fair size for the water. Very brown and sweet they were, and, as I was trying to satisfy an angler's appetite with a dozen or two of them, in came one of the "excellent" fly-tyers, who lived near. On the principle of encouraging local industry I bought some flies, the first eight of which raised my hopes, for I thought that such gut and hooks implied the evidence of some good fish. I inclose a march brown for your admiration.

In the river small trout were very plentiful; but salmon, parr, and smolt even more so. The fly of the district was not appreciated; but my own throws and a Francis were esteemed delicate morsels, and I got trout as fast as I could wish. Two out of every three went back, and all would have been returned but for my breakfast experience. The parr and smelts were a nuisance; dozens hung on to my flies and fairly were drawn out, as well as my patience. I returned to the Plough with fourteen brace of 6-inch trout, and was highly complimented on the size of my fish; other baskets were of smaller average. I hear that sea trout or sewin go up the Clwyd and Elwy in autumn. May I ask if any of your readers have done any rod fishing in the sea off the North Wales coast? I have heard of fly fishing for bass off the weir at Llandrillo, but not for some years.

The letters you have published about Pike Spinning have interested me very much. "A. R. H." is quite right in what he says about the importance of striking and the holding power of Pennell's flights. A few years ago I killed twenty-two pike in succession without missing a fish, all with gudgeon on these flights. I find that gudgeon or dace will spin straight on them, but roach wobble. Mr. Pennell himself objects to roach as bait, probably for this reason. I cannot say which is best—wobble or spin. The weak point of the flight is that the triangle lies in the hollow of the bait, and when a broad one, like a roach is used, if it is taken depthways, with the triangle outwards, it prevents the pike's jaws from closing well on the hooks. I lost two pike in this way one afternoon last autumn, and in each case the roach was nearly torn in two by the stroke. I mean to hang an extra triangle outside when next I go a-spinning, which I hope will be soon.—I am, &c.,

Hanley, Staffs. J. T. H.

P.S.—From being an occasional reader I have become a regular subscriber, and congratulate you very heartily on the form your paper is in. I enjoy it very much indeed.

### SPINNING FLIGHTS.

Sir,—I shall feel greatly obliged if you will kindly examine the inclosed spinning flights, and favour me with your opinion as to the sizes and shapes of hooks most suitable for the purpose. I had only a few single hooks to make them with, which I have soldered roughly together, so they do not fully represent my ideas.

To bait: Push the lead down the throat of the bait till the eye the gimp goes through is in the mouth; then insert the *small hooks* of the lowest triangle in the tail; curve the tail as required for the spin; insert next triangle, draw hooks well in, and insert remaining triangle on the other side, then the liphook.

I think the flight has the following advantages:—

1. The small hooks hold the bait more firmly, and are less likely to tear out than single hooks, especially with a tender bait, injure the bait less, and render it more durable than the ordinary flights.

2. The single hooks require less force in striking, and penetrate deeper than double hooks, as the degree of force necessary for insertion increases with the number of hooks.

3 The hooks are more easily disengaged, and injure the fish less—an important consideration when unsizeable fish are hooked.

4. The lead being in the body of the bait instead of on the trace, does not impede force of the strike; consequently the chances of hooking the fish are increased; and is more conducive to sport and facile for casting.

I have only had one opportunity of trying it during *one hour's* fishing; two fish came to bank. I think of registering the design if you consider it of sufficient merit.

I take the Fishing Gazette every week through stationer, and, next to fishing, derive the greatest pleasure in perusing it, and am indebted to it for many valuable "wrinkles." I should like to know if you have ever seen the "liver fluke," so destructive to sheep, adhering to fish? I took some sticklebacks out of a pond at Barnet, in 1882, with several adhering to each fish.—I am, &c.,

A. E. Ellison Smelt.

P.S.—The Trent Fishery Board issue licenses, and specify the "close time" as for *trout and char*. I have always thought the "char" was only found in lakes. Am I right, or is the grayling classed with the chars?

[We think Mr. Smelt's tackle is a very good one. "Chub Chavender" speaks of finding flukes in the livers of "black" trout. The parasite Mr. S. refers to is the common fish leach. The char is, we believe, found only in lakes, and we question if there are any char under the Trent Board's jurisdiction. They simply adopt the wording of the Act.—Ed.]

### THE NOTE OF THE WOOD PIGEON.

Sir,—The line quoted in my book, in which the word *crush* appears, is from Campbell's beautiful poem on "Field Flowers," and ought to have been between inverted commas.

In Johnson's Dictionary, one of the definitions of the "N.S. Crush" is "the act of rushing together." The notes coo-coo-o—coo—coo-oo, as uttered by the wood-pigeon (Cushat), rushing, as it were, one into the other, could not, I think, be better expressed than by this word.—I am, &c.,

December 13. Edward Hamilton, M.D.

### ON STRIKING A SALMON.

Sir,—"I have seen Mr. Kelson strike a salmon off the reel, and know exactly how he does it. Before I saw him do it I told him it was a mistake, and say so still."

These words will be found in Mr. Malloch's letter to you last week. Pardon me for suggesting the statement is but one more proof that anglers "form their opinions from the means afforded" (making use of my own words the week before).

I will explain:—

I was experimenting with a new reel in Mr. Malloch's presence, having previously declared that it was not strong enough in the brake for my purpose. Being a clever workman, he himself altered it; but still I said the same, and, in trying, failed.

I conclude—like others would, I suppose, in reading his letter—that what *he saw* he objected to, and so did I.—I am, &c., Geo. M. Kelson.

### CROAK.—PIG'S WOOL.

Sir,—Will you kindly inform me if there is any other British bird (except the raven) to which the above term (*i.e.*, croak) is applied; and, if so, may I trouble you to quote the authority?

*Re* Pig's Wool.—In answer to an Irish correspondent, he can only get what he requires in *small quantities* from breeders keeping *old boars.* He might get a "tuft" from the Zoo.

It must have been in the days of Tubal Cain, or shortly after, that the *shearing* referred to took place.—I am, &c., Mark Antony.

[We hope "Mark Antony" will never come to be considered as a fine specimen of the animal he refers to in his second paragraph. We confess the expression "*croak* of the "partridge," used by "J. H. W.," seems inappropriate. The raven alone "croaks," the partridge "calls."—Ed.]

### ANCHOVIES OFF THE DEVON COAST.

Sir,—During the last week or two large shoals of anchovies have visited our bay, and a great many are hauled in entangled in the herring nets. There are generally a few every year, but I have never seen them so abundant. I should think no fish has so wide a gape; the body might easily be passed through the jaws. As perhaps you have never seen a specimen of the fresh fish, I will send you some the next time the boats are able to get out. I mean to salt some down, and see if they will prove equal to the Italian fish.

Budleigh Salterton, Dec. 13. E. G.

[Many thanks in advance.—Ed.]

### SCALE FOR ASCERTAINING THE WEIGHT OF FISH.

Sir,—Referring to Mr. H. W. Crompton's letter in your issue of the 6th inst., as to the method of ascertaining the weight of salmon from the dimensions, I have before me a newspaper report as follows:—"A salmon weighing nearly 80lb. has been taken in the Tay, a few miles above Perth. The fish was 5ft. in length, and 2ft. 5in. in girth."

If Mr. Crompton will kindly work out the calculation by his method, I think he will find this fish falls far short of 80lb. Will he kindly inform me how he accounts for the deficiency?—I am, &c., G. J. Snaith.

P.S.—This is probably the same fish as Mr. P. D. Malloch reported in Gazette of 29th Nov. having been caught and returned to the river, it being close season.

### A FINE SILK LINE.

Sir,—I am sending you by this post sample reel of silk which is very much used in Nottingham for roach and dace fishing.

I shall be glad if you will, the first opportunity you may have, give it a trial, and favour the readers of your paper with your opinion upon the same.

I may say that I have used it myself now for several years, and would not wish for a stronger and lighter line, killing on different occasions trout close upon 2lb., a roach 2lb. 5oz., and a barbel 3½lb. I am using the same line now which I bought three years ago, and would not take double the price for it (which was very trifling).

Should any of your friends require one, I shall, upon hearing from you, be glad to obtain one for them.—I am, &c., E. Sagwell.

5, Southey-street, Nottingham.

P.S.—I have not measured the length, but am told that each reel contains about 100 yards.

[This silk thread is very fine and wonderfully strong. Anglers will find it very useful in various ways—for the whippings on rods and large hooks, for fastening gimp loops, &c. The advantage of using a fine line like this is, you can cast a light float tackle out easily, and the weight of this line does not draw it in towards you as a heavy line does.—Ed.]

### VARNISH FOR FLY HEADS AND WHIPPINGS.

Sir,—I constantly see questions about varnish for fly heads and whipped hooks in your columns, and in other sporting papers. I tried sealing-wax first, and then orange shellac, dissolved in spirits of wine. Both these are good; but the latter method may be improved by the addition of a very small quantity of Venice turpentine. I got this hint from "Stoddart," and what I now always use is as follows:—I take a two-ounce phial, and half fill it with best orange shellac, broken small, but not in powder (this permits the spirit to act more readily at first), then I fill it up with ordinary methylated spirit, place it in a sunny window, and shake it every day for a few days—say four or five; then I put in a bit of Venice turpentine, about the size of a large pea, and place the bottle in a vessel of hot water, shaking occasionally, until all is dissolved. Now, the hot spirit dissolves much more shellac than when cold, and I have purposely added an excess of shellac, so that the spirit is what we call saturated with shellac. On cooling, and standing for some time, the upper portion becomes quite clear, and may be decanted off from the sediment below, and is fit for use. Keep the bottle well stoppered. The Venice turpentine has the effect of making the varnish less brittle and "chippy," and much more tenacious.—I am, &c.,

Coole Abbey, Fermoy, Ireland. H. W. Peard, M.B.

[Many thanks. Has Mr. Peard tried the varnish recommended by Mr. Lord, and quoted by us in last issue of the Gazette?—Ed.]

### A NOTE FROM NOTTINGHAM.—SHEEP'S PITH, &c.

Sir,—The late fresh has made very little difference in the fish biting, not being sufficient to clean the bottom. At Weston and Shardlow quantities of Burton slime are coming down, covering your bait as soon as thrown in. Very little has been done among the coarse fish. On Tuesday, Mr. Walker, of Nottingham, got six good pike at Shardlow, weighing 36½lb., every fish being over 6lb.—a splendid sample. A few chub have been taken in the same length with Cockspur worm. On Friday, Mr. F. West got two nice pike at Weston—one 13lb., another 4lb. Mr. Nairn, on Saturday, got four fish down the river. An angler in the Colwick water, on Wednesday, took a few eels—something rather unusual for December.

A hint to chub fishermen: Use sheep's pith; it is a much whiter bait. Cut it in lengths an inch long, leaving the skin on; drop in boiling water for two minutes, which sets both ends, and makes a grand bait.

In my letter last week you put "Jolly Gardens," instead of "Folly Gardens," some time the residence of the late Mr. R. Sutton, proprietor of the *Nottingham Review*. We may be Jolly Anglers, Mr. Editor; but cannot stand Jolly Gardens.—I am, &c.,

December 15. A. W.

A Truly Noble Lord.—While the riparian owners on either bank of the river Thames are, in some instances, so anxious about their alleged fishery rights, they would do well to follow the example of the Right Honourable the Earl of Carnarvon, who holds the rare and ancient "Free Warren" exclusive sporting rights over a lot of land other than the farms and park of the Castle Highclere estate, in Hampshire. Some time before the passing of the Ground Game Act, his lordship permitted the tenants of the farms to take the rabbits and to course the hares in conjunction with the Sydmonton Coursing Meetings held over Squire Kingsmill's estate. Again, the noted Dulverton Wood, on Lord Carnarvon's Devonshire property, is reserved for some of the wild red deer, hunted by the Devon and Somerset staghounds, the wood in question being a favourite resort of the noble quarry. Still, again, when Mr. Grenfell, of Taplow Court, permits anglers not only to angle thereabout in the river, but to "picnic" in the woods, and such gentlemen as Mr. John Walter, M.P., and Mr. Richard Benyon, of Englefield Park, throw open their delightful gardens to the public in certain days in summer, and that several generations of West Berks and Herts folk had revelled in the beauties of Highclere Park, and the in springtime cowslip-decked Beacon Hill, it is really ungenerous for any riparian owner—"gentle" or otherwise—to talk about his rights to the fishing in such a public river as the Thames. *Noblesse oblige!* Given a far stricter river police, and the speed of the steam-launches regulated, there is no reason why the Thames should not be as safe and as free from rowdyism as any public or private garden, and the grass and trees of the riparians held as sacred as the flowers in the people's parks.—Rusty Barb.

WORMS IN DOGS.—"Greenhithe, September 11, 1878.—Having a Dog and Bitch Toy Terrier (each weighing about 3½lb.), and also a very large Mastiff Bitch, all evidently troubled with worms, I gave each Terrier one-half of a Naldire's Powder, and an entire Powder to the Mastiff. The result was most satisfactory, for after the discharge of a large quantity of worms the Dogs improved wonderfully, and were admired by all who saw them. I have not the slightest hesitation in using these Powders for all kinds of Dogs.—R. S. Dunbar." NALDIRE'S POWDERS are sold by all Chemists, price 1s., 2s., 3s. 6d., and 5s., with Full Directions for Use.

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# RIVER REPORTS.

### TIME OF HIGH WATER IN THE THAMES.

To find the time of high water in the Thames at any of the following places, to the time of high water at London Bridge (given below).

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Add | 30 | minutes for | Chelsea. |
| | 40 | ,, | Putney. |
| | 45 | ,, | Hammersmith. |
| | 50 | ,, | Barnes. |
| | 55 | ,, | Kew. |
| | 75 | ,, | Richmond. |
| | 80 | ,, | Twickenham. |
| | 85 | ,, | Teddington. |

Example :—If it is high water at 2 o'clock at London Bridge, it will be high water at Teddington about 3.25, or eighty-five minutes later ; but it must be remembered that a strong wind accelerates or retards the tide very much.

For Times of High Water at London Bridge.

| | | | Morning. | Afternoon. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Saturday, | December | 27 ... ... | 8.29 ... ... | 9.1 |
| Sunday, | ,, | 28 ... ... | 9.41 ... ... | 10.15 |
| Monday, | ,, | 29 ... ... | 10.50 ... ... | 11.23 |
| Tuesday, | ,, | 30 ... ... | 11.55 ... ... | 12.0 |
| Wednesday, | ,, | 31 ... ... | 12.26 ... ... | 12.52 |
| Thursday, | January | 1, 1885. ... | 1.20 ... ... | 1.48 |
| Friday, | ,, | 2 ,, ... | 2.13 ... ... | 2.39 |

☞ *River Reporters who want forms and envelopes should send a post card to the Publisher of the* FISHING GAZETTE, *12 and 13, Fetter-lane, London.*

## THE LOWER THAMES.

### General Remarks.

As the few days before the Christmas Holidays commence will exhibit very little results in angling from the deficiency of anglers, it may be as well to refer to the early prospects of jack and perch fishing, and point out some of the most likely places for sport. It is often a matter of surprise that in the neighbourhood of Teddington and Twickenham so few jack now come to grief. In the "Blue Book" of the T.A.P.S. for 1864 there is this report : "It is computed that nearly 500 jack have been captured in the deep at Teddington," and this is for one season's fishing. Between Teddington Wear and the "City Stone" at Staines there is an almost continuous link of good fishing ground for jack and perch. The reach of Kingston has always been noted for perch and a good quantity of jack ; but this has been far exceeded by the famous deep at Hampton, where memorials of the past will never be forgotten. As far as memory will serve it has produced the largest jack—not many years ago—of 28lb., and a brace of perch on one paternoster, weighing 6lb., both piloted by that excellent fisherman, Mr. William Milbourne. The district of Sunbury contains some very fine perch, and there is a record of one of 4lb. some years ago being caught, which can be confirmed by the Messrs. Stroud. The big pike so often spoken about, has not yet been taken at Walton, and if it has grown with time it must be a huge monster now. At all events, there are plenty of good jack in this portion of the river. At Shepperton the jack are generally plentiful, and it is not many years ago two of 20lb. each were taken in one week just above the lock. It will be remembered that the monster jack netted out of Kew Gardens was put in the Thames from the landing stage at the Chertsey Bridge Hotel, but its re-capture has not yet been effected. There are some good jack places in this neighbourhood, and that at Borough head close by, is noted for both jack and perch. Here Mr. Forbes got his magnificent take of perch ; and in the "Blue Book" previously referred to, it says—"On the 25th day of February, 1864, a jack of 20½lb. was taken by an angler from London, and about the same time a perch of upwards of 4lb. was captured by a stranger, both fish being in excellent condition." Penton Hook, which follows on from this point, abounds with jack, and many a good one has been taken out of it. The water right up to Staines is capital ground for both jack and perch. The prospects are now of a more encouraging character through the increase of water, and there can be little doubt, when both jack and perch can be found on the feed, the anglers will be well satisfied with their sport. The river has been rising, and the water in such bad condition, the immediate prospect of fishing is not at all bright. There is not much to report in the way of angling, and what there is comes from the tail-end of last week.

### Angling Results.

**Richmond.**—Henry Wheeler, in three days, 50lb. of roach. There was a large attendance of anglers on the 21st, and they got some remarkably fine dace from 9in. to 10in. in length.

**Twickenham.**—Edward Finch, in one day, 11lb. of roach. John Spong, in two days, with Mr. Johnson, 20lb. of roach ; another day, with Mr. Meyer, 16lb. ; and another day with Mr. Hilton. Richard Coxen, in two days, seventeen dozen of roach and dace. C. Miles, in one day, six dozen. Samuel Cole, in two days, 17lb. ; and Pert Hammerton, in one day, 6lb.

**Kingston.**—The bank anglers here and at Surbiton have been getting some roach, dace, and perch.

**Hampton Court.**—George Martin, in one day, three dozen of roach. At "Tagg's Island Hotel," the anglers have been getting a nice quantity of roach and dace.

**Walton.**—Mr. Hickley, with George Hone, one jack of 2lb.

**Shepperton.**—James Haslett, in one day, two and a half brace of perch.

**Staines.**—John Keene, jun., in one day, a brace of jack and two dozen of roach. J. Keene, sen., with Mr. Little, five roach and one dace ; and S. Keene, one dozen of roach.

## Thames (Datchet).

The water is falling fast, and if the weather holds fine, there will be a good chance at the jack and perch by the end of the week. The past week has been almost a blank to all, and I have nothing to mention. Twice I have started with patrons, and the rains descended, and the winds blew, and blew us home again ; and one day, with a patron, a brace of chub.—G. Lumsden.

## Thames (Goring).

Water now thick, but will do for jack and perch about the end of the week. Nothing doing here in the way of fishing.—J. Rush.

## Thames (Monkey Island).

Very few fishermen down, and very little doing. On Thursday two gentlemen, out with my son, two dozen nice roach, several going ½lb., and one turned the scale at 1lb. On Friday, out with Mr. Thomas, three nice jack, about 12lb., all got in about one hour ; after that time the wind got so boisterous it was almost impossible to hold a punt where there was any probability of catching a fish. On the 21st inst., out with Mr. Allard and friend, a dozen and half very fine roach, and one dozen returned, which were not sizeable fish. These were all taken in one swim in a very short time. Some bank anglers took three trout while ledgering for barbel—one fish 6lb., one 4lb., and the other 1½lb. ; also two barbel. The 6lb. and 4lb. fish were taken out and weighed on the bank, and returned without the slightest injury. The smaller fish had got the hook too far down to be easily extricated, and I believe it is one of the trout that I turned in about three weeks ago, when I had 20 brace sent me from our society (the Windsor and Eton Preservation Association), and which were a very handsome sample of trout. This is only a small number to what the association has been putting in between Monkey Island and Staines. Good all-round fishing ought to be had, providing we get the weather more settled, and not such rough winds. No doubt there are plenty of jack in the river, and very large ones.—R. Plummer, sen.

## Thames (Oxford).

With the present fine cold weather pith and brains should have their due effect wherever it is possible to find a nice bluff bank with shelving, hollow walls and a gentle oily run of water outside. To-day the river had cleared down considerably ; but it is not yet sufficiently fine for my liking. I prefer to eat my dinner in a clear light, and so I fancy do the fish. As long as old Cotton's maxim, "fine and far off" is observed—and this applies more particularly to chub fishing, with a due attention to keeping out of sight, and other similar matters, let me have the water bright when I go a-fishing. The Angling Society held a meeting on Thursday evening, and it was decided to prosecute Abel Beesley for taking undersized fish, and also to proceed against the man who had charge of the punt for aiding and abetting. It is high time this Beesley and his *confrères* are convinced that they must not carry on their illicit games in open defiance of the regulations laid down by the Conservancy for the protection of the fishery. Last time I was present at a raid on Mr. Beesley's boat. I should think we returned nearly half a bushel of fish to the water, and it was only at Mr. T. Spreckley's solicitation we refrained from prosecuting him. On this occasion, I have it from one of the eye-witnesses that the well of his punt was literally chock full of fish so crowded together that they were suffocating. The cast net is the most destructive appliance for taking fish it is possible to use, not only on account of the number a man can catch at a throw, but also because of the quantities of small fry which they will not take the trouble to return to the water again. Mr. Geo. Galpin was haled to the Abingdon Court of Petty Sessions, on Monday last, for unlawfully taking fish in private water, the property of the Earl of Abingdon. Mr. Galpin pleaded that he had permission to fish there ; but this was strongly denied by Abram Greenwood, the head keeper. From all accounts, there was some very strong swearing done, and not by the defendant.—Cherwell Otter.

## The Thames (Windsor).

As I anticipated, water has dropped off considerably, being quite a foot lower than when I wrote last, but not quite clear—just the colour to bother jack if using good bright bait, either live baiting or spinning. It is by no means too much discoloured for chubbing, and either pith and brains, greaves or cheese ought to kill well ; gentles will doubtless be best for roach and worms for perch, either the tail end of a well-scoured lob worm or good sized red worms. A very keen wind is blowing, and in wishing all my brother anglers the compliments of the season, I would advise good wrapping up if "angling they will go." The cold nor-easter of last Saturday doubtless found me out ; in consequence I am hors de combat, and those jack I contemplated fighting, will live to fight another day. It perhaps will not be out of place to remind anglers that they ought to be grateful for the mild winters so long enjoyed. Seventy-one years ago last Sunday horses and carts crossed the Thames at Windsor on the ice, an ox was roasted, and a fair held.—B. R. Bambridge.

## Chichester.

During the past few days the weather has been cold and cheerless, and but few anglers were by the water side. The rains have but slightly improved the depth of water here, so I suppose we must wait patiently for another downpour or the springs breaking up. Mr. Weir has taken a couple of fine eels, one of 3½lb., but no pike have been recorded. No news from either Selham or the Ouse. Wishing brother anglers a happy Christmas and good sport during the holidays—George F. Salter.

## Ilfracombe.

Sea fishing, owing to the stormy weather, this week has been very slack. A few boats went out on Monday and had a short drift ; they caught about half a maize each boat. Some fine cod have been caught, but very few herrings. Weather at present very cold. Wind : E.N.E.—E. Comer.

### Lugg and Arrow (Leominster).

These streams are in good order for either the worm or maggot fishing, both still keeping slightly coloured. Both streams had run nearly clear at the beginning of the week, but rain falling heavily in this district made them begin to slowly rise, and to get coloured again. The fish are biting well, and some good fish have been taken. Good sport has been had with the grasshopper. The Arrow was fished on Friday by Mr. Wilson, who, with the grasshopper (his own make), landed ten brace of fine grayling, all in capital condition. A good dish of grayling were taken from the Lugg near Aymestry, with the maggot, the same day. A gentleman fished the water dear Eardisland at the beginning of the week, and took a nice lot of grayling with the grasshopper. Some good fish have been landed in the Lugg near Kingsland. Good sport has been had in the Stanton district. Some fine grayling have been taken near Ivington. Fishing quiet near Ford's Bridge. The Pinsley is in good fishing order. Some fine fish have been taken this week with the maggot.—Gwynne.

[This report was crowded out last week.]

### South Level Cut (Littleport).

Since the wind has shifted round to the north and north-east, the fishing has been very so, so. The following is the best I can do: Dec. 18th, Messrs. Bryant and Webb, Ely, four pike, largest from 8lb. to 9lb.; M. F., Ely, 8lb. good roach. Dec. 19th, Mr. F. Drew, Cambridge, a nice little lot of good roach, largest 1lb. 6oz. Dec. 20th, Mr. J. Dingley, London, 18lb. good roach; four other anglers out; but do not know what their takes were, their object seeming to be, the last few weeks, to keep it *dark*. Dec. 22nd, Mr. F. G. Tuck, New Barnes, Ely, a jack 2½lb., and a few good roach; three other old anglers out, but not much good done. Nov. 23rd, Mr. H. Lee, Cambridge, 11½lb. splendid roach; Mr. Hailstone also 9lb. good roach; my son Tom, a pike 3¾lb., and some good roach, largest 1lb. 5½oz.—Charlie South.

### Teme (Tenbury).

Up to Tuesday night this stream had run into capital condition for angling, having run nearly clear; but on Tuesday night rain fell heavily in this district, and made the water begin to colour again, and to rise. The fish have been biting freely at the maggot and red worm, and some good dishes of fish have been taken with the grasshopper. There has been but little fly-fishing of late. Salmon have been seen going up the stream since the water has risen daily. The water near Little Hereford was tried by a gentleman on Friday, who took a very nice dish of grayling, and a few eels, with the maggot. Near the Teme Bridge, a nice lot of fish were taken the same day with the red worm. A good dish of grayling were landed near Rochford, with the maggot. Good sport has been had in the water near Berrington, and some fine fish have been taken. In the Eastham district a few nice grayling have been landed. Fishing quiet in the water near Cornbrook this week. The Kyre is in good order, and a few fish have been landed with the worm. The Rea and Ledwyche are very quiet.—Worcester.

[This report was crowded out last week.]

### Teme (Ludlow).

The Teme and all the streams around here are now quite full, and in good fishing order. This last week or two there has been no angling except bottom fishing with the maggot and worm. Salmon continue to pass over Ashford Weir, and can now ascend the Teme with comparative ease. Down Ashford water, two gentlemen paid the Teme a visit on Saturday, and fished nearly all day with the worm and maggot, but caught nothing better than perch, roach, and chub; the grayling would not bite at all. On Monday, in Oakley Park quarter, one gentleman landed nine grayling, and another eleven, both with the maggot and worm. Some fair fishing in the Clun. On Tuesday, up the Felton waters of the Corve, twelve grayling were landed with the maggot. Some few fish have been taken in the Ony, but nothing doing in the Leintwardine water or the Ledwyche.—S. Ludlow.

[This report was crowded out last week.]

### Trent (Newark).

As foreshadowed in my last, the water came down very high and very much charged with colour. By the 21st, there was at least 4ft. of extra water in the main river. Since, then, however, it has gone down nearly a couple of feet. To-day, Tuesday, it seems to be still receding, but it is very dirty, and I am afraid that all that can be done these Chrismas Holidays, under the present prospects (at least, however, for the next four or five days) will be to try all the slack corners with cockspur worms for roach and dace. A little sport by this means might be had. Pike and chub fishing will be quite out of the question, for the present at least, so those holiday makers who must go fishing cannot do better than try the little worm in quiet corners.—The Trent Otter.

Mr. W. Lane, fishing in the Trent near Newark, caught three nice pike between 4lb. and 5lb. each. Mr. J. Longden, one of 3lb., spinning; water very high.

### Waveney (Beccles).

My anticipations as to Christmas sport are, I fear, now entirely out of the question although at the time of writing last week's report the weather was promising. On Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday it rained heavily, and the river is again brought to overflowing. No rain has fallen since Sunday afternoon, and with fine weather for the next two or three days it may be worth trying about Friday or Saturday. Wind very cold, N.E.—A Waveney Angler.

### Wye and Derwent.

Both the Wye and Derwent have run down wonderfully since my last report, and both rivers are in excellent condition (especially the higher lengths) for either fly or bottom fishing. I have seen several grayling rise to-day (Tuesday), but I have been trying worm and maggot. I have killed sixteen roach and three grayling, and several other anglers have killed nice little baskets of both grayling, roach, and dace. The pike-fishers have killed a few fish with both live bait and spinning. One jack of 2¾lb. was killed with worm. Otters are very numerous on the Derwent just now; two were seen this morning playing on the banks of the river just below Cromford Station at 8 o'clock. Fish are now nicely on the feed. Weather fine and frosty.—Geo. Jas. Eaton.

Smolts in December.—A curious fact in connection with the natural history of the salmon is just reported from the River Severn, celebrated for its salmon and eels. At this time of the year the former migrate from the estuary to the upper streams to deposit their spawn, and at the same time the latter go to the sea for the same purpose. The eels are commonly taken in this month, and some fishermen have found in their nets several young salmon in what are called the "smolt" state—*i.e.*, fish of about 3oz., with bright silvery scales over the ordinary scales of the "samlet," which is the name the young fry are known by until they migrate. The remarkable fact is that these smolts should be on their way to the sea in December, all observation by pisciculturists having hitherto never seen smolts in the river except in the spring, when they go down to the sea.—*Daily Telegraph*.—[We have caught them late in the autumn.—Ed.]

To Recent Subscribers.—Since we last asked our readers to be kind enough to send us the names and addresses of any anglers they know who were not acquainted with the Gazette, hundreds of new subscribers have taken the paper, and we ask them if they will kindly take the trouble to help us in the way we suggest, so that we can send specimen copies. Many of our advertisers have been in the paper continuously for years, and have voluntarily acknowledged the benefit they have received. If any of our readers can induce friends they may know who advertise, to give the Gazette a trial, it will greatly aid us in still further improving the paper.

## CLUB REPORTS.

### THE CAVENDISH ANGLING SOCIETY.

The sixth annual supper of the C.A.S. was held at the Duke of York Tavern Wenlock-street, New North-road, N., on Thursday, the 11th inst. Thirty-four members and friends sat down to an excellent repast provided by the much-esteemed host and president, Mr. W. E. Humberstone. The chair was admirably filled by Mr. M. Palmer, while Mr. H. Canton ably discharged the duties of vice-chairman. The chairman, in a few introductory remarks, stated that the last service rendered by the vice-chairman and himself was selecting swims for the members at the last competition; but he really thought everyone present preferred the swim they were then at. Such toasts as "Success to the C.A.S.," "The Officers," "The Chairman," "Vice-Chairman," "Visitors," "Host," &c., were enthusiastically drank and responded to. The following gentlemen enlivened the evening with some excellent singing:—Mr. Canton, comic song; Mr. F. Granfield, "Balaclava"; Mr. Walker, "Saving them all for Mary"; Mr. D. Aubegny, "Will-o'-the-Wisp"; Mr. C. White, comic song; Mr. W. Lee, a pleasing ballad; Mr. Gorden, recitation by G. Manville Fenn, entitled "The Engine-driver's Story"; Mr. Young, "Give Me Back My Heart Again"; Mr. S. Penton, "You Never Miss the Water until the Well Runs Dry"; Mr. Howard, "If I was only Long Enough," and "Oh, what a Beauty"; Mr. James, jun., "Brown Upside Down"; encore song, "Duckfoot Sue"; Mr. Brett, "Midshipmite"; Mr. Walker (encore), "We Won't go Home till Morning"; Mr. Platt, "Sailing"; Mr. C. Elliott, "Rattling Mare"; Mr. E. Chambers, "Just Down the Lane"; Mr. Harding, "Rocked in the Cradle of the Deep." The indefatigable chairman reminded all present of a little box on the table which was connected with a society established to assist our brethren when in sickness and distress—A. B. S.—which appeal was readily responded to by everyone present. Ten prizes were promised to be fished for at the coming competition, which will engage the attention of the committee. The new prize list was handsomely subscribed to, and will surpass in value any of the preceding ones, and will be no small inducement for members to persevere to obtain good shows. At 2.25 the morning following one of the most enjoyable suppers was brought to a close, and all wended their way peacefully home. Mr. Canton will take the chair on the 18th inst. at the concert following the business of the society, when we anticipate a good gathering. We shall be pleased to welcome old or new friends any Thursday to our concerts at 9.30, Dec. 25th of course excepted.—E. C.

### CLAPTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The usual weekly meeting was held on Monday last, Mr. D. H. Kidd in the chair. The minutes of the preceding meeting were read and signed. Mr. H. Short weighed in 6lb. 2oz. chub, heaviest 2lb. 13½oz., from the Lea at Angel-road, where three jack of 9lb., 6lb., and 4lb., respectively had been taken in one day the preceding week. Mr. Short reports that the water is in capital condition for all round fishing, and a visit to Angel-road would most likely result in sport. A new working member was elected. It was agreed that another meeting should be held to compete for the two prizes not won at the last outing. These would be supplemented by a handsome photographic album since presented by one of the members. The date and place of meeting were left for future consideration. I have to announce that a "ladies' evening," comprising concert and entertainment, has been arranged for Monday night, the 29th inst., at which the Scenes of the Thames (dissolving view effects), so successfully shown at the late Gresham meeting, will be given. Mr. Parker has most kindly volunteered to give his entertaining descriptions. I am promised some excellent musical talent, so that an enjoyable evening may be anticipated. All members will have full notice, and a card of admission for two friends will accompany it. Members of angling societies and residents in the neighbourhood are condially invited. Commence at 8, terminate about 10.30 p.m.—Henry Howse, hon. sec.

### CLYDESDALE ANGLING CLUBS' PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION.

A large and representative meeting of anglers was held in the Religious Institution Rooms, Glasgow, on December 12th, for the purpose of considering several matters brought under their notice by the executive of the Clydesdale Angling Clubs' Protective Association, in regard to the improvement of the Clyde for angling purposes. Mr. Loudon M'Queen occupied the chair, and the clubs represented were—Abingdon, Kirkfieldbank, Buckland, Glasgow Dodgers, Glasgow Wanderers, Glasgow Junior Wanderers, Walton, West of Scotland, and others. A long discussion took place as to the best means by which the association could carry out the proposal to have a close time for trout and regulating the hours of fishing; and it was ultimately resolved that, carrying along with them the proprietors interested, the association should approach Parliament wlth a view to obtaining statutory powers as the best and most satisfactory means of obtaining the object aimed at.

### GLOBE ANGLING SOCIETY.

A complimentary visit was paid by the Great Northern Brothers to the above on Wednesday evening, the 10th inst., but owing to the heavy downfall of rain which prevailed throughout the evening it did not turn out so successful as was at first anticipated. Nevertheless, a very pleasant evening was spent. The chair was ably filled by Mr. W. Brown, of the Globe, and the vice-chair, in a like manner, by Mr. J. Dingley, of the Great Northern Brothers. The chairman sang the first song, after which harmony prevailed the whole evening. On the 14th inst. we had an excellent show of fish. Mr. S. Howell weighed in 16lb. 8oz. of pretty roach; Mr. A. Chambers, roach; Mr. F. Lawrence, chub; Mr. W. Brown, roach; Mr. H. Lake, roach, dace, and chub; Mr. J. J. Holmes, 27lb. 12oz. of very fine roach, several scaling from 12oz. up to a 1lb. 2oz. Our sixth annual distribution of prizes took place on Monday evening, and proved very successful. There was a numerous attendance of members and friends, and a long list of prizes given for our new season. The following are the names of those most successful that took prizes:—Messrs. S. Howell, H. Lake, H. Jeffries, S. Orrow, W. Brown, W. Lawrence, J. Brown, C. Franklin, J. Ballard, G. Brown, and your humble servant.—J. J. Holmes, sec.

### LINCOLN ANGLING SOCIETY.

A few of our members were out on the 14th inst., and one prize was taken by Mr. Bingle who brought in a very fine show of roach, dace, gudgeon, and jack from West Drayton; Mr. Johnson good show of roach from Windsor., The other members brought in not such good trays. We all go out on December 21st to fish for our annual Christmas prizes, amounting to six, and have decided on Sunbury, where we hope to have good luck.—H. Bingle, sec.

Our members went out in full force on the 21st inst. to fish for the Christmas prizes, and each member brought in a very fine show of fish, consisting of dace, gudgeon, and perch, and all the prizes were taken by the following gentlemen, viz.:—Mr. Pearce, 1st; Mr. Sheen, 2nd; Mr. Johnson, 3rd; Mr. Bingle, 4th; Mr. Emblem, 5th; and Mr. Ulph, 6th. The weather being very rough, marred a little the sport and pleasure. All the members were thoroughly satisfied with their day's sport, Sunbury being the place we fished for the prizes.—H. Bingle, sec.

### MACCLESFIELD UNITED ANGLING SOCIETY.

The above society held their annual supper on the 17th inst. at Mr. James Bale's, the Three Crowns Inn, Sutton, the catering, as usual, being of the first class, game having been presented by Messrs. Brocklehurst, Major Stancliffe, and N. Goodwin, Esq. The cloth being removed, Councillor C. Rowbotham was called to the chair. "The

Queen and Royal Family" were duly honoured. "Mr. Cunliffe Brooks, M.P., the Worshipful the Mayor, Major Stancliffe, and N. Goodwin, Esq.," honorary members, were next toasted. The worthy chairman then called the secretary to report the doings of the society the last 12 months, which are as follows :—Special day at Turk's Head Reservoir on Good Friday ; not a fish took. Match resumed on May 10th. First prize won by W. Sefton, with one trout, weight 15¼oz. ; second prize won by G. Smith, one trout, weight 13¼oz. The rest of the prizes were fished off on the evening from 7 to 9 the week following, and were won by F. Maurice, F. Leah, B. Leah, J. Maurice, and Captain Hulme. Special day, July 12th, at Taylor's Pool. 1st prize won by J. Moores ; 2nd, C. Lambourne ; 3rd, W. Bond ; 4th, Captain Hulme ; 5th, W. Williams ; 6th, J. Broadhurst ; 7th, F. Leah ; 8th, B. Leah ; 9th, J. Williams. Prizes presented by Mr. James Bale. Special day (by the kind permission of the Worshipful the Mayor, B. B. Brocklehurst, Esq.) at the Barracks Pool. First prize won by W. Sefton (presented by Mr. H. Parkinson) ; second prize won by J. Broadhurst (presented by Mr. James Bale). Special day at Rudyard Lake, Oct. 4th. First prize won by J. Roome ; 2nd, W. Sefton ; 3rd, W. Williams ; 4th, J. Hollaway ; 5th, J. Moores ; 6th, S. Beswick. The following are fish that have been weighed in for previous prizes, monthly prizes, and the heaviest basket :—June 12th, James Bale, weight, at Langley, 5lb.—premium for trout ; J. Moores, Taylor Pool, roach, 15⅝oz. ; B. Leah, pike, Whaley Bridge, 1lb. 4oz. ; W. Sefton, trout, Langley, weight 1lb. ½oz. Aug. 3rd, W. Sefton, roach, Canal, weight 7oz. Sept. 27th, W. Williams, Langley, trout, 8oz. Oct. 6th, S. Beswick, Rudyard, roach, 10½oz. ; Captain Hulme, Langley, trout, 14¼oz. Oct. 11, W. Williams, Rudyard, perch, 8oz. Oct. 21, W. Sefton, pike, weight 4lb. 12½oz. previous. Nov., Captain Hulme, Rudyard, perch, 9¼oz. previous. Nov., J. Bale, Rudyard, pike, 3lb. 13¾oz. Heaviest basket, James Bale, Langley, two trout, weight 7lb. 8oz. The chairman having presented the prizes, the evening was spent in harmony. Songs were sung by Messrs. Scarlon, Lingsby, and others, and Mr. Joseph Bale enlivened the evening with the "Imitation of the Birds," returning a vote of thanks to the chairman.

## NORTH-EASTERN ANGLING SOCIETY.

The Clout Testimonial.—At the special meeting held on the 17th inst., Mr. Taylor having been voted to the chair, addressed the meeting in a few well-chosen and feeling remarks eulogistic of Mr. Clout's energy, affability, and kindness to all, high or low, availing themselves of the Pulborough and Amberley privilege. Mr. Rook had travelled to Pulborough on many occasions and had always met with the greatest courtesy from Mr. Clout, and thought the time had arrived, and it was the duty of fishermen to make some recognition for his services, and should feel the greatest pleasure in aiding to get up a testimonial to that gentleman, that something should be subscribed for by the great body of anglers that he could look at with pride for the rest of his life. Mr. Savage thought Mr. Clout fully deserved the appreciation of anglers, and felt great pleasure in supporting the proposition. Mr. Denny would do his utmost to support the testimonial, and thought it would be a good thing to send subscription cards to the various clubs, then every member would have the opportunity of subscribing to the fund ; he also suggested that cards be sent to Pulborough, Amberley, and neighbourhood, where the fishermen use. Mr. Haylock would feel the utmost pleasure in doing all that lay in his power in furtherance of the object in view ; had known Mr. Clout for a great number of years, and had always found him to be a thorough gentleman. Mr. Fletcher proposed that a committee be formed to carry the matter out and bring it to a successful issue, the committee to meet once a fortnight, the first meeting to be on Thursday, January 8th, 1885. Mr. Reynolds supported that proposition. The following gentlemen, members of various angling societies, offered their services on the committee with power to add to their number :—Messrs. Donald Smith, Denny, G. Goll, Haylock, Clarke, Wright, Pommerat, King, Savage, Taylor, Winter, Jacks, Alfred Clout, Hayward, Wilkins, and Newman. Mr. Clark proposed, seconded by Mr. Rook, that Mr. Haylock be the treasurer to the fund. Mr. Clark proposed, seconded by Mr. Haylock, that Mr. Fletcher be the secretary to the fund. Mr. Fletcher proposed, seconded by Mr. Goll, that these proceedings be published. Mr. Rook proposed, seconded by Mr. Thompson, a vote of thanks to the chairman for the able manner he had conducted the meeting, which brought the proceedings to a close. Several members were out on the 21st for prizes, only two showing up with fish—viz., Messrs. Haylock and Melbourne, a jack each from the Ouse, best fish 8lb.—G. T. Fletcher, sec.

[We should say that the thousands who have availed themselves of Mr. Clout's excursions ought certainly to support this testimonial to him. From what we have heard, we should say he fully deserves the compliment.—Ed.]

## NORFOLK ANGLING SOCIETY.

The third monthly supper of the above society took place on Wednesday, 10th inst., in the spacious club-room, and a good muster of members and friends partook of the bountiful supply of viands provided by the worthy host and hostess, whose experience in that line enables them to serve everything up in the most tempting manner. After the cloth was cleared the remainder of the evening was devoted to harmony, assisted by the able pianist, Mr Symonds. Amongst the principal singers may be mentioned Messrs. Raymond, Munday, and Simper, who were loudly encored. The chairman's health being proposed by his old sterling friend, Mr. Chapman—who was at his best on this occasion, and turned up quite early, as his slippers were not put to warm for him—was the signal for a regular hearty burst of applause, the company evidently trying to outdo one another, so pleased were they at once again seeing that worthy in his old place after his severe illness, from which he has not yet quite recovered ; but the hearty wish was, "May he soon be in his old form, for we cannot afford to lose the good old ones." Another jolly old face was present in the person of Mr. Gibson, who, like our worthy host, well fills an arm-chair ; he looked more jolly this evening, evidently greatly benefitted by his late journeys up the Rhine. Let us hope it will benefit him in health and happiness during the remainder of his life, and that we may have the pleasure of his company on many future occasions. The worthy host and hostess came in for their share of musical honours. A word of praise must be given to Mr. Praunsmandell for his amusing song given in his usual hearty style. Something would appear wanting should you look down the table and did not see him in his old place supporting the worthy vice-chair. His strict business habits make him always punctual and to be depended upon, whether in pleasure or charity. Mr. Pilgrim showed a very handsome tray of roach and dace from the Thames, his good-humoured face beaming all over with smiles, especially at the mention of the last shilling. The company broke up at a late hour, evidently well pleased with themselves and one another by all appearances.—Nip.

## THE PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The usual weekly meeting of this society took place on Monday evening last at Ashley's Hotel, Covent Garden, and there was a splendid show of fish upon the tables. Amongst the members present were Messrs. Fennings, Arter, Pattisson, Sachs, Gray, Huggett, Foreman, Meyer, Gillatt, Sumner (Rev. J.), Murray, Crumplen, H. B. Brown, Lecluse, Lemann, Booker, Lander (hon. sec.), Jesse, Goodger, Sparrow, Harden, H. H. Brown, Brunton (Dr.), &c. Mr. H. B. Brown was unanimously voted to the chair. The minutes of the two previous meetings were read and confirmed. The hon. sec. read a letter from one member, Mr. Hare Winton. This gentleman has been roach fishing at Ringwood. One day last week he hooked a salmon quite 30lb. in weight, the same having taken a gentle on roach tackle ; he played the fish most successfully for 20 minutes, but eventually the hold of the hook gave way. Hurdle, the keeper, handled the punt with the greatest skill. Mr. Lemann read a letter from a friend of his residing in Paris, describing the fishing in the Seine. The friend in question had taken some good roach, chub, &c.; but stated that, from the way the river was netted, it was impossible to get many good fish. Any person paying 15s. for a license was entitled to use a large cast net all the year round, and this was being done all day long ; added to which, there was no close season. Mr. Sachs also testified to the immense amount of netting which took place there. If the Parisians wished for sport, they would have to do as in the Thames, viz., to preserve the water. The best fishing was near the bathing machines. (Laughter.) Dr. Brunton has had the good fortune to come across an old angling book treating on the capabilities of the Clyde as a trout and salmon river. Although the Clyde was unfortunately more polluted than the Thames, still the salmon persisted in passing up its waters. The Clydesdale Angling Clubs Protective Association had taken the question in hand, and hoped to be able to do something for the benefit of anglers generally, the Clyde being practically a free river. He would be glad if the society would give a subscription towards the preservation of the said river ; personally he intended to subscribe, and the subject was well worthy of support. "One A. M." seconded, and after some discussion the matter was referred to the committee. Mr. Murray said a deputation from the Central Angling Association were about to wait upon the South-Eastern Railway Company, by appointment, for further concessions, and trusted the same would be granted. Mr. Fennings called attention to the Piscatorial Society's ball ; he was particularly desirous that as many members of the society should be present as possible. The tickets were going off well, Coote and Tinney's band had been engaged, and it was expected to be in every way a great success. The Chairman next proposed the healths of the successful anglers. He was pleased to be in the chair with such a fine show of fish before him. Mr. Huggett showed three trays of pike, weighing 87lb. 8oz., the three largest fish being 10lb. 12oz., 9lb. 8oz., and 9lb. 8oz. respectively. Mr. C. Blundel showed a tray of chub weighing 10lb. 11oz., largest 3lb. 1oz. Mr. Huggett, in reply, thanked the members for their kind compliments ; he was very glad to be able to show the pike on the table. He took them snap fishing with single triangle. He produced the line (one of Carter's) for inspection, and considered for its size, it was one of the best and strongest he had ever used. Mr. Blundell said he went to the Ouse for Jack, but they would not run. They at last got near some rushes, and tried for chub. He thanked them for their kind expressions. The chairman next gave the toast of "Success to the Piscatorial Society," which was drunk *con amore*. Mr. Goodger proposed "The Health of the Chairman." Mr. H. B. Brown, in a few well-chosen words, replied, and, in conclusion, wished the members, both present and absent, "A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year."—T. H.

## RODNEY PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

On the 21st inst. the members of this society took possession of their new quarters, at the Albion, just been built for Mr. T. Hughes, in the Rodney-road, Walworth, where they will be happy to meet friends on any Sunday or Wednesday evening. Mr. R. Smith visited Windsor on the 22nd, and succeeded in getting 4lb. 12oz. of nice roach from the bank ; Mr. G. Dodd, bank-fishing in the upper water, managed to get 2lb. 8oz. of roach, the largest fish weighed over 1lb. ; and Mr. C. A. Pocock, who visited Shepperton, landed some perch. Prizes are offered by Messrs. Flower, C. A. Pocock, Deggins, and Hotham for competition on the 28th, the where and how to be decided on the 24th by the members present.—Pixie.

## ROYAL GEORGE ANGLING SOCIETY.

I have not much to report this week, only to state that the sweepstakes that I mentioned in my last was fished for, and the members came in as follows : Mr. Wood first, followed by Messrs. Guynam, Palmer, Rider, Healey, Carter, and Beale. The prizes will be handed over to the above-named gentlemen on Tuesday night next, when we have arranged for a smoking concert. I think it will be the biggest night of the season, judging from the number of promises to attend. Last meeting night the balance-sheet for the quarter was read by the secretary, and gave every satisfaction. In fact, the majority of the members were quite surprised to know we stood so well, considering the expenditure of the last few months. I am pleased to be able to state that our members are increasing to such an extent that we shall soon be compelled to ask the landlord of our "headquarters" to enlarge the room. Before closing this report, I should like to mention, for the benefit of those members who read the Fishing Gazette, and do not come up often, that we have engaged a piano for the season, also a gentleman who knows how to finger it. I am bound to make this statement for this reason : he is a most intimate friend of—W. H. Rider.

## SILVER TROUT ANGLING CLUB.

The 21st half-yearly dinner of the above club was held on the 27th ult., under the presidency of Mr. Pettitt, the chairman, at the Freemasons' Arms, 81, Long-acre (the house where the club was originally formed), when the members and friends sat down to a substantial repast, served in a very liberal and excellent manner by the worthy host, Mr. Woodrow, who is himself an honorary member. After the removal of the cloth, the members gave themselves up to harmony and conviviality, the usual toasts on this occasion being dispensed with. Mr. Pettitt, being enthusiastically called upon to open the proceedings, gave one of his old favourites in an admirable manner ; and some excellent songs were rendered by the Bros. Dumenil, Mr. Hewitt, Mr. Williams, Mr. Parsons, Mr. Brigden, Mr. Cherry, jun., Mr. Oldfield, Mr. Deaton, Mr. Harris, and others, several encores being demanded and readily complied with. Mr. Alexander ably officiated at the piano, and was well supported by Mr. Mansfield, who rendered some excellent solos on the flute, piccolo, and ocharina, which were much applauded, and added greatly to the evening's enjoyment. The Chairman returned thanks to the members present for their support on that occasion, and also tendered the thanks of the members and himself to their worthy host for the liberal manner in which he had treated them, and for his efforts to make the dinner a success. Mr. Woodrow, in reply, thanked the members for the expression of their satisfaction. The harmony was kept up to a very late, or rather early, hour, and with "Auld Lang Syne" a very enjoyable evening was brought to an agreeable conclusion.—J. Hewitt, sec.

## SOUTH-EASTERN ANGLING SOCIETY.

No news of any catches for the past week or two. It is ordered that a special meeting be called for Tuesday, Dec. 23rd, on matters of vital importance, when it is hoped that one and all will attend, as everyone is concerned in the questions to be gone into.—T. H. Weston, sec.

## ST. MUNGO ANGLING CLUB.

This club held its fourth annual supper in Forsyth's Cobden Hotel, on Dec. 12th, Mr. John Urie, the president, in the chair, and Mr. Andrew Paterson, vice-president, being croupier. Among the members present were : Dr. Dougall, and Messrs. W. Freeland, James Paterson, J. G. Todd, J. Jeffray, W. Fraser, and Mr. W. Craig Ramsay, the secretary. After the usual loyal and patriotic toasts, the prizes gained during the season were presented. Mr. W. Robertson, the winner of the president's prize, made a suitable response to the toast of the prize-takers. It was noted that Mr. James Paterson, a member of the club, had gained the championship prize for Loch Leven for the season, and that on the previous season the club had the highest average baskets of any club in competition. The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the president and secretary for their services.

## STOKE-UPON-TRENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

The first of a series of musical and literary entertainments in connection with the above society was held in the society's club-room, Roebuck Hotel, on Wednesday evening, Dec. 10th, the president, J. E. Hassall, Esq., in the chair. There was also a good muster of members and friends, who thoroughly enjoyed the evening's entertainment, some capital songs being rendered in first-class style. Our best thanks are due to those friends (non-members) who so kindly contributed to the harmony of the evening. It was also found that the society possesses vocalists of no mean order. Mr. G. Wright and Mr. F. Clark very ably presided at the pianoforte. The meeting, which was very successful, terminated, after the usual vote of thanks, with "Auld Lang Syne" and the "National Anthem." I am also pleased to add that this flourishing society has secured two more miles of excellent fishing on the river Sow, from Milford-bridge to its confluence with the Trent, on the Earl of Shrewsbury's estate. Mr. E. Cocker and Mr. F. S. Dale, fishing this water on Monday, Dec. 8th, succeeded in capturing four nice jack, the largest fish weighing 6lb. 10oz.—J. Hollins, hon. sec.

### STOKE NEWINGTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

Three prizes will be fished for on the 28th inst., go-where-you-please; the heaviest gross weight of any kind of fish to take the prizes in rotation. No fish weighed in after 10 p.m.—T. Gretton.

### WAVENEY ANGLING CLUB, BECCLES.

The usual monthly meeting was held on Thursday evening last at the Club-room, Caxton Arms. The Mayor (Clifford Smith, Esq.) occupied the chair. There was a very good attendance of members. The minutes of the last meeting having been read and confirmed, Mr. C. J. Pickthall gave a humorous reading entitled, "My Big Fish." Messrs. Palmer and Gilman also contributed to the amusement of the evening by a short reading and a recitation, respectively. Votes of thanks were accorded to these gentlemen for their contributions to the evening's entertainment, and to the Mayor for presiding. The next meeting will take place on Thursday, January 8, 1885, when it is hoped a practical paper will be read by one of the members on "General Fishing in the river Waveney."

### WELLINGTON.

On the 14th inst. Messrs. Jenner and Crocker weighed in roach and a 3lb. jack from Shepperton, and Mr. Newbury and Mr. Cade, from Datchet, had about 9lb. of roach and dace. On Wednesday, the 17th, the distribution of our annual prizes took place, in connection with which a supper was held, and which reflected great credit on our worthy hostess, Mrs. Hills. The chair was taken by Mr. Henry Hills, and the vice by Mr. Palmer, while Mr. Withers most ably officiated at the pianoforte. After the good things had been disposed of, and the usual loyal and patriotic toasts had been drunk and responded to, the business of the evening was proceeded with, a very handsome and valuable list of prizes being distributed by the chairman in his usual affable manner. The principal winners were Messrs. Andrews, Newbury, Hopkins, Wright, and Jenner. A very agreeable evening was spent, the harmony being of a superior order. Mr. Palmer beautifully sang "Half-Mast High," and "Far Away," and Messrs. Hills, Weare, White, Hillier, and many others also favoured the company. Mr. Bodell, of the Busy Bees, gave us the "Chiswick Volunteers." In responding to the toast of "Success to the Wellington," the chairman briefly alluded to the great progress that has been made by this society in the short time it has been established. Several gentlemen then offered prizes to be fished for between now and the end of the season, and a most successful meeting terminated, the only complaint being that the evening was too short.—W. W. Alexander, sec.

### WEST GREEN ANGLING SOCIETY.

Mr. Lione weighed in a very pretty jack weighing 5lb.; Mr. J. Guyver had one scaling 6½lb.; Mr. Hoy scaling two nice jack on Wednesday, one weighing 7lb., the other going 3½lb.—J. Guyver, sec.

### UNITED BROTHERS, DEPTFORD.

Several of our members were out on the 14th; rather poor sport. Mr. J. Payne, some perch; Mr. J. Currans, roach, from the Thames.—H. Tyler.

## SEA FISHING NOTES.

A friend who made a summer tour of the Isles of Scilly, Man, and Arran sends me the following jottings from his note-book:—

Around the rocks of Scilly, especially in the deep channels, are fish in profusion—pollack, mullet, salmon peel, smelt, and the very curious and rare little lancelet. This fish does not possess scales; has one fin along the back, joined at the anal to form the tail; no other fin. The name *Amphioxus* was bestowed because the fish thus characterised appears as if sharp at both ends. Pallas was the first naturalist who had an opportunity of examining the fish now called the lancelet, and he was led to arrange it under the name of *Limax lanceolatus;* but the little animal now named the lancelet remained in doubt, until it was in the more proper sense discovered in the harbour of Polperro, in 1831, after a severe storm. But of this discovery and its figure you will find all particulars in "Couch," Vol. IV. p. 415, which will well repay perusal.

The Waltonian who anathematises the east wind will be surprised to learn that it favours the salt-water fisher in Scilly. The warm gales of Devon and Cornwall probably temper the wind which visits us over the malarious marshes of Holland and Germany. The west wind is, on the contrary, very boisterous as it rolls in with the swell of the Atlantic. Prawns and shrimps are plentiful, and limpets on the rocks, especially on those of the north islands, to which they adhere, covered with the canopy of their beautiful "patella" shell. The other fauna is, of course, limited. The more noble animals find no cover or space for their security, although there are, in old books, sly records of wild boars and fallow deer. On the island of Teän the rabbits are white giants, looking almost spectral as they are skulking and scudding among the heath and furze bushes. The tea and coffee plants flourish and defy the elements even in winter.

Life in Scilly displays a peculiar character of simplicity—there is no scope for grandeur and high style; yet the fish and fig pastry, the island cake, the clotted cream, and, *par excellence*, the inimitable junket, richly flavoured with wine and pure brandy, with its layer of luscious Cornish cream, and its powdering of sugar, might satiate the proselytes of Epicurus.

Isle of Man.—The sports of this island are somewhat limited. The salmon in the larger rivers are small, but of a very rich flavour. The excellent little trout in the valley streams and delightful burnies rise briskly at the fly in season, and the marine fishing in the bays affords capital amusement. For the herring, as full of flavour as those of Loch Fyne, is the chief prize, some of the boats engaged in this fishery being 28 tons burden, with ten men, and constructed at a cost of £100. The herring fishery, indeed, is termed the "harvest," and its finish is celebrated by a real harvest home. The prominence of the fish is proved by the institution of a special form of prayer during the fishery by Bishop Wilson, and it is very quaintly displayed even in the wording of the oath solemnly administered to the Deemster.

The chief fowling is among the water birds — ducks, curlews, puffins especially being plentiful on the cliff and headlands. Partridges, woodcocks, and snipe are scarce; kestrels and sparrow-hawks, here termed merlyns, abound. Rabbits are plentiful in some districts around the base of the hills; to some of these, it may be, the very curious hybrid—the tailless cat of Man (or Manx cat), called rumpy cat and hubbin—owes its origin.

Murray, however, 1864, says:—"Till lately it was overrun by swarms of white Angola rabbits, which were originally introduced by the Duke of Northumberland, but increased by thousands; they were destroyed after the building of the lighthouse. It may therefore be that they have again multiplied.

There is a bank of alluvial sand—the tiny islet of Coquet—lying off a mile from the beautiful river of that name that streams down through dingles and valleys from the wilds of Northumberland. It was here that Cuthbert communed with a princess, and an abbess; the royal maid was Ælfleda, sister of Ægfred. The holy woman he visited to cite her nuns for their flirtations with the monks of Coldingham, and two sea monsters kneeled in homage to him on the rocks. As a record of the wantonness of the sisterhood, there is a cross in black marble on the floor of Durham Cathedral, to bar a woman from desecrating the choir with her footsteps.

> "O, freshly from his mountain holds
>   Comes down the rapid Tyne;
> But Coquet, still the stream of streams,
>   So let her still be mine.
> There's many a sawmon lies in Tweed,
>   An' many a trout in Till,
> But Coquet—Coquet—aye for me,
>   If I may have my will."

Creel.

## THE NATIONAL FISH CULTURE ASSOCIATION.

The Secretary of the National Fish Culture Association was enabled recently to spawn some of the trout in the salmonidæ tank at the Aquarium, South Kensington, the fish operated upon being the *S. Levenensis*, *S. Fontinalis*, and the Gilleroo trout of Ireland. It will be interesting to observe the result, on account of the prolonged captivity to which the fish have been subjected.

The Hon. Professor Baird, Commissioner of Fish and Fisheries in America, has most kindly promised to forward to the Association early next year a consignment of 50,000 eggs of land-locked salmon and brook trout. Such a gift will be much appreciated by the Council, as it will be the means of greatly extending their share of fish. The Secretary informs us that he will be very grateful for donations of salmon and trout eggs from fish culturists, there being at South Kensington every appliance and apparatus to successfully hatch them.

Through the generosity of Lord Onslow, the Association on Monday last was permitted to net the waters intersecting his lordship's park at Guildford, which resulted in the capture of 1,500 fine specimens of carp. As it was not possible to despatch them to London on the same day, Mr. T. Andrews, of Westgate House, Guildford, through whose instrumentality and influence the generous concession was made to the Association, very kindly retained them at his fish culture establishment until the following day, when they arrived at South Kensington in perfect condition. The fish have been placed in one of the ponds in the Exhibition grounds.

Fish Farming.—Mr. W. Oldham Chambers, F.L.S., secretary of the National Fish Culture Association, read a paper at the Herefordshire Natural History Society, Watford, on Tuesday, December 16th, upon the "Acclimatisation of Foreign Food Fishes," in which he urged, not only the introduction of fish to our waters, but the *re*-acclimatisation of those that had, through various maleficent causes, been swept away from our rivers. As an instance of this he mentioned the shad which was at one time prolific in the Thames; but now, on account of the pollution of the water through the present system of sewerage, this branch of the fishing industry had ceased to exist, although in America it constituted a very important feature. In regard to the present deplorable condition of agriculturists, he was of opinion that much relief might be occasioned by utilising waste land, partially covered with water, for the purposes of fish culture, being convinced that fish farming was more remunerative than wheat farming, especially as foreign competition rendered profit from abundant harvests impossible. The farmer was entirely dependent upon seasons, whilst the fish culturist might rely solely on his own resources. Mr. Chambers was listened to by an attentive audience; and after a protracted discussion a vote of thanks was accorded him for the paper he had so kindly read.

Bro. James Willing, Junior.—Bro. James Willing, who has been nominated one of the candidates for the office of Grand Treasurer, was initiated in the Domatic Lodge, No. 177, on the 11th March, 1870, was appointed secretary in 1874, and elected as W.M. in 1877. In the interim—in 1874—he became founder and first W. Master of the Metropolitan Lodge, No. 1507, and four years later, founder and past W. Master of the Royal Savoy Lodge, No. 1744; of both these lodges he is at the present time treasurer. In 1883 he assisted to found the Strand Lodge, No. 1987, and was designated in the warrant of constitution its first W.M.; and this year, at the conclusion of the usual term of service, his brethren were so highly impressed with the manner in which he had discharged his duties that they unanimously re-elected him to the chair. He is likewise a joining member of the Asaph Lodge, No. 1319. In R.A. Masonry Bro. and Comp. Willing has played a similarly active part. He was exalted in the Victoria Chapter, No. 1056, in 1872, was a founder and subsequently Z. of the Priory Chapter, No. 1000, Southend, and founder and First Z. of the Metropolitan Chapter, No. 1507. On retiring from the chair of First Principal, he was elected to the office of Treasurer, and only resigned that responsible post during the present year in order to resume, for the second time, by the choice of his companions, the chair of First Principal. Quite recently Bro. Willing was advanced to the Mark Degree in the Old Kent, Time Immemorial, Lodge, and no doubt he will in due course make his mark in this branch of Freemasonry, as he has already made it in the Craft and Royal Arch. He is likewise a member of the Board of General Purposes, and since 1877 has been on the Committee of Management of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution. As regards our Charities, Bro. Willing has constituted himself a Life Governor of each of them, and has five times served the office of Festival Steward, namely, for the Benevolent Institution in 1876 and 1883, for the Girls' School in 1879, and for the Boys' School in 1877 and 1882. In the outer world Bro. Willing has secured the esteem and respect of all with whom he is brought in contact. Only the other day his friends presented a very handsome testimonial, consisting of a silver epergne and fruit stands to the value of 300 guineas.

John Milbourne Fund.—Anglers and rowing men are reminded that this list will close on the 31st of December.—W. H. Brougham, hon. sec., Swayfield Villa, Hounslow.

# NOTICES OF BOOKS, &c.

An Almanack for the Year 1885. (By Joseph Whitaker, F.S.A.)—Mr. Whitaker's almanack is well known to many of our readers, but we do not think anglers of all classes are fully aware how much valuable matter of direct interest to them it contains (*i.e.*, the half-bound edition with the appendix). Close seasons for game, wild birds, and fish ; dates of the commencement and ending of the varying close times for nets and rods on the British and Irish salmon rivers ; the close times for coarse fish, with an epitome of the Freshwater Fisheries Acts 1878 and 1884, &c. On page 412 is a list of all the English, Scotch, and Irish Hunts and Hounds. We are glad to see that there are over 350 couples of stag hounds, nearly 7,000 couples of fox hounds, besides nearly 3,000 couples of harriers and beagles. This gives a total of over

Nineteen Thousand Hounds

maintained in the United Kingdom exclusively for hunting purposes.

### The State of the British Navy.

In the "advertisement" to this edition of Whitaker's Almanack, the Editor calls attention to the comparative list of the ironclad fighting ships of the world —"a list which," he says, "will convince Englishmen that the efforts now being made to strengthen our navy have not been commenced a day too soon." Yes, and it will more than ever convince them of the utter inadequacy of the proposed increase. The *Pall Mall Gazette* does indeed deserve well of the country for having opened our eyes to the fact that the commerce of "that empire on which the sun never sets"—nay, the very empire itself—is at the present moment guarded by a fleet which—as all our greatest naval authorities have convincingly proved—is hardly a match even for the French Fleet. For once in our political history we have seen men of all parties—Conservatives, Liberals, Radicals—unanimous in the opinion that our "first line of defence" (first and last, we should say) is utterly unequal to defend us. And yet those in power, self-condemned by the recent increase they have been goaded into "proposing," instead of taking the ten millions they could have at once for the asking, simply talk of frittering away five over five years. None are so blind as those who will not see—

> "Whom not our oracles, nor Heaven, nor fate,
> Nor frequent prodigies permit to join"

in the universal demand for an adequate fleet. What would Virgil have thought of such a "prodigy" as our newest *Agamemnon*, for instance, which will not even answer her helm ! The history of the world proves that the only way to secure peace is to be fully prepared for war. We must always remember that the next time we are at war with a civilised Power an insurrection in Ireland is certain, and one also possible, if not probable, in India. Nelson was an angler, and there can be no doubt that in fly-fishing he learned the value of that "quick striking" which made him the terror of Europe ; but even he would be powerless without ships.

# NOTICES OF FISHING TACKLE, &c.

The "Comet" Spinning Bait for Pike, Perch, &c.—Mr. B. R. Bambridge, fishing-tackle maker, Eton-on-Thames, sends us a sample of his "Comet" bait. We have heard it very highly spoken of by several good anglers who have used it, among others Mr. James Temple. He got some splendid perch with it recently in the Kennet, fish of two or three pounds, ; and he says both perch and pike come at it "like bull-dogs." The bait spins on the gimp, which is passed through a tube, and this is, in our opinion, by far the best plan. The metal shell of the bait is silvered on the outside and red inside. We should be glad if Mr. Bambridge would try the effect of attaching a couple of smaller triangles to the lower ends of each of the fans to hang close and yet loose, and do away with the flying triangle from the swivel, which always interferes to some extent with the spin. The smaller triangles would be extended, by the rotation of the bait, beyond the radius of the fans, whereas the single independent triangle lies between them and, as Mr. Temple pointed out to us, is thus rendered useless when, as is usually the case, a fish strikes at the head of the bait. We are glad to see Mr. Bambridge, who is himself a practised angler, mounts his "Comets" on stained gimp. We have no hesitation in recommending pike anglers to buy this bait.

Brown's Improved Phantom.—Mr. Francis Francis, in his delightful book "By Lake and River," says : "I looked up my old acquaintance, Mr. Brown, of Aberdeen, the inventor of the phantom minnow, which is the best artificial bait ever yet invented." The only objection we ever had to the "phantom" was its extreme lightness, and this has recently been got over in a very ingenious and effectual way by Mr. W. Bell, who now carries on the late Mr. Brown's business. We had the pleasure of making Mr. Bell's acquaintance when in Aberdeen in the spring, and have much pleasure in testifying to his courtesy, and thorough business qualities. Anglers will find they are thoroughly well treated in any business they may do with him. We said just now that our only objection to the phantom was its extreme lightness ; but this very quality gives it its chief value in many cases. For instance, you can cast it overhand with a salmon rod (and the small sizes for trout with a fly rod) almost as easily as a fly ; but, all the same, it is a decided advantage to have both a light and a weighted phantom with you. In external appearance they are exactly alike, and in the weighted minnow the capital principle of making the water fill out the silk skin, to look like a solid bait, is not interfered with at all. We hear that the trade generally think very highly of the new phantom, and, as the Yankees say, have "filled good lines" for it. No one can touch the Aberdeen house in the make of phantoms ; they employ the same hands who made for the original inventor.

Birds Drowning Fishes.—Captain McLean, of the barque *Firth of Lorn*, of Glasgow, which sailed from Lyttleton, New Zealand, April 26th last, passed Cape Horn, May 23rd, and arrived at London August 21st, reports the following singular circumstance: July 22, when in latitude 26deg. 1min. north, longitude 29deg. 48min. west, a floating spar was seen, and a boat was lowered and the spar towed alongside. On examination it was found to be valueless, being worm-eaten throughout, but a large shoal of fish which had accompanied the spar abandoned it, and commenced eating the barnacles from the ship's bottom. This continued until the 27th of July, when in latitude 38deg. 42min. north, longitude 34deg. 36min. west, the fish left the ship after having cleared the ship's bottom, by which the speed of the vessel was increased two knots per hour. Soon afterwards a singular commotion was observed on the ocean, which was nearly calm. Birds were seen moving about on the surface with great rapidity, occasionally disappearing beneath the water and coming up again, half strangled. As the vessel approached, it was seen that a shoal of fish several acres in extent was visible on the water. A gannet or liver would alight on the back of a great fish, spread its tail and wings to catch the breeze, dig its claws deep into the finny monster's hide, and go before the wind at such a tremendous speed as soon to drown the animated craft. The bird would then devour the fish at its leisure.—*Manchester Courier*.

## COQUET SALMON FISHERY DISTRICT.

The following are the recent alterations in the By-laws affecting anglers :—

### Kinds of Nets that may be Lawfully Used.

(*a*) No person shall use any net for taking salmon, except as follows :—
A draught net or hang net.

(*b*) The manner of using such nets shall be as follows :—
The same may be used with or without a boat, and by any number of men not exceeding three.

Any person offending against this By-law shall be liable for each offence to a penalty not exceeding five pounds.

The minimum size of the mesh of nets for catching salmon that may be lawfully used shall, when the nets are measured wet, be 1½in. from knot to knot, or 6in. round.

Any person using a net in contravention of this By-law shall be liable for each offence to a penalty not exceeding five pounds.

### Alteration of Annual Close Season.

The By-law of 1874, relating to "Alteration of Annual Close Season," is repealed.

The annual close season for all modes of salmon fishing, except with rod and line, shall commence on the 15th day of September in each year, and terminate on the 25th day of March following, both days inclusive ; and the annual close season for fishing for salmon with rod and line shall commence on the 1st day of November in each year, and terminate on the 31st day of January following, both days inclusive ; and the annual close season for fishing for freshwater trout with rod and line shall commence on the 1st day of November in each year, and terminate on the 3rd day of March following, both days inclusive.

Heavy penalties are imposed under the Salmon Fishery Acts 1861—1873 for the breach of any of the provisions relating to the annual close season as fixed by this By-law.

### Use of a Gaff in Connection with a Rod and Line.

During the month of October in each year no person shall use a gaff in connection with a rod and line.

Any person acting in contravention of this By-law shall be liable for each offence to a penalty not exceeding five pounds.

### Nets not to be Used in the Night Time.

Between the expiration of the first hour after sunset and the commencement of the last hour before sunrise, no person shall use any net in any inland waters except a landing-net used auxiliary to a rod and line, or a net for taking eels.

Any person acting in contravention of this By-law shall be liable for each offence to a penalty not exceeding five pounds.

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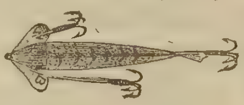

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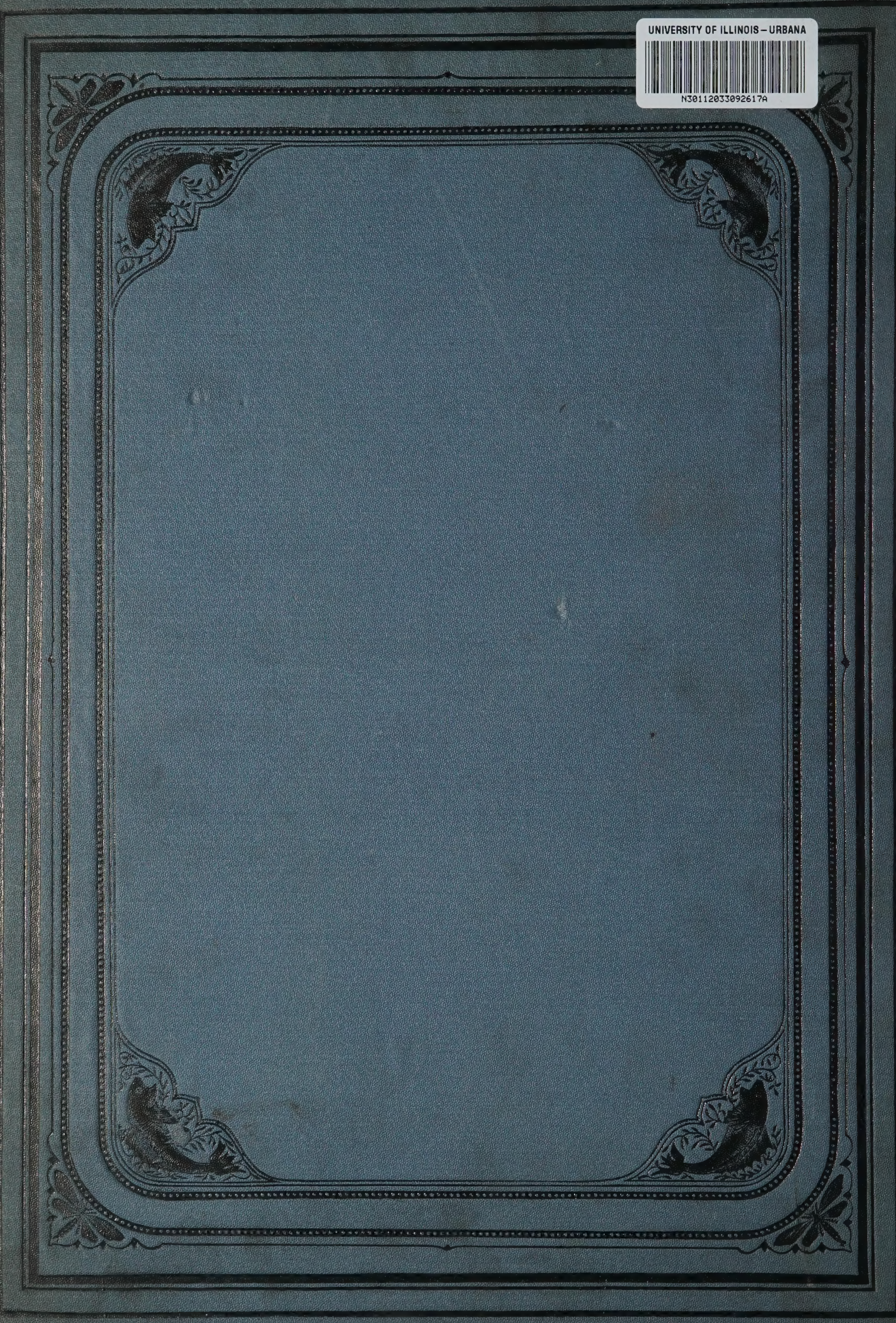

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